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## Treasury Offset Program (TOP)

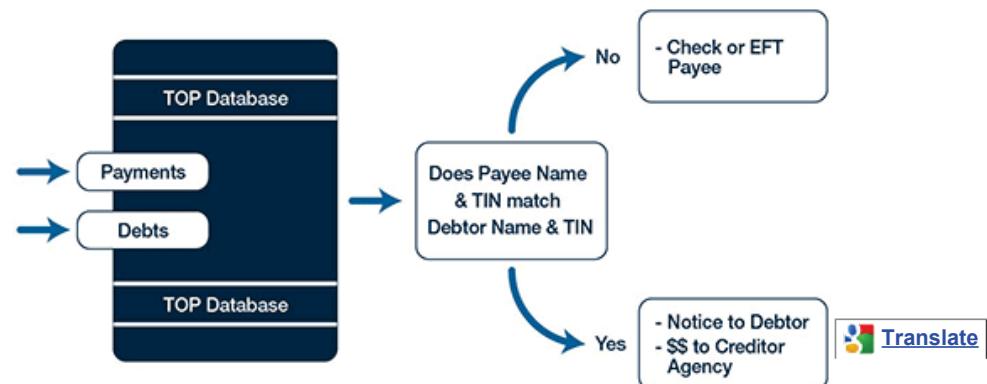
**NOTICE:** If you recently received a letter from the **Veterans Health Administration (VHA)** notifying you that a payment may be intercepted through the Treasury Offset Program (TOP) to a pay a delinquent debt owed to the VHA, [please visit this link for more information](#).

### What Is the Treasury Offset Program?

The Treasury Offset Program is a centralized offset program, administered by the Bureau of the Fiscal Service's Debt Management Services (DMS), to collect delinquent debts owed to federal agencies and states (including past-due child support), in accordance with [26 U.S.C. § 6402\(d\)](#) (collection of debts owed to federal agencies), [31 U.S.C. § 3720A](#) (reduction of tax refund by amount of the debts), and [other applicable laws](#).

### How Does TOP Work?

Fiscal Service disburses federal payments, such as federal tax refunds, for agencies making federal payments (known as "payment agencies"), such as the Internal Revenue Service. "Creditor agencies," such as the Department of Education, submit delinquent debts to the Fiscal Service for collection and inclusion in TOP and certify that such debts qualify for collection by **offset** (the reduction or withholding of a payment).



Payment agencies prepare and certify payment vouchers to Fiscal Service and disbursing officials at other federal agencies that are non-Treasury disbursed (such as the Department of Defense), who then disburse payments. The payment vouchers contain information about the payment including the Tax Identification Number (TIN) and name of the recipient.

Before an eligible federal payment is disbursed to a payee, disbursing officials compare the payment information with debtor information, which has been supplied by the creditor agency, in Fiscal Service's delinquent debtor database. If the payee's TIN and name match the TIN and name of a debtor, the disbursing

Government-wide Accounting	official offsets (withholds) the payment, in whole or in part, to satisfy the debt, to the extent legally allowed.
Financial Innovation & Transformation	Fiscal Service transmits amounts collected through offset to the appropriate creditor agencies. Fiscal Service maintains information about the delinquent debt in the TOP delinquent debtor database and continues to offset eligible federal payments until the creditor agency suspends or terminates debt collection or offset activity for the debt.
Institutions & Businesses	
Individuals	A creditor agency will suspend collection if the debt is subject to a bankruptcy stay or if other reasons justify suspension. A creditor agency will terminate collection of a debt if it is paid in full, compromised, discharged, or if other reasons justify termination.

## Where Does the Fiscal Service Get the Authority to Offset Federal Payments?

The federal government's administrative debt collection activities are governed by a number of federal laws. Fiscal Service, as the central disbursing agency of the federal government is required to perform such offset pursuant to [31 U.S.C. § 3716\(c\)](#).

Other applicable legal authorities for TOP can be viewed in the [TOP Legal Authorities Quick Reference](#).

## What are TOP's Program Rules, Requirements and Payment Exemptions?

Fiscal Service's [Summary of TOP's Program Rules and Requirements](#) explains the general rules applicable to TOP, due process prerequisites, offset amounts (percent of payments that may be offset by debt type) and TOP payment exemptions.

[Payments Exempt from Offset by Federal Law](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions about TOP

[TOP General Information](#)

[For Federal Agencies](#)

[For State Agencies](#)

If you have questions regarding the offset of your federal tax refund or offset of another U.S. government-issued payment, you can call our Treasury Offset Program (TOP) Call Center to obtain agency contact information during our [customer service hours](#).

## Have Questions about an Offset?

- Toll Free: **800-304-3107**
- Hearing impaired customers may use the Federal Relay Service by dialing **800-877-8339** to reach a Communications Assistant (CA) who will dial the toll free number.

## Related Topics & Helpful Links

[Offset of EAJA Payments](#) 

Overview of the centralized offset of payments representing reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs under the Equal Access to Justice Act.



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TreasuryDirect.gov  
Administrative Resource Center

### Other Treasury Bureaus

The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau

### Other Government Websites

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USAJOBS.gov

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Bureau of Engraving & Printing  
Community Development Financial Institutions Fund  
Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCen)  
Internal Revenue Service  
Office of The Comptroller of the Currency  
U.S. Mint

OPM.gov  
MyMoney.gov  
Data.gov  
Regulations.gov  
PaymentAccuracy.gov  
BusinessUSA.gov  
No Fear Act

*Last Updated March 17, 2017*



cited in USA v. Hankins  
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#### HORTON & ASSOCIATES L.L.C.

##### Details

Filing Number: 3500644719

Name Type: Legal Name

Status: Inactive 

Corp type: Domestic Limited Liability Company

Jurisdiction: Oklahoma

Formation Date: 11 May 2000

##### Registered Agent Information

Name: DEWAYNE HORTON

Effective: N/A

Address: 3232 NW 20TH

City, State, ZipCode: OKC OK 73107

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