

FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS WITH TURBO TAX

This is one of my favorite times of the year. The flowers, birds, grass and apparently wind gusts! It's also my favorite time because my super busy time is coming to an end.

I get a wide range of clients. Some need me, some don't and some would rather just let me do the work. When they really don't need me any longer, I tell them to use Turbo Tax.

With that being said, for those of you who use Turbo Tax or Tax Act or anything along those lines: buyer beware. These are only good for those who have straight forward, relatively simple returns. None of these are truly good enough for a small business owner, anyone with a life changing event or selling stock options through work.

There are various situations and common sense questions on the guide may not give you the whole picture. You answer the questions, and BAM! You think that you are done and you have paid your tax bill, or gotten a small refund. Don't get me wrong. These are good products. They are only as good as the person using them. If you have questions while you are using them, or if you end up scratching your head, don't guess. I had a client who answered the questions, and then he ended up owing over \$15,000. His wife got mad enough and I fixed it. Turns out he was due a refund that year, and he got the wife off of his back.

Did you take money out of an IRA to pay for college or buy the first home? Maybe to help pay medical bills? The 10% penalty can go away, but only if things are coded correctly. Lump sum Social Security? Again, only if you know how to do this.

Are your kids getting ready to turn 17? You will lose a credit and your refund will go down the following year, but TT doesn't advise you of this. Want to plan for lower income or higher income? Do you plan on taking money out of a 401 or IRA? It might be best to talk to a Professional for these matters.

I love to be self sufficient. My husband does all of the work around the house- from tiling to wood work and plumbing with easy electrical. It all saves money. Not necessarily time, but money for sure. I understand when and why someone would use a computer program to do their own taxes. I just want everyone to be aware that some situations might need a tune up or another look. It would be worth the extra little bit to make sure you are lowering your bill or raising your refund.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at Kristhetaxlady@gmail.com