

<p>ABA LEGAL NEWS NETWORK</p>	<p>.</p>
<p>TAX TRAUMA: BEWARE THE PROBLEM TAX PREPARER Narrated Package Plus Additional B-Roll and SOTs</p>	<p>.</p>
<p>The following footage is provided free of charge by the American Bar Association for use in news broadcasts at your editorial discretion.</p>	<p>.</p>
<p>SUGGESTED ANCHOR LEAD: Each year as tax season approaches, more Americans hire professional tax preparers to help with their tax returns. Generally, using a tax preparer can save you both time and money, and help sort through the complexities of tax law. But as Lee Miller reports, if you want many happy returns, you need to choose your tax preparer carefully.</p>	<p>.</p>
<p>TITLES: 00:06 Lisa Kinser Taxpayer 01:06 Dennis B. Drapkin Chair ABA Section of Taxation</p>	<p>.</p>
<p>COUNTDOWN: Ch. 1 - Narrator Ch. 2 - BG & SOTs Pkg. Runs 2:23 Plus Additional B-Roll and SOTs</p>	<p>.</p>

Kinser with family	NARRATOR: Lisa Kinser is a busy mother of two. When it came to filling out her tax return, she decided she needed help
Title: Lisa Kinser, Taxpayer	SOT KINSER: I went to a tax preparation service because I wanted to save the time of not having to do it myself, the hassle.
Kinser with IRS letters CU of IRS letter Kinser with old tax papers Kinser studying	NARRATOR: Unfortunately, the tax preparer made several mistakes on Lisa's return. Her daughter's social security number was reported incorrectly, so Lisa received a letter from the IRS saying she owed over \$7,000 dollars in additional taxes. The preparer also told Lisa that she didn't qualify for the lifetime learning credit; she later learned she <i>was</i> eligible. After dealing with the IRS, Lisa went back to have her return amended and the preparer made <i>another</i> mistake. Fortunately, this time Lisa caught the error.
Kinser on camera Kinser with IRS letter	SOT KINSER: I relied on someone who I thought was a professional who does this for a living to be able to help me out and tell me what there was for me to take advantage of and I was very unhappy with the result.
Drapkin working	NARRATOR: To avoid those kinds of problems, The American Bar Association recommends you do some homework before selecting a tax preparer.
Title: Dennis Drapkin Chair, ABA Section of Taxation	SOT DRAPKIN: Taxpayers, consumers should remember that they're ultimately responsible for what goes on their return so it's worth their while in picking a tax return preparer. They should ask for example How long a preparer has been in business? How many returns they've prepared? Whether the preparer has any special credentials? If possible

	<p>references that can be checked out. It's worth the extra effort to be sure that you pick the right tax return preparer for you.</p>
<p>Website B-roll</p> <p>GFX: ABA TAX TIPS 4 U:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss Fees • Beware of Scams • Review Return • Ask Questions • Keep Copies • You are Accountable 	<p>NARRATOR: The ABA website, Tax Tips 4 U, lists several tips when hiring a preparer: Discuss all fees before you start – beware of scams that link fees to an expected tax refund. Review your return for accuracy and ask questions if you are unsure about any part. Keep a copy of your return and other paperwork for at least 3 years. And lastly remember that you, not the tax preparer, are ultimately accountable for any mistakes on your return.</p>
<p>Lisa doing her new taxes</p>	<p>NARRATOR: The ABA cautions taxpayers to avoid tax preparers that promise large refunds or schemes that sound too good to be true. In most cases, they are. This is Lee Miller reporting.</p>
<p>SUGGESTED ANCHOR TAG: The ABA Tax Tips 4 U Web site also links to important IRS forms and filing information and provides a list of free tax preparation services available nationwide. The website address is: www.taxtips4U.org</p>	
<p>ADDITIONAL B-ROLL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kinser's tax paperwork • Kinser with family • Web site shots • Drapkin working 	

<p>ADDITIONAL SOTS:</p> <p>TITLE: Lisa Kinser Taxpayer</p>	<p>SOT KINSER: I should go to someone who has to meet a certain level of accreditation, has certain level of education that they have to have like a CPA or tax attorney. Uh, and that, that would be the best lesson I've learned about it.</p>
<p>TITLE: Dennis Drapkin Chair, ABA Section of Taxation</p>	<p>SOT DRAPKIN: The taxpayer is ultimately responsible for whether the return is accurate or not. If there are additional taxes and interest due, if even, in a bad case, penalties are due, the person whose return it is, the taxpayer, is going to be responsible. So it's worth spending a fair amount of time to make sure that you pick the right return preparer. You'd like to find out for example, how many returns has the return preparer done? How long have they been in business? Do they have any particular credentials? Can they give you references that you can check out? It's well worth the additional effort to be sure you're comfortable in picking a tax return preparer.</p>
	<p>SOT DRAPKIN: You the consumer, the taxpayer are ultimately responsible for all the information that goes on your return, so it's worth you while to be careful and to pay attention. For example, to make sure that the amount of wages matches what's on your W-2, if there are charitable or medical deductions, that those amounts are accurate, that you read the return carefully. If there is something that you don't understand, that you ask questions. Again, ultimately you the taxpayer are going to be responsible for what goes on the return. You need to be satisfied that it's accurate. You then have to be sure that the return preparer signs where, signs the return and also adds his identification number, and then, of course, you have to sign the return as well. And be sure to ask for a copy before you're done.</p>

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