CPA

Practice **Advisor**

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As if Black Friday shopping and the hustle and bustle of the holiday season weren't taxing enough, it's also time to think about tax reporting. This time of year, it can be difficult to keep track of our schedules and to-do lists, let alone the ever-changing tax reporting requirements for businesses.

Greatland, a provider of W-2 and 1099 products for businesses, receives thousands of calls each year from questioning customers who often mistakenly believe in one of

the many tax myths that plague the industry. But what exactly is a tax myth?

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W-2 & TOTY PULLIF WITTING VS. KEALITIES

- 1. Myth: State 1099 reporting is not required if there is no state tax withheld.

 Reality: Check your state's 1099 filing requirements. Many states require 1099s to be filed even if there is no state tax withheld.
- 2. Myth: Copy A of Form 1099 can be printed in black ink and filed to the IRS.

 Reality: Copy A of Form 1099 must be printed in red drop-out ink in order to be properly processed by IRS.
- 3. Myth: All employers offering coverage under an employer-sponsored group health plan must report the cost of the coverage on the employee's W-2.

 Reality: Until the IRS issues final guidance for this W-2 reporting requirement, reporting is not mandatory for those employers who filed less than 250 W-2s.
- 4. **Myth:** In order to prevent identity theft, the taxpayer identification number (TIN) can be truncated (ex: XXX-XX-1234) on Form W-2.
 - Reality: TIN truncation applies to any federal tax-related payee statement unless prohibited by the Internal Revenue Code, regulations, or guidance. TIN truncation is prohibited on Form W-2, but is acceptable on payee statements for Form 1098 series, Form 1099 series, and Form 5498 series. TINs that may be truncated include social security numbers (SSNs), individual taxpayer identification numbers (ITINs), adoption taxpayer identification numbers (ATINs), and employer identification numbers (EINs).

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6. **Myth:** Using the combined federal/state 1099 filing program meets all the state's 1099 filing requirements.

Reality: Not all states participate in the combined federal/state program, and many states that do participate in the program still require 1099s with state withholding to be sent directly to the state.

7. **Myth:** The e-file threshold for state W-2/1099 filing is the same as the federal e-file threshold.

Reality: Each state can set its own e-file threshold. Check your state's requirements to ensure that you are in compliance.

8. Myth: When filing on paper, one Form 1096 can be used for one submission of multiple 1099 form types.

Reality: A separate Form 1096 is required for each 1099 form type being submitted to IRS on paper. (Example: If filing both 1099-INT and 1099-DIV forms, two 1096 forms would be required.)

9. Myth: When filing W-2s and 1099s on paper, a filer is required to use the official forms supplied by the IRS.

Reality: Substitute W-2 and 1099 forms are acceptable for filing as long as they meet the specifications outlined in IRS Publications 1141 and 1179 respectively.

