

Delinquent taxes: If you are someone who has not paid your property tax when due you are exposed to several different enforcement actions. All property taxes for the previous year become past due after January 5th.

1. Immediately 2% of the past due balance is added to your tax bill as a penalty and interest for the first month and ¾% of the past due balance is added each month thereafter until paid. This penalty and interest cannot be waived or negotiated. It becomes part of your tax obligation.
2. Any income tax refund from the State of North Carolina becomes subject to seizure for payment of past due property tax.
3. Your wages, bank accounts, automobiles, boats, and other personal property are subject to garnishment, seizure, levy, and sale to satisfy your tax liability.
4. Notice of your failure to pay will be published in the local newspaper.
5. Any real estate you own can be seized and foreclosed for failure to pay the taxes due for that property.

All of these enforcement remedies are immediately available to the taxing authority once the tax becomes past due on January 6th. However, most local tax jurisdictions will not use these remedies if the taxpayer has entered into a written agreement with the jurisdiction for a payment plan to satisfy the tax debt with a reasonable time. If you have a delinquent tax debt, contact the county or city tax office and sign a payment plan and make timely payments to avoid collection action.

However, the best advice is to pay your taxes when due. If cash flow is a problem for you, you can always begin paying partial payments each month beginning in August so that your taxes will be paid in full before they become past due in the following January. Other advance payment options may be available. Don't neglect your obligation, pay your taxes on time.