

Georgia Court Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP)

- The Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP) began operation as a pilot project in 2016, and became a full program open to all Georgia courts in 2017.
- In 2017, nineteen participating courts transmitted certified intercepts through TRIP to the Department of Revenue.

Courts ranged in size from Ben Hill Probate and Cochran Municipal Court to large metro courts like Atlanta Municipal and Fulton County State Court.

- Over 6,700 intercept requests have been submitted by participating courts. The amount of unpaid court debts in the system exceeds \$4.3 million.
- By the end of the 2017 tax season, the program has made almost 750 successful income tax intercepts. The intercept rate of matches resulting in some recovery over 2016-2017 is roughly 10 percent.
- Only three hearings were requested to contest intercepts in 2016. No hearings were required in 2017.
- The average amount intercepted is \$190.00.



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Tax Refund Intercept Program

The Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP) offered by the Administrative Office of the Courts in cooperation with the Department of Revenue provides a low cost, low maintenance means to enforce monetary judgments of your court. The TRIP program serves as a clearinghouse for courts that prepare, certify and submit income tax refund intercept requests to satisfy unpaid fines and fees. Using a combination of bulk processing and streamlined business processes, TRIP transmits requests and receives responses from the Department of Revenue on behalf of the participating courts. At the end of each tax season, the amounts successfully collected by the Department of Revenue are sent electronically to the account designated by the court. The court will have SEVEN YEARS from the date of the judgment before the intercept request expires.

Applications to participate in TRIP are accepted throughout the year, and courts are added to the program on a first-come, first served basis.

TRIP doesn't just collect unpaid fines and fees from state income tax returns. As structured, the program serves as an incentive to debtors to pay their debts directly to the court. Experience bears this out. Tens of thousands of dollars in unpaid fines and fees are paid directly to courts by debtors in response to tax intercept notices.

Prior to making an intercept request, the program requires a court to mail notice to the court debtor offering a final chance to pay the debt to the court. After the intercept request is made, the court still manages the intercept and any dispute over the validity of the intercept request. The clearinghouse operates software that allows each court to manage its intercepts right from a local computer. Web-based instructional tools, a TRIP court community forum and even telephone help is available to participating courts.

TRIP utilizes **RevQ** to manage the thousands of intercept requests it receives. **RevQ** is the product of leading government collections software company Ontario Systems. While we do not need all the features of this robust application, **RevQ** possesses a number of features that TRIP is using to automate the tax intercept process:



Features to Make Your Job Easier

Revenue Results includes these features:

- Automated Work Lists
- Automated Work Flow
- Automated Correspondence
- Payment Plans
- Reporting
- Forwarding to Outside Collection Agencies
- Integrated automated dialer and IVR
- Web payment portal
- Skip Tracing
- Management of joint and several accounts (co-responsibility)