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GG&G News - Employee Benefit Plan Audits

Owe Federal Taxes? You Could Lose Your Passport.



A new law enacted in January 2016, the "Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act" (FAST), would seem to be a very helpful and positive step toward repairing the nation's crumbling transportation infrastructure. Indeed, the U.S. Department of Transportation calls FAST "a down-payment for building a 21st century transportation system."

But, as with a number of laws that have worked their way through the halls of Congress, FAST has been used as a vehicle to pass many provisions and amendments that have no direct connection with building roads and bridges. One of the lesser publicized provisions in the FAST Act authorizes the denial of a U.S. passport application or the revocation of a current passport for individuals who have more than \$50,000 in unpaid federal taxes.

Citizens in arrears to the IRS for \$50,000 or more are no longer able to obtain a new passport or renew an expiring passport. More disconcerting to the millions of Americans living and working abroad, an outstanding tax could result in revocation of their passport, which is essential for overseas travel, identification and financial transactions. [Read more on our blog.](#)

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Gray, Gray & Gray Pitches in for Italian Home for Children



Employees of [Gray, Gray & Gray, LLP](#) are working to make this summer a fun one for residents of the [Italian Home for Children](#) in Jamaica Plain, MA. The firm, led by team member Jackie Linehan, conducted a "Summer Fun Drive" to collect items such as flip flops, sunglasses, hats, t-shirts, sunscreen, sidewalk chalk, and pool toys for use by children in the Italian Home's residential services program. In addition, a group of Gray, Gray & Gray team members visited the Italian Home campus on Friday, June 24th, for a day of cleaning and maintenance work as part of the "Day of Service" sponsored by the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA).

[Read more here.](#)

[Check out Gray, Gray & Gray's Facebook page for additional photos and to see all of the items](#)

[donated.](#) We are happy to report that the pool of donations was overflowing!

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Employee Benefits

Two Perspectives on the FMLA



Since its passage, the *Family and Medical Leave Act* (FMLA) has caused many employers to voice concerns about the effects on business operations. That's one of the reasons the Department of Labor put together a report describing the FMLA experiences of both managers and employees. Click "Full Article" to read some comments from the report that details the strengths and weaknesses of the law.

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Benefits Administration

Testing to Screen Out Reckless Employees



Accidents happen. That's a fact of life. But the last thing any employer needs is to hire someone who has a high likelihood of being involved in or creating safety issues on the job. We've all known at least one person who seems to attract such problems. We sometimes call them "accidents waiting to happen." Smart companies do their best to avoid employing them. Here are some ways.

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Benefit Tax Issues

Tax-Wise Way to Pay Medical Costs



There's a relatively new option to pay for out-of-pocket health costs. It's called a Health Savings Account and it provides individuals and businesses a tax-advantaged vehicle to pay medical bills. And unlike flexible spending accounts which have a "use it or lose it" feature, you don't have to zero out the account every year. You can carry over any unused portion to the next year. Here are the details.

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