

## STATE TAX LIEN

### INTRODUCTION

The Employment Development Department (EDD) is authorized to file with the Secretary of State and record with any county recorder a Notice of State Tax Lien specifying the amount of contributions, interest, penalties, and costs due to the EDD.

Section 1703 of the **California Unemployment Insurance Code** provides:

- (a) If any employer or other person fails to pay any amount due to the EDD at the time that it becomes due and payable, that amount (including penalty, interest and costs), shall be a perfected and enforceable tax lien.
- (b) For the purposes of this section, amounts are "due and payable" on the following dates:
  - (1) For amounts disclosed on a return received by the EDD or for penalties, the date of the notice to the taxpayer of the amount due.
  - (2) For any amount reestablished under the provisions of section 1875, the date of a written notice of rescission.
  - (3) For all other amounts, the date of the assessment is final.

### NOTICE OF STATE TAX LIEN

The recording of a Notice of State Tax Lien must take place within 10 years of the date the lien arose. The recorded lien is valid for 10 years and may be extended in 10 year increments. The EDD's lien is enforceable for all obligations which exist against the owner of the property.

### EFFECT OF A STATE TAX LIEN

The EDD's tax lien is a perfected and enforceable State Tax Lien on all property and rights to property, whether real or personal, tangible or intangible, including all subsequent acquired property and rights to property belonging to the taxpayer.

All employers who fail to file and pay liabilities timely are subject to the filing of a Notice of State Tax Lien. This lien is issued to protect the interest of the State of California and is not considered involuntary collection action. The filing of a State Tax Lien is an automatic process and cannot be stopped unless the liability is fully paid. If the liability cannot be paid in full, immediately contact the EDD at the phone number indicated on the notice.

**If a Notice of State Tax Lien is filed**, a copy of the Notice of State Tax Lien is mailed to the taxpayer's address as it appears on the EDD's records.

The Notice of State Tax Lien states that the amount of the unpaid tax is a lien on all real and personal property and the rights to such property, including all subsequently-acquired property and rights to property belonging to the taxpayer.

A recorded Notice of State Tax Lien is a matter of public record, and the employer's credit rating and credit reports may be adversely affected by a State Tax Lien. The EDD does not directly provide credit reporting agencies with State Tax Lien information. This information is acquired from the counties.

Lien amounts are not adjusted after the lien is filed and/or recorded. An amended lien will not be issued when payments are made to reduce the liability.

### HOW TO IDENTIFY EDD TAX LIENS

Other taxing agencies, such as the Internal Revenue Service, California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, and Franchise Tax Board, also impose and file tax liens. The EDD tax liens can be identified as follows:

The letter "M" followed by six digits. For example, M123456.

The letter "G" followed by nine digits. For example, G123456789.

The letter "W" followed by nine digits. For example, W931123456.

## ESCROW INSTRUCTIONS

Generally, State Tax Liens must be paid in full with certified funds (cash, cashier's check, or money order), prior to the transfer of title of any real property. A demand for payment and the release of paid EDD liens should be requested in writing by mailing, faxing, or emailing the request to:

Employment Development Department  
PO Box 826880, MIC 92G  
Sacramento, CA 94280-0001  
Fax Number: 1-916-464-2711  
Email: [TaxLienGroupRequests@edd.ca.gov](mailto:TaxLienGroupRequests@edd.ca.gov)

Please include the name, address, and phone number of the institution requesting the demand, the employer payroll tax account number, lien certificate number, and whether the demand should be mailed and/or faxed.

## RELEASE OF LIEN

A Release of Lien is mailed to the County Recorder office and the Secretary of State within 40 days after the liability, including penalty and interest, has been paid in full. The Release of Lien is not mailed directly to the taxpayer. A copy of the Release of Lien may be obtained from the County Recorder office. A Status of Lien Release letter will be sent to the taxpayer if requested.

The cost of recording the Release of Lien is the responsibility of the taxpayer and is collected by the EDD in the same manner as the law provides for collection of the tax.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For further assistance, please contact the Taxpayer Assistance Center at 1-888-745-3886, access the EDD website at [edd.ca.gov/payroll\\_taxes/](http://edd.ca.gov/payroll_taxes/), or visit the nearest Employment Tax Office listed in the *California Employer's Guide (DE 44)* (PDF) or on the EDD website at [edd.ca.gov/Office\\_Locator/](http://edd.ca.gov/Office_Locator/).

The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Requests for services, aids, and/or alternate formats need to be made by calling 1-888-745-3886 (voice) or TTY 1-800-547-9565.

This information sheet is provided as a public service and is intended to provide nontechnical assistance. Every attempt has been made to provide information that is consistent with the appropriate statutes, rules, and administrative court decisions. Any information that is inconsistent with the law, regulations, and administrative and court decisions is not binding on either the Employment Development Department or the taxpayer. Any information provided is not intended to be legal, accounting, tax, investment, or other professional advice.