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If you serve a nonprofit organization in some capacity, you need to be aware of this important tax filing requirement: All nonprofit organizations, except for churches and church-related groups, must file an annual return with the IRS. Failure to do so for three consecutive years will result in the loss of the organization's tax-exempt status.

This annual filing requirement went into effect for small nonprofit groups (those with less than \$25,000 in annual revenue) for the filing of their 2007 return, generally due on May 15, 2008. The filing deadline for the 2009 return was May 17, 2010. Thousands of small charities who hadn't filed for 2007, 2008, and 2009 hit the three-year failure to file point on that date.

The IRS has conducted an extensive notification program to remind charities of their filing obligation, but more than 300,000 still have not filed. Now the IRS is offering a one-time chance for these nonprofits to bring their filings up to date and avoid losing their tax-exempt status. Their three years of returns must be filed by October 15, 2010.

Organizations that do not meet the October 15, 2010, deadline will automatically have their exempt status revoked. Once the exempt status is revoked, the organization must apply for reinstatement. If you are responsible for a nonprofit organization and need details or filing assistance, please contact our office.