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# VITA/TCE Volunteer Resource Guide Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) / Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) 2010 RETURNS





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#### **Pending Legislation and Technical Updates**

At the time this product went to print, Congress was considering legislation that would impact returns within the scope of volunteer prepared returns. Publication 4491-X conveys tax law updates and other revisions to the VITA/TCE training products that occur after the products are published. The publication is normally available for downloading in mid-December via IRS.gov.

Volunteer Tax Alerts are issued during filing season (as needed) and may include additional technical updates. They are accessible via IRS.gov (keyword: Community Network). Also, consult your course instructor and/or site coordinator for guidance.

Department of the Treasury – Internal Revenue Service

## **Volunteer Agreement**

Standards of Conduct – VITA/TCE Programs

The mission of the VITA/TCE Program is to provide free basic tax return preparation for eligible taxpayers. Volunteers are the program's most valuable resource. To establish the greatest degree of public trust, Volunteers have a responsibility to provide high quality service and uphold the highest of ethical standards.

As a participant in the VITA/TCE Program, I agree to the following standards of conduct:

- I will treat all taxpayers professionally, with courtesy and respect.
- I will safeguard the confidentiality of taxpayer information.
- I will apply the tax laws equitably and accurately to the best of my ability.
- I will only prepare returns for which I am certified. (Basic, Advanced, etc.)
- I will exercise reasonable care in the use and protection of equipment and supplies.
- I will not solicit business from taxpayers I assist or use the knowledge I have gained about them for any direct or indirect personal benefit for me or any other specific individual.
- I will not accept payment from taxpayers for the services I provide. I may receive compensation as an employee of a program sponsor.
- I will ensure the returns I prepare, follow the Intake/Interview and Quality Review Processes.

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#### **Confidentiality Statement**

All tax information received from taxpayers in your volunteer capacity is strictly confidential and should not, under any circumstances, be disclosed to unauthorized individuals and should be properly safeguarded.

All persons, scenarios and addresses appearing in this product are fictitious. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.

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#### **How to Use This Guide**

This publication is designed to assist you in preparing an accurate paper or software-prepared return using TaxWise®.\* It is divided into three major sections—Tax Law, TaxWise®, and TaxWise® Online. The white tabs contain tax law in the form of decision trees, charts, and interview tips. The yellow tabs contain step-by-step procedures for electronic return preparation using TaxWise® software. The blue tabs contain information specific to users of the web-based option for TaxWise®.

The decision trees and interview tips in the Tax Law section are from your training materials and Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax Guide (For Individuals). Use these tools during the dialogue with the taxpayer—"ask the right questions; get the right answers." **NOTE: Publication 17 can be linked and researched electronically via IRS.gov**.

TaxWise® Online users should take advantage of both the yellow and blue tabs since material that is universal for both forms of TaxWise® is presented in the yellow tab section.

In the final tab is a chart depicting Form 1040 entries within the scope of the VITA/TCE program.

## Are You Ready to Get Started?

Complete this assessment by entering a check mark in the box for "Yes." Resolve all "No" (unchecked boxes) responses with your site coordinator before assisting taxpayers.

1.	Have you signed:  [ ] a. The Volunteer Agreement/ Standards of Conduct (Form 13615)?  [ ] b. The Property Loan Agreement (if applicable) (Form 13632)?
2.	Do you know the following:  [ ] a. Your duties at the site?  [ ] b. Site contacts (emergency, reporting delays, technical issues, etc.)?  [ ] c. When you are expected at the site [ ] d. Your site identification number (SIDN)?
3.	Do you have your:  [ ] a. Volunteer Resource Guide (Publication 4012)?  [ ] b. Guide to Federal Income Tax (Publication 17)?  [ ] c. Wallet Card (Form 13645) depicting your certification level (if applicable)?
4.	Are the following items at the site:  [ ] a. Intake and Interview Sheets (Form 13614-C or approved alternative)?  [ ] b. Returns forms, schedules, worksheets, etc. with the site SIDN preprinted on them?

#### **Volunteer Tax Alerts (VTAs)**

For the latest volunteer tax law updates and other helpful tips throughout the filing season you can go to www.**irs.gov**—keyword: Volunteer Tax Alerts. Your site coordinator should share these messages with you.

#### Note:

- 1. Some of the TaxWise® screen shots in this guide may not be updated for current tax law. Generally, the screens depicted mirror the current year's version. However, there are some instances where there are embedded references to earlier tax years.
- 2. Not all forms are authorized for all volunteer programs. Forms intended specifically for the Military VITA Program will be annotated as such. Volunteers should only provide tax assistance based on their level of certification—basic, intermediate, advanced, military, or international.

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<sup>\*</sup>TaxWise® is a copyrighted software program owned by CCH Small Firm Services (CCH). The screen shots in this publication should not be extracted, copied, or distributed without written approval of the IRS.



## The Five-Step Interview Process

interview steps

Goal

Suggested Actions



Cultivate a comfortable environment and put the taxpayer at ease.

- · Introduce yourself; engage in small talk (discuss the weather, difficulty in locating the site, apologize if long wait, etc.).
- Explain the tax return preparation process—the interview, how the information they provide will assist you in determining whether they must file a return, their eligibility for tax credits, etc.
- Allow the taxpayers to share any expectations, needs, and/or concerns by asking whether they have questions before beginning and encouraging them to ask questions throughout the process.
- Be friendly and respectful and speak clearly and simply.



Use active listening skills.

- Use nonverbal cues such as nodding, smiling appropriately, and making eye contact
- Listen, then respond by restating, paraphrasing, and/or encouraging further dialogue.



Review the taxpayer's responses to the intake questions (Form 13614-C or equivalent).

- · Verify that all questions on the Intake form (F13614-C or equivalent) have been addressed and answered correctly. If the taxpayer checked the "Unsure" box, provide clarification and update response to "Yes" or "No".
- All corrections to taxpayer's information should be annotated on the approved intake and interview sheet prior to completing the return.
- Ask probing questions to clarify issues.
- Review all the information documents presented by the taxpayer including W-2s, 1099s, 1098s, etc.
- · When you start the interview, use one or two open-ended questions, for example, 'Was there anyone else who lived in your home besides the people listed on this form'; this is essential information for determining Head of Household filing status.
- · If the taxpayer's return does not fall within the scope of the program, (1) courteously explain that volunteer services are limited to those who fall within the scope of the program, (2) Encourage the taxpayer to use the intake sheet in working with another tax service, and (3) thank the taxpayer for coming and express regret you cannot assist them.



Working with the taxpayer, complete the critical intake questions (page 3 of Form 13614-C or equivalent).

- Don't assume—use the interview tips and decision trees in Publication 4012 to confirm:
  - Marital status (filing status)
  - Number of qualifying exemptions
- Eligibility for child tax credit
- Eligibility for the earned income credit





Advise taxpayer of the next steps.

 Restate the return preparation process, quality review procedures, signature and recordkeeping requirements, etc. Make sure you have good contact information in case there are electronic filing issues.



## You - The Taxpayer & The IRS

You can prevent or minimize taxpayer interactions with the IRS by:

- 1. Understanding the taxpayer's tax situation before preparing their return
- 2. Allowing the taxpayer adequate time and provide directions (if requested) for completing pages 1 and 2 of the Form 13614-C
- 3. Conducting a probing interview with the taxpayer to confirm the accuracy and completeness of their entries on Form 13614-C before making any entries on their return
- 4. Annotating your finding and determinations from the interview on the Form 13614-C
- 5. Reviewing your work before submitting it to the quality reviewer (check the return for the common errors; at a minimum)



## What happens to taxpayers when incorrect returns are filed with the IRS?

The IRS will contact taxpayers by mail or telephonically to correct or notify them of errors or omissions on their return.

Potential impact of an inaccurate return on taxpayers:

- 1. Reduced refund
- 2. Delayed refund
- 3. Additional tax liabilities
- 4. Interest and other penalties
- 5. Loss of wages (due to unplanned leave or loss of employment)
- 6. Notices from IRS for documentation to verify certain entries on their return
- 7. Time-off from work to gather the required documentation, attendance information, residency documentation, birth certificates, social security records, etc. and meeting with the IRS
- 8. Months of dialogues and interactions with the IRS

#### Some common errors:

- 1. Incorrect or missing social security numbers/ITIN
- 2. Incorrect tax entered based on taxable income and filing status
- 3. Computation errors in figuring the taxable income, withholding and estimated tax payments, Earned Income Credit, Standard Deduction for age 65 or over or blind, the taxable amount of social security benefits, and child and dependent care credit. Also, missing or incorrect identification numbers for employers and child care providers
- 4. Withholding and estimated tax payments entered on the wrong line, and
- 5. Math errors both addition and subtraction



# For additional guidance

IRS.gov (Keyword: common errors)

IRS.gov (Keyword: Partner and Volunteer Resource Center)

Form 13614-C (Rev. 10-2010)

#### Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

Intake/Interview & Quality Review Sheet

OMB # 1545-1964

#### Section A. Page 1 and Page 2 to be completed by Taxpayer

Thank you for allowing us to prepare your tax return. It is very important for you to provide the information on this form to help our certified volunteer preparer in completing your return. If you have any questions, please ask.

rou will need your:											
Tax information such as Forms W-2, 1099, 1098.											
<ul> <li>Social security cards or ITIN</li> </ul>											
Proof of Identity (such as drivers license or other picture ID)				If no, use Pub 4012, Determining Residency Status Decision Tree to verify that taxpayer and/or spouse meet requirements							
Part I. Your Personal Inform	nation						nts for tax purpo		se meet i	equirement	.s
Your First Name		NA I	Loot Nome				/		Are ve	u a U.S.	Citizon?
1. Tour First Name	Name as sh	own on So	cial Security re	ecords;	see F	Pub 4	1012, TAB 1		Yes		Ollizeri:
2. Chausaia Firet Na	for information		yphenated or		name	S.		$\overline{}$			
2. Spouse's First Name		M. I.	Last Name					\	J — .		S. Citizen?
									Yes		
Mailing Address		Apt#					er will receive re		Zip	Code	
			and/or other			nce a	about the return.	•			
4. Phone	0.11			E-r	nail				Refer to	Pub 17, Cl	hapter 20.
Primary:	Other:							/			gally Blind'.
<ol><li>Your Date of Birth</li></ol>	6. Your (	Occupati	on	_  7.	Are	e you	u Legally Blir	nd /	Pefer to	Pub 17, Cl	hanter 33
		<del>~</del> 1	Situation (e.g.	8.	To	tally	and Perman	ently		ition of 'Tot	
<ol><li>Spouse's Date of Birth</li></ol>	10. Spous	e retired	, student).				use Legally B			ently Disab	
				12.	Tot	tally	and Use Pub	b 4012	, TAB C Iı	nterview Tir	ps to verify
13. Can your parents or someon	ne else clai	m you o	r your spou					ency st	tatus of ta	xpayer and	l spouse.
14. Other than English what lan			This question	is aske	ed by	the II	RS to gather info				
15. Are you or a member of you	· ·										
Part II. Family and Deper		res	sults could mea	an addit	ional	partn	to gather informater funding to as	sist ide	entified se	gment grou	ups. Do not
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				stion wit	th the	IRS	definition of Total	ally and	d Perman	ently Disab	oled.
1. As of December 31, 2010, y	our marital	status v	/as:				o 4012, TAB B Ir				
Single						<u> </u>	zed by the federa		ernment to	or tax purpo	oses.
Married: Did you live wit	th your spo	use duri	ng any part	of the	last	six	months of 20	)10?	∐ Yes	i ∐ No	
Divorced or Legally Sep	arated: Dat	te of fina	I decree or	separ	ate r	منمم	topopoo oar	00m0	nt.		a alaliti a a al
☐ Widowed: Year of spous	se's death:					info	view page 4 to se ermation. Use pa	ge 4 to	record ir	is provided iterview not	tes.
2. List the name of everyone b											2010.
If additional space		•			•	•					
Name (first, last)  Do not enter your name or	Date of (mm/do		elationship to you		Numb f mon		US Citizen of the		Single as of	Full- time	Received more than
Spouse's name below.	(******		sister)		lived		US, Canada	-	2/31/10	student	\$3650 in
Taxpayer should include everyone	Verify of	date	see Pub 17,	Ve	erbally	/	If not a U.S.		<u>Importa</u>	nt Remino	der:
(except taxpayer and spouse) who lived	d each		hapter 3 for a		nfirm	the	citizen,			all informa	
in the taxpayer's home and everyone the taxpayer supported who lived elsewhere	<b>⊢</b> #''		st of relatives ho do not		imber onths	H	determine residency for			A Part II a	
	Note:		eed to live	п	ich	ŀ	tax purposes.			B Questio etermining	
List names as shown on Social Security records; see Pub 4012, TAB 1 for	/ Incorre	11 1	vith the axpayer to		rson ted liv	/ed	See Pub 4012 Determining			nd Depen	
information about hyphenated or double	e may re	sult      q	ualify as a	in	the		Residency		Exemption	ons.	
surnames.	in reject of e-file		ependent.		xpaye me.	er's	Status-Decision Tree.		Lloo Dub	4042 Tok	- P
	Н	·		Н''			· · · · · ·			4012 Tab make you	
									determin		
Do not give this amail address or phone number to toyograf for refund information and to provide high quality convice and											
Do not give this email address or phone number to taxpayer for refund information or tax help. Refer to the back cover of Pub 4012 for appropriate phone numbers.											
<del> </del>					_						

• To report any concerns to IRS on site operating issues please call Toll Free 1-877-330-1205

or email us at WI.Voltax@irs.gov.

Section A. To be completed by Taxpayer (continued)							
Part III. Income – In 2010, (Important Reminder: During the interview explain and assist ta	xpayers with ons below)						
Yes No Unsure any items marked "Unsure" and mark them "Yes" or "No".							
On page 4, list the . Wages or Salary? (Form(s) W-2) Enter all Form W-2 information; see Pub 4	1012, TAB 4 for entry instructions.						
type and amount of 2. Tip Income? — If yes, verify tips were reported to emp	loyer; if not, complete Form 4137.						
any income not shown on a source Scholarships? (Forms W-2, 1098-T)							
document.  Interest/Dividends from: checking/savings accounts, bonds, CDs, brokerage? (Forms 1099-INT,							
1099-DIV, 1099-OID)							
5. Refund of state/local income taxes previously used as a deduction on 104	0 Sch A2 (Form(s)  If yes, complete worksheet.						
1099-G)	ii yes, complete worksheet.						
	1012, TAB E for alimony definition.						
7. Self-Employment Income/Loss (such as earnings from contract labor, sma	Il business)?						
(Form(s) 1099-MISC)	Check Pub 4012						
8. Income (gain or loss) from the sale of Stocks, Bonds or Real Estate (included and a second	ding your TAB 2 for Sch C or C-EZ eligibility; if not						
(Form(s) 1099-B)	eligible, refer to a						
9. Disability Income (such as payments from SSA, VA, insurance, etc)? (For	ms 1099 tax professional.						
10. Distributions from Pensions, Annuities, and/or IRA? (Form(s) 1099-R)							
11. Unemployment Compensation? (Form(s) 1099-G)							
12. Social Security or Railroad Retirement Benefits? (Form(s) SSA-1099)							
13. Income (profit or loss) from Rental Property?							
14. Other Income: (gambling, lottery, prizes, awards, jury duty, etc.) Specify:							
(Forms W-2 G, 1099-MISC)							
Part IV. Expenses – In 2010 Did you (or your spouse) pay: (Check Yes, No or Unsu	re to all questions below)						
On page 4, list the	See Retirement Savings Credit						
type and amount . Alimony: If yes, do you have the recipient's SSN? Yes No	Form 8880; include Form W-2, Box 12.						
of any deductible and/or qualified . Contributions to a retirement account?   IRA Roth IRA 401K	Тине						
expenses not Educational expenses paid for yourself, spouse or dependents? (such as	See Pub 4012, TABs G, 5, and 6, review current tax law on						
shown on a source document.  Unreimbursed employee business expenses (such as mileage)?	education expenses.						
Include only qualified unreimbursed expense	(Sch A); see Pub 17, Chapter 21.						
6. Home mortgage interest?							
7. Real estate taxes for your home or personal property taxes?							
8. Charitable contributions? — Advise taxpayer of records requirements							
9. Child/dependent care expenses that allowed you and your spouse, to work	ii yes, ask taxpayer for						
Part V. Life Events – In 2010 Did you (or your spouse): (Check Yes, No or Unsure to	o all provider's TIN, check "DC" box on TaxWise Main Info						
Yes No Unsure	Sheet, and complete F2441.						
1. Have a Health Savings Account? (Forms 5498-SA, 1099-SA)							
2. Have debt from a mortgage or credit card canceled forgiven by a commerce.	ial lender? (Form(s) 1000-C)						
Any foreclosure should also See Pub 17, Chapter 15.	be addressed as a Sale of Home.						
4. Have Earned Income Credit (EIC) disallowed in a prior year? If yes, for whi	ich tax vear?						
5. Purchase and install energy efficient home items? (such as windows, furna	ace. insulation. etc.)						
6. Live in an area that was affected by a natural disaster? If yet Check for tax be	nefits for declared disaster areas.						
7. Receive the First Time Homebuyers Credit in previous ye Taxpayer may have a	requirement to repay their credit.						
	ent; See Pub 4012 TABs E and 3.						
9. Make estimated tax payments or apply last year's refund to your 2010 tax?							
If so how much?							
10. If you are due a refund, wou If yes to Q 10, verify routing and account numbers, compl	ete Form 8888 for a Split Refund.						
11. If you are due a refund, would <del>you like information on ho</del> If U.S. Saving Bonds a							
12. If you have a balance If balance due, discuss all available payment options as well as							
payment directly from your garns account, check, money order, creditoreou	tall of payment plant						

#### **TAXPAYER STOP HERE!**

Thank you for completing this form.

#### Important Reminder: tion C. To be completed by Section B. To be Completed by Certified V The Certified Volunteer ertified Quality Reviewer completes Section B while reviewing Section A and Remember: You are the link between the taxpayer's er reviewing the tax return and sources documents with correct tax return. Verify the taxpayer's information of fying that it reflects correct tax law the taxpayer. complete. Any question marked "Unsure" must be dis lication to the information provided taxpayer and changed to "Yes" or "No". Section B does not have to he taxpayer, check the final item. be completed if there is no Must be completed ONLY if persons are listed in one listed in Part II Sections A & B of this form are See Qualifying Question 2. complete. 1. Can anyone else claim any of the Child, Qualifying Part II. Question 2. as a dependent on their return? Relative and 2. Taxpaver's Identity, Address Tie-Breaker rules. If yes, which ones: and Phone Number were verified. Pub 4012. TAB C. **Important Reminder:** dates of Section C must be completed and by a Quality Reviewer (minimum Intermediate porting See EIC Qualifying 2. Were any of the persons listed in Part II, Question 2, Child, Pub 4012, certification) after the return totally and permanently disabled? If yes, which ones: TAB H and Child is prepared. The taxpayer and Dependent should be present. The return termined. Care Credit must be checked against Qualifying Person Sections A and B, source Pub 4012 TAB G documents and other rrectly information provided by the See Qualifying 3. Did any of the persons listed in Part II, Question 2 taxpayer. Child requirements, provide more than half of their own support? If yes, Pub 4012, TAB C. 6. All Income shown on source which ones: documents and noted in Section A, Part III is included on the tax return. 7. Any Adjustments to Income are correctly reported. See Qualifying 4. Did the taxpayer provide more than half the support Relative for each of the persons in Part II, Question 2? If no, 8. Standard. Additional or Itemized requirements, Pub which ones: 4012 TAB C. This **Deductions** are correct. question may be N/A for a Qualifying 9. All **Credits** are correctly reported. Child. 10. Withholding shown on **Forms** W-2,1099 and Estimated Tax See Qualifying 5. Did the taxpayer pay over half the cost of main-Payments are correctly reported. Person for Head of taining a home for any of the persons in Part II, Household filing Question 2? If yes, which ones: status, Pub 4012, 11. If **Direct Deposit** or **Debit** was TAB B. elected, checking/saving account and routing information match the supporting documents. 12. Correct SIDN is shown on the return. Reminder Check if the items above have Use Publication 17. Your Federal Income Tax For Individuals been verified to validate accuracy and Publication 4012, Volunteer Resource Guide in making tax based on your interview with the law determinations. taxpaver and a second review of their source documents.

Catalog Number 52121E

Form **13614-C** (Rev. 10-2010)



# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

#### **Making Work Pay Credit (MWPC)**

- This is the second year for the Making Work Pay Credit provision of ARRA.
- The MWPC is a refundable credit. This means eligible taxpayers will receive the credit even if they have no tax liability.
- The credit is computed on Schedule M and claimed in the Payments section on page 2 of Form 1040. Taxpayers must attach Schedule M to their returns.
   Exception: Form 1040EZ filers will use a worksheet on the back of the form to figure the MWPC.
- In some cases taxpayers may receive an economic recovery payment in the year 2010 that should have been paid in 2009. In these situations, any MWPC will have to be reduced by the economic recovery payment received in 2010.

**TIP:** Most of the \$250 economic recovery payments were issued by the benefit payer in 2009. However, volunteers need to be aware there may be **some** cases where the taxpayer received a \$250 economic recovery payment in 2010.

#### What are the basics?

- During 2010, income tax withholding was reduced because most workers were expected to qualify for this credit on their 2010 tax returns.
- The making work pay credit is effective for tax years 2009 and 2010.

# Who is eligible for the Making Work Pay Credit?

- A taxpayer must have earned income to qualify. Earned income includes wages and income from self-employment.
- Most workers with earned income up to certain limits will be eligible for the credit.
   The credit begins to phase out when adjusted gross income is more than \$75,000 (\$150,000 for married couples filing jointly).

# Who is not eligible for the Making Work Pay Credit?

- Any taxpayer who does not have earned income. (For example: Pensioners are not eligible for the credit, unless they have earned income.)
- Anyone who can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return. On a joint return neither spouse can be claimed as a dependent on anyone else's return.
- · Non-resident aliens.
- Taxpayers who do not have a valid social security number. Exception: A taxpayer who does not have a valid social security number and files a joint return and his/her spouse does have a valid social security number qualifies for the credit. Note: A valid social security number does not include any identification number issued by the IRS.

#### **How is the credit computed?**

- The credit is 6.2 percent of earned income: up to \$400 (up to \$800 for married taxpayers filing a joint return).
- The MWPC is reduced by any economic recovery payment(s) received in 2010.



Taxpayers eligible for the MWPC in 2010 will need to check their records to determine if they received an economic recovery payment in 2010. The internet look up tool on IRS.gov will continue to be available for the 2011 filing season. Taxpayers can enter "economic recovery payment" in the search box and click "Search." Then select "Did I Receive an Economic Recovery Payment?"

#### **SCHEDULE M** (Form 1040A or 1040)

#### **Making Work Pay Credit**

OMB No. 1545-0074 2010 Attachment Sequence No. 166

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service (99) Name(s) shown on return

► Attach to Form 1040A or 1040.

► See separate instructions.

Your social security number

To take the making work pay credit, you must include your social security number (if filing a joint return, the number of either you or your spouse) on your tax retum. A social security number does not include an identification number issued by the IRS. Only the Social Security Administration You cannot take the making work pay credit if you can be claimed as someone else's dependent or if you are a nonresident alien. Important: Check the "No" box on line 1a and see the instructions if: (a) You have a net loss from a business. (b) You received a taxable scholarship or fellowship grant not reported on a Form W-2, (c) Your wages include pay for work performed while an inmate in a penal institution, (d) You received a pension or annuity from a nonqualified deferred compensation plan or a nongovernmental section 457 plan, or (e) You are filing Form 2555 or 2555-EZ. 1a Do you (and your spouse if filing jointly) have 2010 wages of more than \$6,451 (\$12,903 if married filing jointly)? Yes. Skip lines 1a through 3. Enter \$400 (\$800 if married filing jointly) on line 4 and go to line 5. No. Enter your earned income (see instructions) . . . . . . . 1a b Nontaxable combat pay included on line 1a (see instructions) . . . . . . . . . . . 1b Multiply line 1a by 6.2% (.062) . . . . . . . . . . Enter \$400 (\$800 if married filing jointly) . . . . . . . . . Enter the **smaller** of line 2 or line 3 (unless you checked "Yes" on line 1a). Enter the amount from Form 1040, line 38\*, or Form 1040A, line 22 . . Enter \$75,000 (\$150,000 if married filing jointly) . . 6 Is the amount on line 5 more than the amount on line 6? **No.** Skip line 8. Enter the amount from line 4 on line 9 below. Multiply line 7 by 2% (.02) . . . . . . . . Subtract line 8 from line 4. If zero or less, enter -0- . . . . . 10 Did you (or your spouse, if filing jointly) receive an economic recovery payment in 2010? You may have received this payment in 2010 if you did not receive an economic recovery payment in 2009 but you received social security benefits, supplemental security income, railroad retirement benefits, or veterans disability compensation or pension benefits in November 2008, December 2008, or January 2009 (see instructions). ■ No. Enter -0- on line 10 and go to line 11. Yes. Enter the total of the payments you (and your spouse, if filing jointly) received in 2010. Do not enter more than \$250 (\$500 if married filing jointly) . . . 10 Making work pay credit. Subtract line 10 from line 9. If zero or less, enter -0-. Enter the result \*If you are filing Form 2555, 2555-EZ, or 4563 or you are excluding income from Puerto Rico, see instructions. For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see your tax return instructions. Cat. No. 52903Q Schedule M (Form 1040A or 1040) 2010 You cannot take the MWP credit if you are a nonresident alien or can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return.

Use the Earned Income Worksheet in the Schedule M Instructions if you checked the "No" box on line 1a. You may be able to add self-employment income to this amount.

Most eligible taxpayers received the \$250 payment in 2009. However some recipients received the payment in 2010. Any Making Work Pay Credit that the person is entitled to must be reduced by the \$250 ERP received in 2010.

# Frequently Asked Questions Schedule M, Making Work Pay Credit

# Q: How is the making work pay credit claimed by taxpayers?

A. For people who receive a paycheck and are subject to withholding, the credit will typically be handled by their employers through automated withholding changes that were made during 2010. These changes resulted in an increase in the amount of take-home pay. The making work pay credit is reported on the 2010 income tax return as a refundable credit, compensating for the reduced withholding.

# Q: If a taxpayer is eligible for more of a credit, how is it claimed?

A: The modified withholding tables take the anticipated credit into account through reduced withholding. However, the making work pay credit is reported on all eligible 2010 income tax returns, along with the taxpayer's withheld income tax. Taxpayers receiving less than the full amount of the anticipated credit through reduced withholding are still entitled to the full credit on their return.

# Q: How is the credit claimed by taxpayers who are self-employed?

A: Self-employed taxpayers claim the making work pay credit on their 2010 return filed in 2011. These taxpayers should use the earned income worksheet in the Schedule M instructions when calculating the Schedule M line 1a amount.

#### Q: Are pensioners eligible for MWPC?

A: Pensioners do not qualify for the MWPC, unless they receive earned income.

# Q: What is the economic recovery payment?

A: The economic recovery payment is a one-time payment of \$250 paid to retirees, disabled individuals and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients receiving benefits from the Social Security Administration, disabled veterans receiving benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and those receiving benefits from the Railroad Retirement Board. In most cases this payment was made in the in 2009. However there are some taxpayers that received their payments in 2010 instead of 2009.

# Q: What happens if the taxpayer received the \$250 in 2010 instead of 2009?

A: In most cases this payment was made in 2009. However there are some taxpayers that received their \$250 payment in 2010. For that reason any Making Work Pay Credit these taxpayers are entitled to will have to be reduced by the \$250 economic recovery payment received in 2010. The calculation is made on Schedule M.

# Q: Are dependents who work eligible for the MWPC?

A: Individuals who can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return are not eligible for the MWPC.

# Q: Is a non-resident alien eligible for the MWPC?

A: No, an individual who is a non-resident alien does not qualify for the credit.



## Chart A – For Most People Who Must File

IF your filing status is	AND at the end of 2010 you were*	THEN file a return if your gross income was at least**
single	under 65	\$ 9,350
	65 or older	\$10,750
head of household	under 65	\$12,050
	65 or older	\$13,450
married, filing jointly***	under 65 (both spouses)	\$18,700
	65 or older (one spouse)	\$19,800
	65 or older (both spouses)	\$20,900
married, filing separately	any age	\$ 3,650
qualifying widow(er) with	under 65	\$15,050
dependent child	65 or older	\$16,150

- \* If you were born before January 2, 1946, you are considered to be 65 or older at the end of 2010.
- \*\* Gross income means all income you received in the form of money, goods, property, and services that is not exempt from tax, including any income from sources outside the United States (even if you can exclude part or all of it). **Do not** include any social security benefits unless (a) you are married filing a separate return and you lived with your spouse at any time during 2010, or (b) one-half of your social security benefits plus your other gross income is more than \$25,000 (\$32,000 if married filing jointly). If (a) or (b) applies, see the Form 1040 instructions to figure the taxable part of social security benefits you must include in gross income.
- \*\*\* If you did not live with your spouse at the end of 2010 (or on the date your spouse died) and your gross income was at least \$3,650, you must file a return regardless of your age.



# Chart B – For Children and Other Dependents

If your parent (or someone else) can claim you as a dependent, use this table to see if you must file a return.

In this table, unearned income includes taxable interest, ordinary dividends, and capital gain distributions. It also includes unemployment compensation, taxable social security benefits, pensions, annuities, and distributions of unearned income from a trust. Earned income includes wages, tips, professional fees, and taxable scholarship and fellowship grants. Gross income is the total of your unearned and earned income.

**Caution.** If your gross income was \$3,650 or more, you usually cannot be claimed as a dependent unless you are a qualifying child. For details, see Exemptions for Dependents.

Single	No. You must file a return if any of the following apply.  1. Your unearned income was more than \$950.  2. Your earned income was more than \$5,700.  3. Your gross income was more than the larger of —  a. \$950, or  b. Your earned income (up to \$5,400) plus \$300.
	Yes. You must file a return if any of the following apply.  1. Your unearned income was more than \$2,350 (\$3,750 if 65 or older and
	<ul><li>blind).</li><li>Your earned income was more than \$7,100 (\$8,500 if 65 or older and blind).</li></ul>
	3. Your gross income was more than the larger of—
	<ul><li>a. \$2,350 (\$3,750 if 65 or older and blind), or</li><li>b. Your earned income (up to \$5,400) plus \$1,700 (\$3,100 if 65 or older and blind).</li></ul>
Marrie □	ed dependents—Were you either age 65 or older or blind?  No. You must file a return if any of the following apply.
	<ol> <li>Your gross income was at least \$5 and your spouse files a separate return and itemizes deductions.</li> <li>Your unearned income was more than \$950.</li> <li>Your earned income was more than \$5,700.</li> <li>Your gross income was more than the larger of —         <ol> <li>\$950, or</li> <li>Your earned income (up to \$5,400) plus \$300.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
	Yes. You must file a return if any of the following apply.
	Your gross income was at least \$5 and your spouse files a separate return and itemizes deductions.

2. Your unearned income was more than \$2,050 (\$3,150 if 65 or older and

b. Your earned income (up to \$5,400) plus \$1,400 (\$2,500 if 65 or older

3. Your earned income was more than \$6,800 (\$7,900 if 65 or older and

4. Your gross income was more than the larger of—a. \$2,050 (\$3,150 if 65 or older **and** blind), or

and blind).



#### Chart C – Other Situations When You Must File

If any of the four conditions listed below applied to you for 2010, you must file a return.

- 1. You owe any special taxes, including any of the following.
  - a. Alternative minimum tax. (See the Form 1040 instructions for line 45.)
  - b. Additional tax on a qualified plan, including an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), or other tax-favored account. (See Publication 590, Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), and Publication 969, Health Savings Accounts and Other Tax-Favored Health Plans.) But if you are filing a return only because you owe this tax, you can file Form 5329 by itself.
  - c. Social security or Medicare tax on tips you did not report to your employer (see Publication 531, Reporting Tip Income) or on wages you received from an employer who did not withhold these taxes (see Form 8919).
  - d. Write-in taxes, including uncollected social security, Medicare, or railroad retirement tax on tips you reported to your employer or on group-term life insurance and additional tax on health savings accounts. (See Publication 531, Publication 969, and the Form 1040 instructions for line 61.)
  - e. Household employment taxes. But if you are filing a return only because you owe these taxes, you can file Schedule H by itself.
  - f. Recapture taxes. (See the Form 1040 instructions for lines 44 and 60.)
- 2. You received any advance earned income credit (EIC) payments from your employer. These payments should be shown in box 9 of your Form W-2. (See Publication 596, Earned Income Credit (EIC).)
- 3. You had net earnings from self-employment of at least \$400. (See Schedule SE (Form 1040) and its instructions.)
- 4. You had wages of \$108.28 or more from a church or qualified church-controlled organization that is exempt from employer social security and Medicare taxes. (See Schedule SE (Form 1040) and its instructions.)



## Chart D - Who Should File

- 1. You had income tax withheld from your pay.
- 2. You made estimated tax payments for the year or had any of your overpayment for last year's estimated tax applied to this year's taxes.
- 3. You qualify for the earned income credit. See Publication 596, Earned Income Credit (EIC), for more information.
- 4. You qualify for the additional child tax credit. See the instructions in your tax forms package for more information on this credit.
- 5. You qualify for the health coverage tax credit. For information about this credit, see Form 8885, Health Coverage Tax Credit.
- 6. You qualify for the refundable credit for prior year minimum tax. See Form 8801, Credit for Prior Year Minimum Tax Individuals, Estates, and Trusts.
- 7. You qualify for the first-time homebuyer credit. See Form 5405, First-Time Homebuyer Credit.
- 8. You qualify for an American Opportunity Credit.

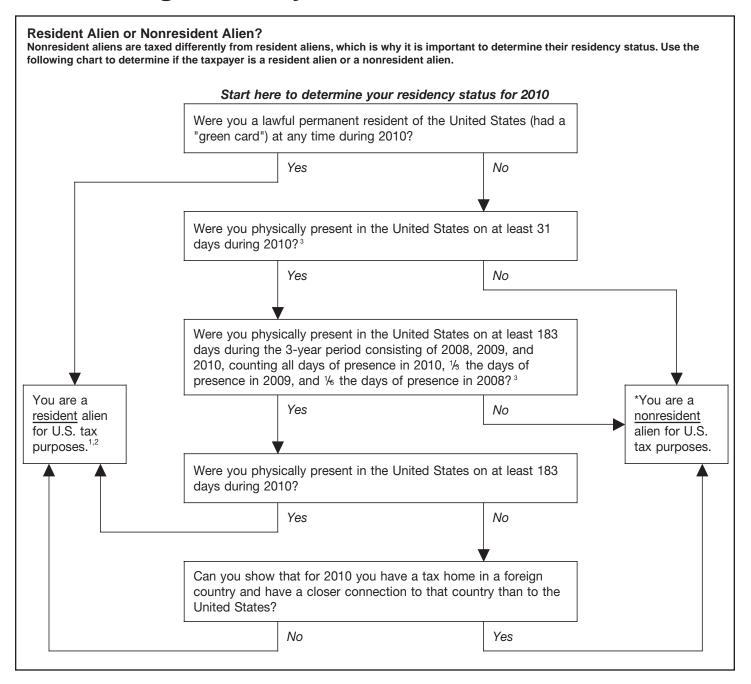


# Always use Form 1040 when using tax software

Considerations	Form 1040EZ	Form 1040A	Form 1040	
Filing Status	Single or married filing jointly	Any	Any	
Exemptions	Personal (No dependents)	Personal and dependents	Personal and dependents	
Income Sources	Wages, salaries, tips, taxable scholarship or fellowship grants, unemployment compensation, or Alaska Permanent Fund Dividends and taxable interest not over \$1,500	Same as 1040EZ, plus: interest, ordinary dividends, capital gain distributions, annuities, IRAs, taxable social security and railroad retirement benefits	Same as 1040A, plus: income from self-employment, certain tips, non-taxable distributions required to be reported as capital gains	
Taxable Income	Line 6 is less than \$100,000	Line 27 is less than \$100,000	Line 43 is any amount	
Adjustments	None	Educator expenses, IRA deductions, student loan interest deduction, and tuition and fees deduction	Any	
Deductions	Standard deduction only. If filing a joint return, taxpayer and spouse must both be under the age of 65 and not blind at the end of 2010	Standard deduction only	Standard or itemized deductions	
Tax Credits	Earned Income Credit and making work pay credit	Child tax credit (CTC), additional CTC credit, education credit, earned income credit, credit for child and dependent care expenses, credit for the elderly or disabled, adoption credit, making work pay credit, government retiree credit or retirement savings contributions credit	All	

Hint: Always start Form 1040.

## **Determining Residency Status – Decision Tree**



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> If this is your first or last year of residency, you may have a dual status for the year. See Publication 519 U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens under Dual-Status Aliens in chapter 1.

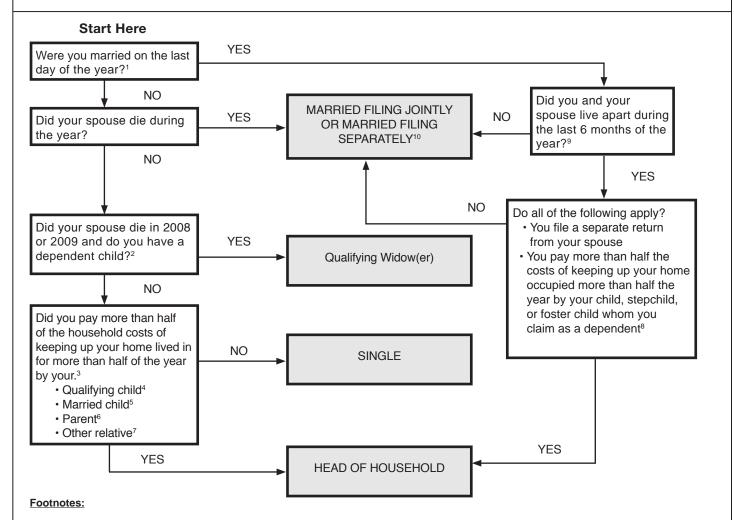
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In some circumstances you may still be considered a nonresident alien under an income tax treaty between the United States and your country. Check the provisions of the treaty carefully.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Days of Presence in the United States in Publication 519 for days that do not count as days of presence in the United States.

<sup>\*</sup> If it is determined that the taxpayer is a nonresident alien for U.S. tax purposes, volunteers should refer those taxpayers to the site coordinator, unless they have been trained and certified to prepare tax forms and returns (Forms 8843, 1040NR, or 1040NR-EZ) for nonresident aliens.

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## **Determination of Filing Status – Decision Tree**



- 1. Your filing status is single if, on the last day of the year you were legally separated from your spouse under a divorce or separate maintenance decree and do not qualify for another filing status.
- 2. If you paid over half of the household costs for your child, you can file as Qualifying Widow(er) for 2 years after the death of your spouse. Your child or stepchild (foster child is not included) must be your dependent and that child must have lived with you all year. You must have been entitled to file Married Filing Jointly (even if you didn't) in the year of spouse's death. If you meet the qualifications for Qualifying Widow(er) and for Head of Household you should use Qualifying Widow(er) because Qualifying Widow(er) is more beneficial.
  - 1. Cost of home includes taxes, insurance, utilities, food, rent, mortgage/mortgage interest (public benefits payments, TANF, MFIP and other welfare considered paid by others).
  - 2. Amounts paid out of funds received as governmental assistance or SSA in child's name are considered paid by others (not the taxpayer). Generally, only one taxpayer in a home can claim Head of Household filing status. Just because each person has their own children living in a home does not mean they are a separate "household" for this filing status purpose
- 3. See Publication 17, *Filing Status*, for rules applying to birth, death, or temporary absence during the year. Military deployment/TDY is a temporary absence and he or she is considered to have lived in your home.
- 4. See Tab C for definition of a qualifying child.
- 5. A married child includes grandchild, stepchild, or adopted child, but the child is not a qualifying person unless you can claim an exemption for the child. If you could claim an exemption for the child, except that the child's other parent claims the exemption under the special rules for a noncustodial parent, then the child is a qualifying person.
- 6. A parent does not have to live with you if you paid more than half the cost of keeping up his or her main home for the entire year, but you must be able to claim an exemption for the parent.
- 7. Other relatives include grandparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, stepmother, stepfather, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and, if related by blood, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece. You must be able to claim an exemption for any of these individuals.
- 8. Or child's other parent claims him or her under rules for children of divorced or separated parents.
- 9. This requirement is met if you are a U.S. citizen or resident alien for the entire year and you live with your nonresident alien spouse who you do not choose to treat as a resident alien for tax purposes.

#### 10. Married Filing Separately (MFS)

If the taxpayer asks to file MFS, emphasize the advantages to Married Filing Jointly and the possibility of filing Form 8379, Injured Spouse Claim & Allocation (if appropriate). See *Pub 17*, Filing Status, MFS Special Rules for list of disadvantages.



## Filing Status

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

Were you considered married in a legal union between a man and a woman as husband and wife on December 31 of the tax year? (Answer yes if state common law rules were met or if your spouse died during the year even if you did not remarry by the end of the year.)

If YES, go to Step 2. If NO, go to Step 5.

(2)

Do you and your spouse wish to file a joint return?

If YES, STOP. Your filing status is married filing jointly. If NO, go to Step 3.

step (3)

Did you have a qualifying child or any other relative whom you can claim as a dependent living in your home during the tax year?\*

If YES, go to Step 4. If NO, STOP. Your filing status is married filing separately.

step 4

Can you be considered unmarried?

- You file a separate return
- You paid more than half the cost of keeping up a main home
- Your spouse did not live in your home during the last 6 months (including temporary absences) of the tax year
- Your home was the main home of your child, stepchild, or foster child for more than half the year
- You must be able to claim an exemption for the child (exception—noncustodial parent correctly claims exemption)

If YES, STOP. Your filing status is head of household. If NO, STOP. Your filing status is married filing separately.

step 6

Did your spouse die in 2008 or 2009?

If YES, go to Step 6. If NO, go to Step 7.



Can you be considered a qualifying widow(er) with a dependent child?

- You were entitled to file a joint return with your spouse for the year your spouse died
- You did not remarry before the end of this tax year
- You have a dependent child who is a son, daughter, stepson, or stepdaughter whom you can claim as an exemption
- You paid more than half the cost of keeping up a main home for you and that child for the entire year

If YES, STOP. Your filing status is qualifying widow(er) with dependent child. If NO, go to Step 7.

step

Do you have a qualifying person for head of household filing status?

- You paid more than half the cost of keeping up a main home
- A qualifying person\* lived with you more than half the year (exception for dependent parent or kidnapped child)

If YES, STOP. Your filing status is head of household. If NO, STOP. Your filing status is single.

\*You cannot use head of household filing status based on any person who is your dependent only because he or she lived with you for all of 2010.



# Who Is a Qualifying Person Qualifying You To File as Head of Household?<sup>1</sup>

IF the person is your	AND	THEN that person is
qualifying child (such as a son, daughter, or grandchild who lived with you more than half the year	he or she is single	a qualifying person, whether or not you can claim an exemption for the person.
and meets certain other tests) <sup>2</sup>	he or she is married <u>and</u> you can claim an exemption for him or her	a qualifying person.
	he or she is married <u>and</u> you cannot claim an exemption for him or her	not a qualifying person.3
qualifying relative <sup>4</sup> who is your father or mother	you can claim an exemption for him or her⁵	a qualifying person. <sup>6</sup>
	you cannot claim an exemption for him or her	not a qualifying person.
qualifying relative <sup>4</sup> other than your father or mother (such as a grandparent, brother, or sister who meets certain tests).	he or she lived with you more than half the year, <u>and</u> he or she is related to you in one of the ways listed under <u>Relatives who</u> <u>do not have to live with you and</u> you can claim an exemption for him or her <sup>5</sup>	a qualifying person.
	he or she did not live with you more than half the year	not a qualifying person.
	he or she is not related to you in one of the ways listed under Relatives who do not have to live with you and is your qualifying relative only because he or she lived with you all year as a member of your household	not a qualifying person.
	you cannot claim an exemption for him or her	not a qualifying person.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A person cannot qualify more than one taxpayer to use the head of household filing status for the year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The term "qualifying child" is defined under <u>Exemptions for Dependents</u>, later. **Note:** If you are a noncustodial parent, the term "qualifying child" for head of household filing status does not include a child who is your qualifying child for exemption purposes only because of the rules described under <u>Children of divorced or separated parents</u> under <u>Qualifying Child</u>, later. If you are the custodial parent and those rules apply, the child generally is your qualifying child for head of household filing status even though the child is not a qualifying child for whom you can claim an exemption.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This person is a qualifying person if the only reason you cannot claim the exemption is that you can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The term "qualifying relative" is defined under *Exemptions for Dependents*, later.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> If you can claim an exemption for a person only because of a multiple support agreement, that person is not a qualifying person. See *Multiple Support Agreement*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Special rule for parent for an additional requirement.

Notes	



### **Exemptions** (reduces the taxpayer's taxable income)

- Exemption Amount: \$3,650 for 2010
- Two types:
  - 1. Personal exemptions—one exemption for the taxpayer and, if married, one for his or her spouse; unless they can be claimed as a dependent by another person.
  - 2. Exemptions for dependents—one exemption for each qualifying child and/or qualifying relative.
- Apply the rules for exemptions for dependents using the worksheets in the Forms 1040 and 1040A instruction books and interview tips in this publication.
- Dependents cannot claim exemptions for dependents. Taxpayers who are claimed as a dependent on someone else's return cannot claim any exemptions for their own dependents.

TIP	2010 Exemption Chart							
\$3,650	X	1	=	\$ 3,650				
\$3,650	X	2	=	\$ 7,300				
\$3,650	Х	3	=	\$10,950				
\$3,650	Х	4	=	\$14,600				
\$3,650	Х	5	=	\$18,250				



# **Personal Exemptions**

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

step 1	Were you considered married during any part of the tax year? (Answer YES if state common law rules were met.)	If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 2. If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 7.
step 2	Were you still considered married on December 31 of the tax year?	If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 5. If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 3. <b>Note:</b> Abandonment does not change marital status—answer YES if the taxpayer's responses to Steps 3 and 4 are NO.
step 3	Did you obtain a final decree of divorce or separate maintenance by December 31 of the tax year?	If <b>YES</b> , you cannot claim a personal exemption for your former spouse. Go to Step 7. If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 4.
step 4	Did your spouse die during the tax year?	If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 5. If <b>NO</b> , go back through Steps 1–3 and clarify answers.
step 5	Are you filing a joint tax return? (Answer YES if you are filing a joint return to claim a refund and there would be no tax liability for either spouse if separate returns were filed.)	If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 7. If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 6.
step 6	Did your spouse have income or can anyone else claim your spouse as a dependent (including a nonresident alien spouse)?	If <b>YES</b> to either, you cannot claim a personal exemption for your spouse. Go to Step 7 to see about your own personal exemption.  If <b>NO</b> to both, you can claim a personal exemption for your spouse.
step 7	Can anyone claim you (or your spouse if filing jointly) as a dependent on his or her return?	If <b>YES</b> , you cannot claim a personal exemption for yourself or your spouse.  If <b>NO</b> , you can claim a personal exemption for yourself and your spouse.

**Step 4:** If his or her spouse died during the year, the taxpayer can claim his or her spouse's exemption if the taxpayer did not remarry during the year. See Publication 17 for other considerations.

**Step 5:** If married filing jointly (other than to claim a refund of withholding), the taxpayer cannot be an exemption on another person's return.

**Step 7:** If married filing separately, the taxpayer can take his or her own exemption if another taxpayer is not entitled to claim him or her as a dependent.

If married filing separately, the taxpayer can claim his or her spouse's exemption if the spouse had no gross income, is not filing a return, and cannot be claimed as a dependent on another person's return.



# Overview of the Rules for Claiming an Exemption for a Dependent

Caution: This table is only an overview of the rules. For details, see Publication 17.

- · You cannot claim any dependents if you, or your spouse if filing jointly, could be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.
- You cannot claim a married person who files a joint return as a dependent unless that joint return is only a claim for refund and there would be no tax liability for either spouse on separate returns.
- You cannot claim a person as a dependent unless that person is a U.S. citizen, U.S. resident alien, U.S. national, or a resident of Canada or Mexico, for some part of the year.<sup>1</sup>
- · You cannot claim a person as a dependent unless that person is your qualifying child or qualifying relative.

Tests To Be a Qualifying Child	Tests To Be a Qualifying Relative
The child must be younger than you. (Exception: Any age if permanently totally disabled)	The person cannot be your qualifying child or the qualifying child of any other taxpayer. A child is not the qualifying child of any other taxpayer if the child's parent (or any other person for whom the child is defined as a qualifying child) is not required to file an income tax return or files an income tax return only to get a refund of income tax withheld.
2. The child must be your son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them.	2. The person either (a) must be related to you in one of the ways listed under Relatives who do not have to live with you, or (b) must live with you all year as a member of your household² (and your relationship must not violate local law).
3. The child must be (a) under age 19 at the end of the year, (b) under age 24 at the end of the year and a full-time student or (c) any age and permanently and totally disabled.	3. The person's gross income for the year must be less than \$3,650.3
4. The child must have lived with you for more than half of the year. <sup>2</sup>	4. You must provide more than half of the person's total support for the year.4
5. The child must not have provided more than half of his or her own support for the year.	
6. If the child meets the rules to be a qualifying child of more than one person, you must be the person entitled to claim the child as a qualifying child.	
4	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>There is an exception for certain adopted children.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>There are exceptions for multiple support agreements, children of divorced or separated parents, and kidnapped children.



# **Qualifying Child of More Than One Person**

If the child meets the conditions to be the qualifying child of more than one person, only one person can claim the child as a qualifying child for all of the following tax benefits, unless the special rule for Children of divorced or separated parents applies.

- Dependency Exemption
- · Head of Household
- · Credit for the Child and Dependent Care Expenses
- Child Tax Credit
- · Earned Income Credit
- · Exclusion for Dependent Care Benefits

No other person can take any of the six tax benefits listed above unless he or she has a different qualifying child. If you and any person can claim the child as a qualifying child, the following rules apply.

If only one of the persons is the child's parent, the child is treated as the qualifying child of the parent.

If the parents do not file a joint return together but both parents claim the child as a qualifying child, the IRS will treat the child as the qualifying child of the parent with whom the child lived for the longer period of time in 2010. If the child lived with each parent for the same amount of time, the IRS will treat the child as the qualifying child of the parent who had the higher adjusted gross income (AGI) for 2010.

If no parent can claim the child as a qualifying child, the child is is treated as the qualifying child of the person who had the highest AGI for 2010.

**Example:** Your daughter meets the conditions to be a qualifying child for both you and your mother. Under the rules above, you are entitled to treat your daughter as a qualifying child for all of the six tax benefits listed above for which you otherwise qualify. Your mother is not entitled to take any of the six tax benefits listed above unless she has a different qualifying child. HOWEVER, IF YOUR MOTHERS AGI IS HIGHER THAN YOURS, YOU CAN LET YOUR MOTHER TREAT YOUR DAUGHTER AS HER QUALIFYING CHILD. IF YOU DO THAT, YOUR DAUGHTER IS NOT YOUR QUALIFYING CHILD FOR ANY OF THE 6 BENEFITS.

If a parent can claim the child as a qualifying child but no parent does so claim the child, the child is treated as the qualifying child of the person who had the highest AGI for 2010, but only if that person's AGI is higher than the highest AGI of any parent of the child who can claim the child.

**Caution:** For this situation it is not a tie-breaker rule but is part of the determination on who can claim the child on the tax return.

For more details and examples, see Pub. 17 and 501.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>There are exceptions for temporary absences, children who were born or died during the year, children of divorced or separated parents, and kidnapped children.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>There is an exception if the person is disabled and has income from a sheltered workshop.

TIP	Table 1: Dependency E	xemption for Qualifying Child
interview tips	Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:	
step 1	Was the child younger than you (or your spouse, if filing jointly)? (revised 2009)	If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 2 (Answer Yes, if child is permanently and totally disabled). If <b>NO</b> , go to Table 2, Dependency Exemption for Qualifying Relative Interview Tips.
step 2	Was the "child" your son, daughter, stepchild, eligible foster child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them (i.e., your grandchild, niece, or nephew)?	If NO, go to Table 2—Dependency Exemption for Qualifying Relative Interview Tips. If YES, go to Step 3. Note: An adopted child is treated as your child.
step 3	Was the "child" under age 19 at the end of the year? <b>OR</b> Was the "child" under age 24 at the end of the year and a full-time student for some part of each of five months during the year? OR Was the "child" any age and permanently and totally disabled?	If <b>NO</b> , go to Table 2. If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 4. <b>Note:</b> A permanently and totally disabled person cannot engage in any substantial gainful activity due to a physical or mental condition and a doctor has determined their condition may last for 12 months or more or can lead to death.
step 4	Did the "child" provide over half of his or her own support for the year?	If NO, go to Step 5. If YES, you may not claim an exemption for this "child". Note: A worksheet for determining support is included at the end of this section.
step <b>5</b>	Did the "child" live with you as a member of your household for more than half of the year?	If NO, go to Table 2—Dependency Exemption for Qualifying Relative Interview Tips and see footnote for Step 5, if applicable. If YES, go to Step 6. Note: There are exceptions for kidnapped children, a child who was born or died in 2010, and certain temporary absences.
step 6	Was the "child" a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or a resident of the U.S., Canada, or Mexico?	If <b>NO</b> , you may not claim this "child" as a dependent. If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 7. Answer YES if you are a U.S. citizen or U.S. national and your adopted child lived with you as a member of your household in 2010.
step 7	Was this "child" considered married on December 31, 2010?	If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 9. If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 8.
step 8	Is the "child" filing a joint return for this tax year?	If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 9. If <b>YES</b> , you cannot claim this "child" as a dependent. Answer NO, if the child is filing a joint return to claim a refund and no tax liability would exist for either spouse if they had filed separate returns.
step <b>9</b>	Is the "child" a qualifying child of any other person?	If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 10. If <b>YES</b> , you may not be able to claim this "child" as a dependent. (See footnote—Step 9.)
step 10	Can you or your spouse (if filing jointly) be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return this year?	If <b>NO</b> , you can claim an exemption for this "child".  If <b>YES</b> , you cannot claim this person as a dependent.  (See footnote—Step 10.)

#### Footnotes:

**Step 5:** In most cases, because of the residency test, a child of divorced or separated parents is the qualifying child of the custodial parent. However, see Table 3 to determine if those rules are applicable.

**Step 9:** Qualifying Child of More Than One Person. If the child meets the rules to be a qualifying child of more than one person,

you must be the person entitled to claim the child as a qualifying child. (Refer to chart, Qualifying Child of More Than One Person on C-3)

**Step 10:** If you can be claimed as a dependent by another person, you may not claim anyone else as your dependent. Even if you have a qualifying child or qualifying relative, you may not claim that person as a dependent.

# (Start with Table 1) interview tips Is the person your qualifying child or the step qualifying child of anyone else? A child is not (1) the qualifying child of any other taxpayer if the child's parent (or any other person for whom the child is defined as a qualifying child) is not required to file U.S. income tax return income tax return or files an income tax return only to get a refund of income tax withheld. step 2 vour grandchild)? OR in-law, or sister-in-law? 3 member of your household?

**Table 2: Dependency Exemption for Qualifying Relative** 

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

If **YES**, the person is not a qualifying relative. (See Qualifying Child Interview Tips.)

If NO, go to Step 2.

Was the person your son, daughter, foster child, or a descendant of any of them (i.e.,

Was the person your brother, sister, half brother, half sister, or a son or daughter of either of them (i.e., your niece or nephew)? OR Was the person your father, mother, or an ancestor or sibling of either of them (i.e., your grandmother, grandfather, aunt, or uncle)? OR Was the person your stepbrother, stepsister, stepfather, stepmother, son-in-law, daughterin-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brotherIf NO, go to Step 3.

If YES, go to Step 4.

Note: The relatives listed in Step 2 do not have to live with you.

Was the person any other person (other than your spouse) who lived with you all year as a If **NO**, you cannot claim this person as a dependent. If **YES**, see footnote for Step 3, then go to Step 4. Note: There are exceptions for kidnapped children; a child who was born or died in 2010; certain temporary absences—school, vacation, medical care, etc.



Was the person a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or a resident of the United States, Canada, or Mexico for any part of the year?

If NO, you cannot claim this person as a dependent.

If YES, go to Step 5.

Answer YES if you are a U.S. citizen or U.S. national and you adopted a child who lived with you as a member of your household in 2010.



Did the person have gross taxable income of less than \$3,650 in 2010?\*

If NO, you cannot claim this person as a dependent.

If **YES**, go to Step 6.



Did you provide more than half the person's total support for the year?

If YES, go to Step 11. If **NO**, go to Step 7.

Note: A worksheet for determining support is included at the end of this section. See Table 3 for a child of divorced or separated parents to determine if this test is met.

continued on next page

#### Footnotes:

Step 3: A person does not meet this test if at any time during the year the relationship between you and that person violates local law.

\*For purposes of this test, the gross income of an individual who is permanently and totally disabled at any time during the year

does not include income for services the individual performs at a sheltered workshop.

Step 5: In most cases, because of the residency test, a child of divorced or separated parents is the qualifying child of the custodial parent. However, see Table 3 to determine if those rules are applicable.



# Table 2: Dependency Exemption for Qualifying Relative

interview tips Continued

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

step 7	Did another person provide more than half the person's total support?	If <b>YES</b> , you cannot claim an exemption for this person. If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 8.
step 8	Did two or more people together provide more than half the person's total support?	If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 9. If <b>NO</b> , you cannot claim this person as a dependent.
step 9	Did you provide more than 10% of the person's total support for the year?	If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 10. If <b>NO</b> , you cannot claim this person as a dependent.
step 10	Did the other person(s) providing more than 10% of the person's total support for the year provide you with a signed statement (Form 2120) agreeing not to claim the exemption?	If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 11. If <b>NO</b> , you cannot claim this person as a dependent.
step	Was this person considered married on December 31, 2010?	If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 12. If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 13.
step 12	Is the person filing a joint return for this year?	If <b>YES</b> , you cannot claim this person as a dependent. If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 13. Answer <b>NO</b> if the person is filing a joint return to claim a refund and no tax liability would exist for either spouse if they had filed separate returns.
step 13	Can you or your spouse, if filing jointly, be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return this year?	If <b>YES</b> , you cannot claim this person as a dependent. If <b>NO</b> , you can claim an exemption for this person.

#### Footnotes:

Step 9: Qualifying Child of More Than One Person. If the child meets the rules to be a qualifying child of more than one person, you must be the person entitled to claim the child as a qualifying child. (Refer to chart, Qualifying Child of More Than One Person on C-3)

**Step 10:** If you can be claimed as a dependent by another person, you may not claim anyone else as your dependent. Even if you have a qualifying child or qualifying relative, you may not claim that person as a dependent.



## Table 3: Children of Divorced, Separated, or Never **Married Parents**

interview tips

(Start with Table 1)

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

Sie	:P

Did the qualifying child or qualifying relative receive over half of his or her support from their parents who are:

Divorced OR

Legally separated under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance OR

Separated under a written separation agreement OR Lived apart at all times during the last 6 months of the year?

If YES, go to Step 2.

If NO, Table 3 does not apply.



Was the child in the custody of one or both parents for more than half the year?

If YES, go to Step 3. If NO, Table 3 does not apply.

If YES, go to Step 5.

If NO, go to Step 4.



Is this divorce decree or separation agreement one that is Post-1984 and Pre-2009 (decree or agreement that went into effect after 1984 and before 2009) that is applicable for 2010 and state all three of the following?

- 1. The noncustodial parent can claim the child as a dependent without regard to any condition, such as payment of support.
- 2. The other parent will not claim the child as a dependent.
- 3. The years for which the claim is released. (See Step 3 footnote for the items the non-custodial parent must attach to his/her tax return.)

OR

Is this a Pre-1985 decree of divorce or separation maintenance or written separation agreement between the parents that provide that the noncustodial parent can claim the child as a dependent, and the noncustodial parent provides at least \$600 for support of the child during 2010?

> If YES, go to Step 5 and see footnote for Step 4 below.

step 4

Did the custodial parent (parent with whom the child lived for the greater part of the year) provide the taxpayer a signed written declaration (Form 8332, or a copy of Form 8332 or similar document) releasing his or her claim to the exemption for the child?

If NO, Table 3 does not apply.



Can you or your spouse, if filing jointly, be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return this year?

If **YES**, you cannot claim this person as a dependent.

If NO, you can claim an exemption for this person. See footnote for Step 5 below.

#### Footnotes:

#### Step 3: Post-1984 and Pre-2009 divorce decrees or agreements:

The noncustodial parent must attach all of the following pages from the decree or agreement.

- -Cover page (include the other parent's SSN on that page)
- -The pages that include all the information identified in (1) through (3) above
- -Signature page with the other parent's signature and date of agreement.

#### Release of exemption revoked

A custodial parent who has revoked his or her previous release of a claim to exemption for a child must attach a copy of the revocation to his or her return. (See Form 8332 for more details)

Step 4: Post-2008 decree or agreement. If the divorce decree or separation agreement went into effect after 2008, the noncustodial parent cannot attach pages from the decree or agreement instead of Form 8332. The custodial parent must sign, and the noncustodial parent must attach to his or her return, either Form 8332, or a copy of Form 8332 or a substantially similar statement the only purpose of which is to release the custodial parent's claim to a child.

Other decrees or agreements that do not meet step 3: Non-custodial parents must attach the Form 8332, or a copy of Form 8332 or similar statement to their return.

Step 5: See Publication 17 or Form 1040 Instructions for additional guidance under Rules for Children of Divorced or Separated Parents.

## **Worksheet for Determining Support**



	Worksheet for Determining Support	eep for	Your Record	s M
1.	Funds Belonging to the Person You Supported  Enter the total funds belonging to the person you supported, including income received (taxable and nontaxable) and amounts borrowed during the year, plus the amount in savings and other	<b>:</b>		
	accounts at the beginning of the year	. <b>2.</b>		
	Enter the total amount in the person's savings and other accounts at the end of the year Add lines 2 through 4. (This amount should equal line 1.)			
6.	<b>Expenses for Entire Household</b> (where the person you supported lived) Lodging (complete line 6a or 6b):			
	<ul><li>6a. Enter the total rent paid</li></ul>			
8.	Enter the total food expenses	. 7. . 8.		
	Enter the total amount of repairs (not included in line 6a or 6b)			
	Add lines 6a through 10. These are the total household expenses	. 11.		
13.	Expenses for the Person You Supported  Divide line 11 by line 12. This is the person's share of the household expenses	13.		
14. 15.	Enter the person's total clothing expenses	. 14. . 15.		
17.	Enter the person's total medical and dental expenses not paid for or reimbursed by insurance. Enter the person's total travel and recreation expenses	. <b>17.</b>		
19.	Add lines 13 through 18. This is the total cost of the person's support for the year	. 19.		
20. 21	Did the Person Provide More Than Half of His or Her Own Support?  Multiply line 19 by 50% (.50)	. <b>20.</b>		
	the home. This is the amount the person provided for his or her own support	. <b>21.</b>		
	$\square$ <b>No.</b> You meet the support test for this person to be your qualifying child. If this person also not qualifying child, stop here; do not complete lines 23–26. Otherwise, go to line 23 and fill out the determine if this person is your qualifying relative.	neets the rest of	ne other tests f the workshe	to be a et to
	$\square$ Yes. You do not meet the support test for this person to be either your qualifying child or you here.	ır qualit	fying relative.	Stop
	Did You Provide More Than Half?			
	Enter the amount others provided for the person's support. Include amounts provided by state, local, and other welfare societies or agencies. Do not include any amounts included on line 1	. 23.		
25.	Add lines 21 and 23	. 25.		
	Yes. You meet the support test for this person to be your qualifying relative.			
	No. You do not meet the support test for this person to be your qualifying relative. You cannot this person unless you can do so under a multiple support agreement, the support test for childres parated parents, or the special rule for kidnapped children. See <u>Multiple Support Agreement</u> , of Divorced or Separated Parents or Parents Who Live Apart, or <u>Kidnapped Children</u>	en of d Suppo	livorced or art Test for Ch	



#### Income

Confirm that all income received by the taxpayer has been discussed and shown on the return, if required.

#### Table A – Examples of Taxable Income

(Examples of income to consider when determining whether a return must be filed)

Wages, salaries, bonuses, commissions

Alimony Annuities

Awards

Back pay

Breach of contract

Business income/Self-employment income

Compensations for personal services

Debts forgiven<sup>1</sup> Director's fees

Disability benefits (employer-funded)

Discounts Dividends

Employee awards
Employee bonuses
Estate and trust income

Farm income

Fees

Gains from sale of property or securities

Gambling winnings Hobby income

Interest

Interest on life insurance dividends

IRA distributions

Jury duty fees

Military pay (not exempt from taxation)

Military pension Notary fees

Partnership, Estate and S-Corporation income (Schedule K-1s, Taxpayer's share)

Pensions Prizes

Punitive damage

Railroad retirement—Tier I (portion may be taxable)

Railroad retirement—Tier II Refund of state taxes\* Rents (gross rent)

Rewards Royalties Severance pay Self-employment

Non-employee compensation

Social security benefits - portion may be taxable - (See TaxWise Tab 2 - Income, the page for Railroad Retirement, Civil Service, and Social

Security Benefits)

Supplemental unemployment benefits Taxable scholarships and grants

Tips and gratuities

Unemployment compensation

<sup>1</sup>If the taxpayer received a Form 1099-C, Cancellation of Debt, in relation to their main home, it can be nontaxable (see D-9)

\*If itemized in year paid and taxes were reduced because of deduction

## Table B – Examples of Non-Taxable Income

(Examples of income items to exclude when determining whether a return must be filed)

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) Child support

Damages for physical injury (other than punitive)

Death payments

Dividends on life insurance

Federal Employees' Compensation Act payments

Federal income tax refunds

Gifts, beguests, and inheritances

Insurance proceeds

- Accident
- Casualty
- Health
- Life

Interest on tax-free securities

Interest on EE/I bonds redeemed for qualified higher education expenses

Meals and lodging for the convenience of employer Payments to the beneficiary of a

deceased employee

Relocation payments or payments in

lieu of worker's compensation

Rental allowance of clergyman

Sickness and injury payments

Social security benefits - portion may not be taxable - (See TaxWise Tab 2 - Income, the page for Railroad Retirement, Civil Service, and Social Security Benefits)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Veterans' benefits

Welfare payments (including TANF) and

food stamps

Worker's compensation and similar payments



# **Travel Expenses**

This chart summarizes expenses you can deduct when you travel away from home for business purposes.

IF you have expenses for	THEN you can deduct the cost of
transportation	travel by airplane, train, bus, or car between your home and your business destination. If you were provided with a ticket or you are riding free as a result of a frequent traveler or similar program, your cost is zero. If you travel by ship, see <a href="Luxury Water Travel"><u>Luxury Water Travel</u></a> and <a href="Cruise Ships"><u>Cruise Ships</u></a> (under Conventions) for additional rules and limits.
taxi, commuter bus, and airport limousine	<ul> <li>fares for these and other types of transportation that take you between:</li> <li>The airport or station and your hotel, and</li> <li>The hotel and the work location of your customers or clients, your business meeting place, or your temporary work location.</li> </ul>
baggage and shipping	sending baggage and sample or display material between your regular and temporary work locations.
car	operating and maintaining your car when traveling away from home on business. You can deduct actual expenses or the standard mileage rate, as well as business-related tolls and parking. If you rent a car while away from home on business, you can deduct only the business-use portion of the expenses.
lodging and meals	your lodging and meals if your business trip is overnight or long enough that you need to stop for sleep or rest to properly perform your duties. Meals include amounts spent for food, beverages, taxes, and related tips. See <i>Meals</i> for additional rules and limits.
cleaning	dry cleaning and laundry.
telephone	business calls while on your business trip. This includes business communication by fax machine or other communication devices.
tips	tips you pay for any expenses in this chart.
other	other similar ordinary and necessary expenses related to your business travel. These expenses might include transportation to or from a business meal, public stenographer's fees, computer rental fees, and operating and maintaining a house trailer.



# **Deductible Entertainment Expenses When Are Entertainment Expenses Deducted?**

General rule	You can deduct ordinary and necessary expenses to entertain a client, customer, or employee if the expenses meet the directly-related test or the associated test.
Definitions	<ul> <li>Entertainment includes any activity generally considered to provide entertainment, amusement, or recreation, and includes meals provided to a customer or client.</li> <li>An ordinary expense is one that is common and accepted in your trade or business.</li> <li>A necessary expense is one that is helpful and appropriate.</li> </ul>
Tests to be met	Directly-related test
	<ul> <li>Entertainment took place in a clear business setting, or</li> <li>Main purpose of entertainment was the active conduct of business, and You did engage in business with the person during the entertainment period, and You had more than a general expectation of getting income or some other specific business benefit.</li> </ul>
	Associated test
	<ul> <li>Entertainment is associated with your trade or business, and</li> <li>Entertainment directly before or after a substantial business discussion.</li> </ul>
Other rules	<ul> <li>You cannot deduct the cost of your meal as an entertainment expense if you are claiming the meal as a travel expense.</li> <li>You cannot deduct expenses that are lavish or extravagant under the circumstances.</li> <li>You generally can deduct only 50% of your unreimbursed entertainment expenses (see 50% Limit).</li> </ul>



No

#### 50% Limit

#### Table 3. Does the 50% Limit Apply to Your Expenses?

There are exceptions to these rules. See Publication 463 for additional guidance.

All employees and self-employed persons can use this chart.

#### Start Here

Were your meal and entertainment expenses reimbursed? (Count only reimbursements your employer did not include in box 1 of your Form W-2. If self-employed, count only reimbursements from clients or customers that are not included on Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income.)

No

If an employee, did you adequately account to your employer under an accountable plan? If self-employed, did you provide the payer with adequate records? (See chapter 6.)

Yes

Yes

No

Did your expenses exceed the reimbursement?

Yes

For the amount reimbursed...

Your meal and entertainment expenses are NOT subject to the 50% limit. However, since the reimbursement was not treated as wages or as other taxable income, you cannot deduct the expenses.

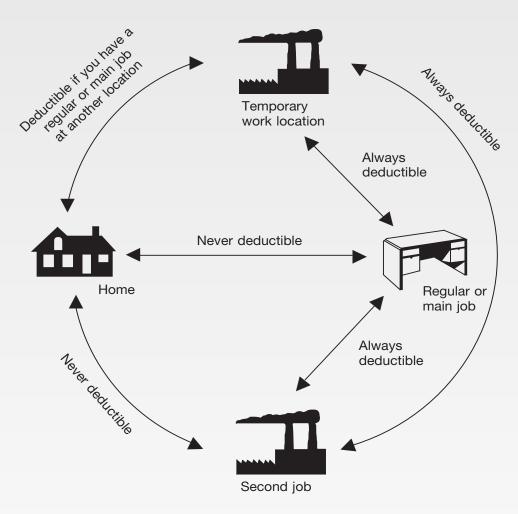
For the excess amount..

Your meal and entertainment expenses ARE subject to the 50% limit.



#### **Deductible Transportation Expenses**

Most employees and self-employed persons can use this chart. (Do not use this chart if your home is your principal place of business.)



**Home:** The place where you reside. Transportation expenses between your home and your main or regular place of work are personal commuting expenses.

**Regular or main job:** Your principal place of business. If you have more than one job, you must determine which one is your regular or main job. Consider the time you spend at each, the activity you have at each, and the income you earn at each.

**Temporary work location:** A place where your work assignment is realistically expected to last (and does in fact last) one year or less. Unless you have a regular place of business, you can only deduct your transportation expenses to a temporary work location <u>outside</u> your metropolitan area.

**Second job:** If you regularly work at two or more places in one day, whether or not for the same employer, you can deduct your transportation expenses of getting from one workplace to another. If you do not go directly from your first job to your second job, you can only deduct the transportation expenses of going directly from your first job to your second job. You cannot deduct your transportation expenses between your home and a second job on a day off from your main job.



# Recordkeeping

# **How to Prove Certain Business Expenses**

If you have expenses for				he following elements
	Amount	Time	Place or Description	Business Purpose Business Relationship
Travel	Cost of each separate expense for travel, lodging, and meals. Incidental expenses may be totaled in reasonable categories such as taxis, fees and tips, etc.	Dates you left and returned for each trip and number of days spent on business.	Destination or area of your travel (name of city, town, or other designation).	Purpose: Business purpose for the expense or the business benefit gained or expected to be gained.  Relationship: N/A
Entertainment	Cost of each separate expense. Incidental expenses such as taxis, telephones, etc., may be totaled on a daily basis.	Date of entertainment. (Also see Business Purpose.)	Name and address or location of place of entertainment. Type of entertainment if not otherwise apparent. (Also see <i>Business Purpose</i> .)	Purpose: Business purpose for the expense or the business benefit gained or expected to be gained. For entertainment, the nature of the business discussion or activity. If the entertainment was directly before or after a business discussion: the date, place, nature, and duration of the business discussion, and the identities of the persons who took part in both the business discussion and the entertainment activity.  Relationship: Occupations or other information (such as names, titles, or other designations) about the recipients that shows their business relationship to you.  For entertainment, you must also prove that you or your employee was present if the entertainment was a business meal.
Gifts	Cost of the gift.	Date of the gift.	Description of the gift.	
Transportation	Cost of each separate expense. For car expenses, the cost of the car and any improvements, the date you started using it for business, the mileage for each business use, and the total miles for the year.	Date of the expense. For car expenses, the date of the use of the car.	Your business destination.	Purpose: Business purpose for the expense.  Relationship: N/A



### **Armed Forces Gross Income**

Members of the Armed Forces receive many different types of pay and allowances. Some are included in gross income while others are excluded from gross income. Table 1 lists included items that are subject to tax and must be reported on your tax return. Table 2 lists excluded items that are not subject to tax, but may have to be shown on your tax return.

### Table 1. **Included Items**

These items are included in gross income, unless the pay is for service in a combat zone.

Ba	ısi	ic	p	ay

- · Active duty
- Attendance at a designated service school
- · Back wages
- CONUS COLA
- Drills
- Reserve training
- Training duty

### Special pay

- · Aviation career incentives
- · Career sea
- Diving duty
- Foreign duty (outside the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia)
- Foreign language proficiency
- · Hardship duty
- Hostile fire or imminent danger
- · Medical and dental officers
- Nuclear-qualified officers
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Special duty assignment pay
- Veterinarian

### **Bonuses**

- Career status
- Enlistment
- Officer
- · Overseas extension
- Reenlistment

- Other payments Accrued leave
  - High deployment per diem
  - Personal money allowances paid to high-ranking officers
  - Student loan repayment from programs such as the Department of Defense Educational Loan Repayment Program when year's service (requirement) is not attributable to a combat zone

### Incentive pay

- Submarine
- Flight
- Hazardous duty
- High altitude/Low altitude (HALO)

### Table 2. Excluded Items

The exclusion for certain items applies whether the item is furnished in kind or is a reimbursement or allowance. There is no exclusion for the personal use of a government-provided vehicle.

### Living allowances

- BAH (Basic Allowance for Housing). You can deduct mortgage interest and real estate taxes on your home even if you pay these expenses with your BAH
- BAS (Basic Allowance for Subsistence)
- Housing and cost-of-living allowances abroad whether paid by the U.S. Government or by a foreign government
- OHA (Overseas Housing Allowance)
- Expanded HAP (Homeowners Assistance Program) benefit payments

### Moving allowances

- Dislocation
- · Military base realignment and closure benefit
- (the exclusion is limited as described beginning on page 3)
- Move-in housing
- Moving household and personal items
- · Moving trailers or mobile homes
- Storage
- Temporary lodging and temporary lodging expenses

### Travel allowances

- Annual round trip for dependent students
- Leave between consecutive overseas tours
- · Reassignment in a dependent restricted status
- Transportation for you or your dependents during ship overhaul or inactivation
- Per diem

- Combat zone pay Compensation for active service while in combat zone or a qualified hazardous

Note: Limited amount for officers

### Family allowances

- · Certain educational expenses for dependents
- Emergencies
- · Evacuation to a place of safety
- Separation

### Death allowances

- · Burial services
- · Death gratuity payments to eligible survivors
- Travel of dependents to burial site

### Other payments

- Defense counseling
- · Disability, including payments received for injuries incurred as a direct result of a terrorist or military action
- · Group-term life insurance
- Professional education
- ROTC educational and subsistence allowances
- · Survivor and retirement protection plan premiums
- Uniform allowances
- · Uniforms furnished to enlisted personnel

### In-kind military benefits

- · Dependent-care assistance program
- Legal assistance
- Medical/dental care
- · Commissary/exchange discounts
- Space-available travel on government aircraft



# Tax Treatment of Scholarship and Fellowship Payments<sup>1</sup>

Do not rely on this table alone. Refer to Publication 17 for complete details.

	AND you are		THEN your payment is	
IF you use the payment for	A degree candidate	Not a degree candidate	Tax free <sup>2</sup>	Taxable
Tuition	Х		X	
		Х		Х
Fees	Х		X <sup>3</sup>	
		Х		Х
Books	Х		X <sup>3</sup>	
		×		Х
Supplies	×		X <sup>3</sup>	
		×		Х
Equipment Computers must be required for enrollment or	X		X <sup>3</sup>	
attendance.		X		Х
Room	X			Х
		×		Х
Board	X			Х
		×		Х
Travel	X			Х
		×		Х
Research	Х			Х
		×		Х
Equipment and other expenses that are not required for enrollment in or attendance at an eligible educational institution.	Х	Х		Х

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>To determine the taxable portion of the scholarship or grant, subtract allowable tax-free items (see Form 1098T for information regarding tuition paid and scholarships received). In TaxWise, link from appropriate box below line 7 to worksheet to report net.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Payments used for any expenses indicated in this column are tax free only if the terms of the scholarship or fellowship do not prohibit the expense.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>If required of all students in the course.



# Publication 4731 Screening Sheet for Form 1099-C, Cancellation of Debt



**NOTE:** Only volunteers with a **Cancellation of Debt Certification** may assist taxpayers with Form 1099-C issues.

**Instructions:** Use this Screening Sheet to assist in identifying taxpayers with cancellation of debt issues that are within the scope of the VITA/TCE Program.

- Use Part I for taxpayers with a Form 1099-C resulting from cancellation of debt on a home mortgage loan.
- Use Part II for taxpayers with a Form 1099-C resulting from cancellation of credit card debt.

	or carried tarpayore man a commission of control of control of the carried control of the c	
Part	I - Home Mortgage Loan	
step	Did the taxpayer receive Form 1099-C, Cancellation of Debt, from their home mortgage lender and is the information shown on the form correct?	YES – Go to Step 2 NO – Go to Step 6
step 2	Did the taxpayer ever use the home in a trade or business or as rental property?	YES – Go to Step 6 NO – Go to Step 3
step	Was the debt canceled as a result of a bankruptcy case or does Box 3 of Form 1099-C show any interest?	YES – Go to Step 6 NO – Go to Step 4
step 4	Ask the following questions to determine if the discharged debt is "qualified principal residence indebtedness":	
	a. Was the mortgage taken out to buy, build, or substantially improve the taxpayer's principal residence? (NOTE: A principal residence is generally the home where the taxpayer lives most of the time. A taxpayer can have only one principal residence at any one time.)	YES – Go to Step 4b NO – Go to Step 6
	<b>b.</b> Was the mortgage secured by the taxpayer's principal residence?	YES – Go to Step 4c NO – Go to Step 6
	c. Was any part of the mortgage used to pay off credit cards, purchase a car, pay for tuition, pay for a vacation, pay medical/dental expenses, or used for any other purpose other than to buy, build, or substantially improve the principal residence?	YES – Go to Step 6 NO – Go to Step 4d
	d. Was the mortgage amount more than \$2 million (\$1 million if Married Filing Separately)?	YES – Go to Step 6 NO – Go to Step 5



The discharged debt is "qualified principal residence indebtedness."

The Mortgage Forgiveness Debt Relief Act of 2007, as extended in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, allows individuals to exclude from gross income any discharges of "qualified principal residence indebtedness" made after 2006 and before 2013. The volunteer should complete the applicable lines on Form 982, and file it with the taxpayer's return. If the residence was disposed of, the taxpayer also may be required to report the disposition (sale) on Schedule D.



These tax issues are outside the scope of the volunteer program. The taxpayer may qualify to exclude all or some of the discharged debt. However, the rules involved in the mortgage debt relief exclusions are complex.

### Refer the taxpayer to:

- www.irs.gov for the most up-to-date information
- An IRS Representative: 1-800-829-1040
- An IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center (TAC)
- The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS): 1-877-777-4778, TTY/TDD 1-800-829-4059. TAS may help if the problem cannot be resolved through normal IRS channels.
- · A professional tax preparer

### **Additional Resources:**

- · Publication 523, Selling your Home
- Publication 525, Taxable and Nontaxable Income
- Publication 4681, Canceled Debts, Foreclosures, Repossessions, and Abandonments
- Publication 4705, Overview of Mortgage Debt Forgiveness
- Form 982, Reduction of Tax Attributes
  Due to Discharge of Indebtedness
  (and Section 1082 Basis Adjustment)
  and Instructions

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### Publication 4731 Screening Sheet for Form 1099-C, Cancellation of Debt

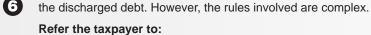


**NOTE:** Only volunteers with a **Cancellation of Debt Certification** may assist taxpayers with Form 1099-C issues.

Part	II - Credit Card Debt	
step 1	Did the taxpayer receive Form 1099-C, Cancellation of Debt, from their credit card company and is the information shown on the form correct?	YES – Go to Step 2 NO – Go to Step 6
step 2	Was the credit card debt related to a business?	YES – Go to Step 6 NO – Go to Step 3
step	Was the credit card debt canceled as a result of a bankruptcy or does Box 3 of Form 1099-C show any interest?	YES – Go to Step 6 NO – Go to Step 4
step 4	Based on the interview with the taxpayer, was the taxpayer insolvent immediately before the cancellation of the debt? NOTE: Insolvent means the taxpayer's total liabilities were greater than the fair market value of his/her total assets (including an interest in pension plans and the value of retirement accounts). If the taxpayer is unsure, answer "yes."	YES – Go to Step 6 NO – Go to Step 5
step	The cancellation of nonbusiness credit card debt (the amount in box 2 of Form 1099-C) must be income on Form 1040, line 21 (Other Income).	e reported as ordinary



These tax issues are outside the scope of the volunteer program. The taxpayer may qualify to exclude all or some of



- · www.irs.gov for the most up-to-date information
- An IRS Representative: 1-800-829-1040
- An IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center (TAC)
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- A professional tax preparer



# Alimony Requirements (Instruments Executed After 1984)

# Payments ARE alimony if <u>all</u> of the following are true:

Payments are required by a divorce or separation instrument.

Payer and recipient spouse do not file a joint return with each other.

Payment is in cash (including checks or money orders).

Payment is not designated in the instrument as not alimony.

Spouses legally separated under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance are not members of the same household.

Payments are not required after death of the recipient spouse.

Payment is not treated as child support.

These payments are deductible by the payer and includible in income by the recipient.

# Payments are NOT alimony if <u>any</u> of the following are true:

Payments are not required by a divorce or separation instrument.

Payer and recipient spouse file a joint return with each other.

### Payment is:

- Not in cash,
- A noncash property settlement,
- Spouse's part of community income, or
- To keep up the payer's property.

Payment is designated in the instrument as not alimony.

Spouses legally separated under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance are members of the same household.

Payments are required after death of the recipient spouse.

Payment is treated as child support.

These payments are neither deductible by the payer nor includible in income by the recipient.



# Effect of Modified AGI¹ on Traditional IRA Deduction if You Are Covered by Retirement Plan at Work

If you are covered by a retirement plan at work, use this table to determine if your modified AGI affects the amount of your deduction.

IF your filing status is	AND your modified AGI is	THEN you can take
single	\$56,000 or less	a full deduction.
or	more than \$56,000 but less than \$66,000	a partial deduction.
head of household	\$66,000 or more	no deduction.
married filing jointly	\$89,000 or less	a full deduction.
or	more than \$89,000 but less than \$109,000	a partial deduction.
qualifying widow(er)	\$109,000 or more	no deduction.
married filing	less than \$10,000	a partial deduction.
separately <sup>2</sup>	\$10,000 or more	no deduction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Modified AGI (adjusted gross income).



# Effect of Modified AGI¹ on Traditional IRA Deduction if You Are NOT Covered by Retirement Plan at Work

If you are not covered by a retirement plan at work, use this table to determine if your modified AGI affects the amount of your deduction.

IF your filing status is	AND your modified AGI is	THEN you can take
single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er)	any amount	a full deduction.
married filing jointly or separately with a spouse who is not covered by a plan at work	any amount	a full deduction.
married filing jointly with a	\$167,000 or less	a full deduction.
spouse who <i>is</i> covered by a plan at work	more than \$167,000 but less than \$177,000	a partial deduction.
	\$177,000 or more	no deduction.
married filing separately with a	less than \$10,000	a partial deduction.
spouse who <i>is</i> covered by a plan at work <sup>2</sup>	\$10,000 or more	no deduction.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Modified AGI (adjusted gross income).

Note: TaxWise automatically calculates the deduction limits

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>If you did not live with your spouse at any time during the year, your filing status is considered Single for this purpose (therefore, your IRA deduction is determined under the "Single" column).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>You are entitled to the full deduction if you did not live with your spouse at any time during the year.



## **Student Loan Interest Deduction at a Glance**

Caution: This table is only an overview of the rules. For details, see Publication 17.

	1 =
Feature	Description
Maximum benefit	You can reduce your income subject to tax by up to \$2,500.
Loan qualifications	Your student loan:  • must have been taken out solely to pay qualified education expenses, and  • cannot be from a related person or made under a qualified employer plan.
Student qualifications	The student must be:  • you, your spouse, or your independent, and  • enrolled at least half-time in a degree program.  • a dependent when the loan was made
Time limit on deduction	You can deduct interest paid during the remaining period of your student loan.
Phaseout	The amount of your deduction depends on your income level.



# Effect of MAGI¹ on Student Loan Interest Deduction

IF your filing status is	AND your MAGI is	THEN your student loan interest deduction is
single, head of household, or	not more than \$60,000	not affected by the phaseout.
qualifying widow(er)	more than \$60,000 but less than \$75,000	reduced because of the phaseout.
	\$75,000 or more	eliminated by the phaseout.
married filing joint	not more than \$120,000	not affected by the phaseout.
return	more than \$120,000 but less than \$150,000	reduced because of the phaseout.
	\$150,000 or more	eliminated by the phaseout.

**Student Loan Interest Deduction Worksheets:** Generally, you figure the deduction using the *Student Loan Interest Deduction Worksheet* in Form 1040 or Form1040A instructions. However, if you are filing Form 2555, 2555-EZ, or 4563, or you are excluding income from Puerto Rico, you must complete *Worksheet 4-1* in Publication 970. When using TaxWise, link from the Form 1040 to 1040 Worksheet 2 and enter the amount of the student loan interest paid. TaxWise will calculate the deduction based on the filing status and income limits.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>MAGI (modified adjusted gross income)



# Publication 4885 Screening Sheet for Health Savings Accounts (HSAs)



**NOTE:** Only volunteers with **Health Savings Account Certification** may assist taxpayers with HSA issues.

**Instructions:** Use this HSA Screening Sheet if the taxpayer received Form 1099-SA, Form W-2 with a code W in box 12, Form 5498-SA, **or** contributed to, or received distributions from, an HSA. This Screening Sheet will help you identify HSA issues that are within the scope of the VITA/TCE program. Use **Publication 969**, *Health Savings Accounts and Other Tax-Favored Health Plans*, and **Form 8889** and Instructions as references.

### Determine HSA Eligibility (To set up an HSA or make contributions to an HSA)

TO QUALIFY: An individual must meet ALL the following requirements:

- · Be covered under a high deductible health plan (HDHP) on the first day of any month of the year.
- Have no other health coverage except for allowable "other health coverage." (Publication 969, "Other health coverage")
- Not be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return. (Publication 969, "Qualifying for an HSA")
- Not be covered by Medicare (but the individual can be HSA eligible for the months before being covered by Medicare)

**NOTE:** If the taxpayer does not qualify, but contributions have been made to an HSA, the taxpayer should be referred to a professional tax preparer.

PART I - HSA Contributions and Deduction	
Is the taxpayer an eligible individual to make contributions to an HSA?	YES – Complete Form 8889, Part, I, lines 1 and 2. Go to Step 2.
	NO – The taxpayer is not an eligible individual. STOP.
Was the taxpayer enrolled in the same HDHP coverage for the <b>entire</b> year?  (Answer Yes, if last-month rule applies, and see Form 8889 Instructions)	YES – Complete Form 8889, Part I, lines 3-13.
Caution: If line 2 is more than line 13, the taxpayer must withdraw the excess contribution to avoid an additional tax. If the excess is not timely withdrawn, refer the	FOR YES AND NO: Lines 4 and 10 are out of scope.
taxpayer to a professional tax preparer. (Refer to Form 8889 Instructions, line 13).	NO – Complete line 3 using the Limitation Chart and Worksheet in the Instructions for Form 8889. Then complete the remainder of Part I.
PART II - HSA Distributions	
Did the taxpayer receive distributions from the HSA trustee (whether or not Form 1099-SA received)?	YES – Complete Form 8889 Part II, Line 14a, 14b, if applicable, and 14c Go to Step 2.
	NO – STOP, do not complete Part II.
Did the taxpayer use all or part of the distribution to pay unreimbursed qualified medical expenses in 2010 that were incurred after the HSA was estab-	YES – Enter the amount on line 15 and complete line 16. Go to Step 3.
lished and were for qualified persons?	<b>NO</b> – Enter zero on line 15 and complete line 16. Go to Step 3.
step If any part of the distribution is taxable, was the distribution made after the taxpayer died, became disabled or turned 65?	YES – Check box on line 17a and complete 17b.
	<b>NO</b> – Taxpayer will be subject to an additional 10% tax.



# **Persons Not Eligible for the Standard Deduction Interview Tips**

interview tips Certain taxpayer situations do not qualify for the standard deduction. These interview tips will assist you in determining if the taxpayer's standard deduction is zero or if they should itemize their deductions.

step 1	Is your filing status married filing separately?	If <b>YES</b> , go to Step 2. If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 3.
step 2	Is your spouse itemizing deductions?	If <b>YES</b> , go to Conclusion 2. If <b>NO</b> , go to Step 3.
step	Are you a dual status alien or a nonresident alien?	If <b>YES</b> , go to Conclusion 2. If <b>NO</b> , go to Conclusion 1.

Conclusion 1: Based on the information provided, you may take either the standard or itemized deduction.

Conclusion 2: Based on the information provided, you do not qualify for the standard deduction.



# Exhibit 1 – Standard Deduction for Most People\*

This table provides the standard deduction amounts for tax year 2010.

If the taxpayer's filing status is	Your standard deduction is
Single or married filing separate return	\$5,700
Married filing joint return or qualifying widow(er) with dependent child	\$11,400
Head of household	\$8,400

\*Do not use this chart if the taxpayer was born before January 2, 1946, is blind, paid state or local excise taxes in 2010 (for the purchase of a new motor vehicle(s) after February 16, 2009 and before January 1, 2010.) or if someone else can claim an exemption for the taxpayer (or their spouse if married filing jointly).

Exhibite Before	it 2 – Standard Deduction Chart for Ped a January 2, 1946 or Who Are Blind*	ople Born
Check the correct	t number of boxes below. Then go to the chart.	
You	Born before January 2, 1946	Blind

Total number of boxes you checked
-----------------------------------

Your spouse, if claiming

spouse's exemption

If your filing status is	AND the number in the box above is	THEN your standard deduction is
Single	1	\$7,100
	2	\$8,500
Married filing joint return or Qualifying	1	\$12,500
widow(er) with dependent child	2	\$13,600
	3	\$14,700
	4	\$15,800
Married filing separate return	1	\$6,800
	2	\$7,900
	3	\$9,000
	4	\$10,100
Head of household	1	\$9,800
	2	\$11,200

Born before January 2, 1946

Blind

<sup>\*</sup>Do not use this chart if the taxpayer paid taxes in 2010 for a new vehicle purchased in 2009. Use Schedule L (Form 1040 or Form 1040A), Standard Deduction for Certain Filers.

# step 2

# **Interview Tips – Itemized Deductions**

These interview tips will assist you in determining whether a taxpayer's itemized deductions are more than their standard deduction amount. It may be more advantageous for a taxpayer to itemize their deductions if the amount is larger than the allowable standard deduction amount.

Do you have expenses in the following categories: medical and dental expenses, taxes you paid, home mortgage interest you paid, mortgage insurance premiums you paid, gifts to charity, job expenses, and certain miscellaneous deductions?

**Note:** Casualty and theft losses and some miscellaneous deductions are beyond the scope of VITA/TCE.

If YES, go to Step 2.
If NO, generally speaking, you should take the standard deduction if eligible. For further explanation see exceptions in Publication 17, Standard Deduction chapter. Go to

Were the medical and dental expenses paid by an employer under a pre-tax plan (not included in box 1 of the customer's Form W-2) or were the expenses reimbursed by an insurance company?

If YES, you cannot deduct reimbursed expenses. Go to Step 4.

If **NO**, you can claim these expenses. Go to Step 3.

Were the medical and dental expenses more than 7.5% of your adjusted gross income?

**Note:** You can include medical and dental bills you paid for:

- Yourself and your spouse
- All dependents you claim on your return
- Your child whom you do not claim as a dependent because of the rules for children of divorced or separated parents
- Any person you could have claimed as a dependent on your return unless that person received \$3,650 or more of gross income or filed a joint return
- Any person you could have claimed as a dependent unless you, or your spouse if filing jointly, can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's 2010 return.

If YES, go to Step 4.

Step 2.

If **NO**, your medical and dental expenses must be more than 7.5% of your adjusted gross income to claim a medical expense deduction on Form 1040, Schedule A. Go to Step 4.

step 4

Were the following taxes you paid imposed on you: state, local or foreign income taxes, real or personal property taxes?

**Note:** This includes taxes paid on a qualifying new motor vehicle.

If YES, go to Step 5.
If NO, you cannot claim this expense as a deduction because you were not obligated to pay the taxes. Go to Step 6.

step

Did you pay these taxes during this tax year?

If YES, you can claim these expenses and go to Step 6.
If NO, you cannot deduct taxes for this year that were paid in another year. Go to Step 6.



Are you legally liable for the home mortgage loan?

If YES, go to Step 7.
If NO, you cannot take an interest expense for a mortgage for which you are not legally liable. Go to Step 12.

terview tips	Interview Tips – Itemi	zed Deductions (continued)
step 7	Did your home secure the mortgage loan?	If YES, go to Step 8. If NO, you cannot take an interest expense if your ma home does not secure the mortgage. Go to Step 11.
step 8	Did you pay the mortgage interest in this tax year?	If YES, go to Step 9. If NO, you cannot take the mortgage interest deduction. Go to Step 11.
step <b>9</b>	Did you take out your mortgage on or before October 13, 1987?	If YES, your mortgage interest is fully deductible. Go to Step 10. If NO, follow the flowchart in Publication 17 to determine what is deductible. Go to Step 11.
step 10	Did you pay premiums in 2010 for qualified mortgage insurance for a home acquisition debt that was issued after 2006?	If <b>YES</b> , you can take a deduction for qualified mortgage insurance as home mortgage interest with the AGI income limitations.  If <b>NO</b> , you cannot take a deduction for qualified mortgage insurance as home mortgage interest.
step 11	Did you pay points to obtain a home mortgage (on a main home or second home or home improvement loan or to refinance your home)?	If YES, follow the flowchart in Publication 17 and the go to Step 12. If NO, go to Step 12.
step	Did you make a cash contribution to a qualified organization?	If YES, you must have a written receipt from that particular organization, and then go to Step 13. If NO, go to Step 13.
step	Did you make a noncash donation to a qualified organization?  Note: Generally fair market value is used to determine the value of a donation.	If YES, advise the taxpayer that <b>generally</b> he or she must have a written receipt from that particular organization. Go to Step 14. If <b>NO</b> , Go to Step 15.
step 14	Is the total of all noncash donations \$500 or less?  Note: If more than \$500, refer taxpayer to a professional tax preparer.	If YES, see Publication 17 for more details. If <b>NO</b> , this is beyond the scope of VITA/TCE. Refer taxpayer to a professional tax preparer.
step	Do you have any employee or investment expenses more than 2% of your (and your spouse's if married filing jointly) adjusted gross income?	If YES, report the expenses on Schedule A, <i>Job Expenses and Certain Miscellaneous Deductions</i> . If <b>NO</b> , your employee and investment expenses are not deductible.

If the total itemized deduction is more than the standard deduction, carry the total to line 40 of Form 1040.



# **Child and Dependent Care Credit Expenses**

Probe/Action: To determine if a taxpayer qualifies for the Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses, ask the taxpayer for information from the decision tree on the next page.

### Who is a qualifying person?

- A child who is under the age of 13 when the expenses were incurred and for whom a dependency exemption can be claimed\*
- Any person who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care who the taxpayer can claim as a dependent or could have claimed as a dependent except that the person had gross income of more than \$3,650 or filed a joint return or that the taxpayer or spouse, if married filing jointly, could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's 2010 return.
- A spouse who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care and lived with the taxpayer for more than half the year.

Special rules apply if the parents are divorced or separated. (See Publication 17.)

### **Qualified work-related expenses**

- Expenses must be paid for the care of the qualifying person to allow the taxpayer and spouse, if married to work or look for work.
- The care includes the costs of services for the qualifying person's well-being and protection.

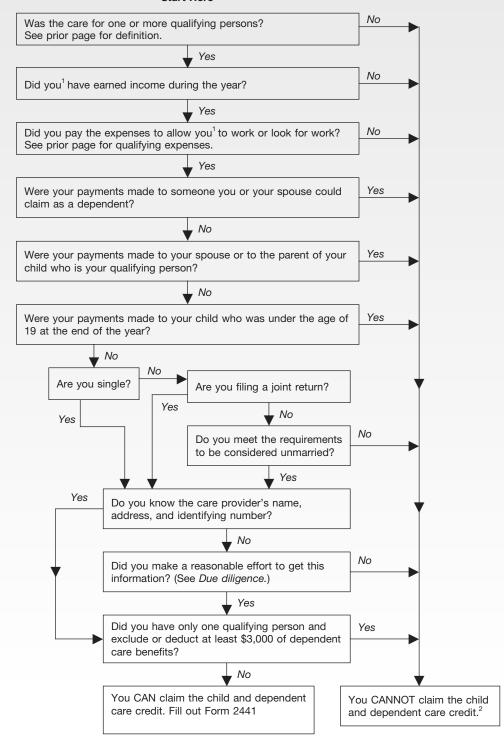
\*Refer to the tables on page C-3 for the rules governing who may be claimed as a dependent.

Caution: Only the custodial parent may claim the child and dependent care credit even if the child's exemption is being claimed by the non-custodial parent under the rules for divorced & separated parents.

# **Credit for Child & Dependent Care Expenses – Decision Tree**

Can You Claim the Child and Dependent Care Credit

### Start Here



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This also applies to your spouse, unless your spouse was disable or full-time student.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> If you had expenses that met the requirements for 2009, expect that you did not pay them until 2010, you may be able to claim those expenses in 2010.



### **Education Credits**

Probe/Action: To determine if a taxpayer qualifies for the Education Credit.

### **Comparison of Education Credits**

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Lifetime Learning Credit			
Up to \$2,000 credit per return			
Available for all years of post secondary education and for courses to acquire or improve job skills			
Non refundable credit			
Student does not need to be pursuing a degree or other recognized education credential			
Available for one or more courses			
Felony drug conviction rule does not apply			
Credit is reduced if modified AGI is between \$50,000 and \$60,000 (\$100,000 and \$120,000 if married filing jointly)			

### Who Can Claim the Credit?

- Taxpayers who paid qualified educational expenses of higher education
- Taxpayers who paid the education expenses for an eligible student
- The eligible student is either the taxpayer, taxpayer's spouse or a dependent for whom the taxpayer can claim as a dependent on the tax return.

**Note:** Qualified education expenses paid by a dependent for which an exemption is claimed, or by a third party for that dependent, are considered paid by the taxpayer.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Previously the credit could be claimed for the first two years of post secondary education but has been expanded as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> None of the credit is refundable if the taxpayer claiming the credit is a child (a) who is under age 18 or (b) age 18 at the end of the year, and their earned income does not exceed one-half of his or her own support or (c) a student who is at least age 18 and under 24 whose earned income does not exceed one-half of his or her own support; and (2) who has at least one living parent, and; (3) who does not file a joint return.



Education Credits (Continued)

Probe/Action: To determine if a taxpayer qualifies for the Education Credit.

Who Can	Claim a l	Dependent's	Expenses?
---------	-----------	-------------	-----------

If the taxpayer	Then only
Claims an exemption on the return for a dependent who is an eligible student	The taxpayer can claim the credit based on that dependent's expenses. The dependent cannot claim the credit.
Does not claim the exemption on the tax return	The dependent can claim the credit. The taxpayer cannot claim the credit based on the dependent's expenses.

### Who Cannot Claim the Credit?

- Married filing separate filing status
- Taxpayers listed as a dependent on another person's tax return
- Taxpayers whose modified AGI is more than the allowable income limits
- Taxpayer (or the spouse) was a nonresident alien for any part of the tax year and the nonresident alien did not elect to be treated as a resident alien for tax purposes

### What Expenses Qualify?

- Expenses paid for an academic period starting in 2010 or the first 3 months of 2011
- Expenses not refunded when the student withdraws from class
- Expenses paid with the proceeds from a loan

### What are Qualifying Expenses?

The term "qualified tuition and related expenses" has been expanded for the American opportunity credit to include expenditures for course materials. For this purpose, course materials are books, supplies, and equipment needed for a course of study whether or not the materials are purchased from the educational institution as a condition of enrollment or attendance.

### What is Tax-free educational assistance?

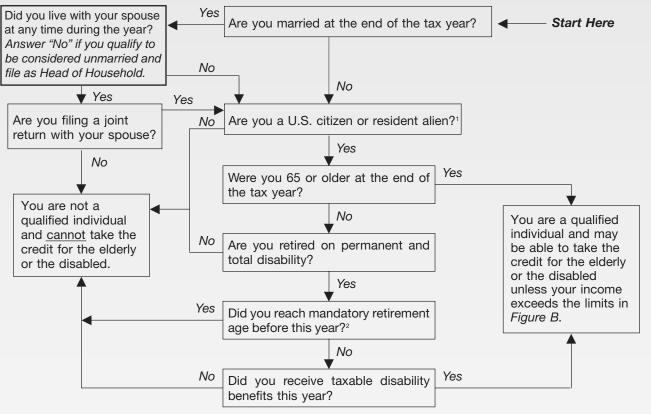
- Tax-free parts of scholarships and fellowships
- Pell grants (see chapter 1 of Publication 970)
- Employer-provided educational assistance (see Publication 970)
- Veterans' educational assistance
- Any other nontaxable payment (other than gifts or inheritances) received as educational assistance

If qualified education expenses are paid with certain tax free funds, the taxpayer cannot Note: claim a credit for those amounts. The taxpayer must reduce the qualified education expenses by the amount of any tax-free educational assistance received.

# Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled – Decision Tree

Use the following chart to determine if the taxpayer is eligible for the Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled:





If you were a nonresident alien at any time during the tax year and were married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien at the end of the tax year, see *U.S. Citizen or Resident Alien* under *Qualified Individual*. If you and your spouse choose to treat you as a U.S. resident alien, answer "yes" to this question.

Figure B. Income Limits

THEN, even if you qualify (see Figure A), you CANNOT tal		A), you CANNOT take the credit if
IF your filing status is	Your adjusted gross income (AGI)* is equal to or more than	OR the total of your nontaxable social security and other nontaxable pension(s) is equal to or more than
single, head of household, or qualifying widow(er) with dependent child	\$17,500	\$5,000
married filing a joint return and both spouses qualify in Figure A	\$25,000	\$7,500
married filing a joint return and only one spouse qualifies in Figure A	\$20,000	\$5,000
married filing a separate return	\$12,500	\$3,750

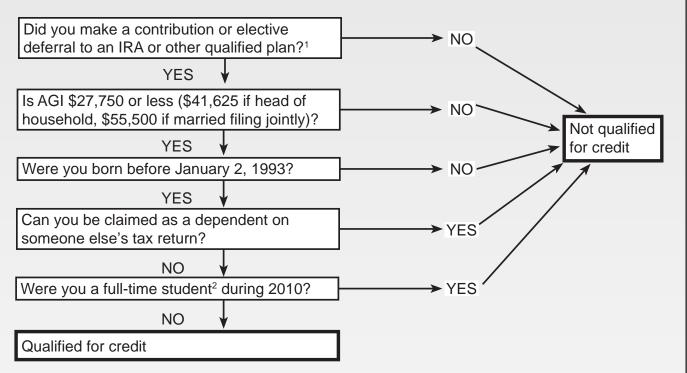
<sup>\*</sup> AGI is the amount on Form 1040A, line 22, or Form 1040, line 38.

**Tax Software Hint:** The software will calculate the credit and complete the Schedule R if the date of birth is provided. Be sure to include the taxpayer's total social security benefits, regardless of the taxability, to ensure the correct calculation of the credit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Mandatory retirement age is the age set by your employer at which you would have been required to retire, had you not become disabled.

# **Retirement Savings Contributions Credit – Decision Tree**

To determine if a taxpayer qualifies for the Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions, review the return information and ask the taxpayer the following:



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Plans that qualify are listed in the Other Credits chapter of Publication 17.

**Note:** Distributions from a military retirement plan do not reduce the taxpayer's Qualified Retirement Savings Contribution. The military retirement plan is a noncontributory plan that does not allow any contributions by the military employee. In addition do not reduce the taxpayer's contribution by any distributions of dividends paid on stock held by an employee stock ownership plan under section 404(k). See Form 8880 Instructions for more information.

### **Important Reminders for Retirement Savings Contributions Credit**

- Be sure to look at the taxpayer's Form(s) W-2. An entry in box 12 or an "X" in the Retirement box is an indicator that the taxpayer may be eligible for this credit. A full description of all codes used in box 12 can be found in Instructions for Forms W-2 and W-3.
- An entry in box 14 on the W-2 may also indicate a contribution to a state retirement system which may be eligible for this credit.
- When using tax software, remember to key in all entries as they appear on the Form W-2.
- A contribution to a traditional or Roth IRA may also qualify for this credit, but may not appear on any taxpayer document. Remember to review the expenses section on page 2 of the Intake and Interview Sheet and ask the taxpayer if he or she made any IRA contributions.
- Distributions can reduce the eligible contributions for this credit. A current tax year distribution is reported on a Form 1099-R. However, you must remember to ask the taxpayer if they received distributions in the two preceding tax years or will receive a distribution before the due date of the tax return, as they may not bring this documentation to the tax site.
- · Complete Form 8880 to claim this credit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Publication 17 for definition of full-time student.



### **Child Tax Credit**

Use the worksheet in Form 1040 or Form 1040A Instruction booklet.

This is a credit intended to reduce the tax. This part of the credit is not refundable. The credit is up to \$1,000 per qualifying child.

### Qualifying child:

- 1. Under age 17 at the end of the tax year.
- 2. A U.S. citizen or U.S. national\* or resident of the United States.
- 3. Claimed as your dependent.\*\*
- 4. Your:
  - a. son or daughter, adopted child, stepchild, eligible foster child, or a descendant of any of them
  - b. brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them (for example, your niece or nephew) if you care for the individual as your own child.
- 5. Did not provide over half of his or her own support.
- 6. Lived with the taxpayer for more than half of the tax year. (See Interview Tips for Child Tax Credit for Exception to Time Lived with You section if the child did not live with the taxpayer for more than half the year.)
- \* National is an individual who, although not a U.S. citizen, owes his or her allegiance to the United States. U.S. nationals include American Samoans and Northern Mariana Islanders who chose to become U.S. nationals instead of U.S. citizens.

**Caution:** If the taxpayer is able to claim the dependent under the rules for divorced and separated parents, he or she is the only parent entitled to claim the child tax credit or additional child tax credit.



# **Additional Child Tax Credit – General Eligibility**

The child tax credit is generally a nonrefundable credit; however, certain taxpayers may be entitled to a refundable additional child tax credit.

- Taxpayers with more than \$3,000 of taxable earned income may be eligible for the additional child tax credit regardless of the number of qualifying children.
- Taxpayers with three or more children may also be eligible for additional child tax credit regardless of their income.

Form 8812 is used to calculate the allowable additional child tax credit.

See Tab A, Exemption, and the worksheet in the instruction booklets for additional information (including definitions and special rules relating to an adopted child, foster child, or qualifying child of more than one person).

<sup>\*\*</sup>Refer to the tables on page C-3 for the rules governing who may be claimed as a dependent.



### interview tips

### **Child Tax Credit**

(Remember to apply the steps for each child.) Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

step

Is this child your son, daughter, adopted child, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them (for example, your grandchild, niece, or nephew)? A descendant is of any generation.

If **YES**, go to Step 2.

If **NO**, you cannot claim the child tax credit for this child. STOP if the taxpayer has no other children.

step 2

Is this child under age 17 at the end of the tax year?

If YES, go to Step 3.

If **NO**, you cannot claim the child tax credit for this child. STOP if the taxpayer has no other children.

step

Did the child provide over half of his or her own support for the tax year?

If NO, go to Step 4.

If **YES**, you cannot claim the child tax credit for this child. STOP if the taxpayer has no other children.

step 4

Did the child live with you for more than half of the tax year? If the child did not live with you for the required time, see the following notes below the chart:

If **YES**, go to Step 5.

If **NO**, you cannot claim the child tax credit for this child. STOP if the taxpayer has no other children.

- Exception to Time Lived with You
- Kidnapped Child
- Children of Divorced or Separated or Never Married Parents.

If **YES**, go to Step 6.

no other children.

If **NO**, you cannot claim the child tax credit for this child. STOP if the taxpayer has

step

Is this child a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or resident of the United States?

Note: A national is an individual who, although not a U.S. citizen, owes his or her allegiance to the United States. U.S. nationals include American Samoans and Northern Mariana Islanders who chose to become U.S. nationals instead of U.S. citizens.

### **Questions: Who Must Use Publication 972?**



Are you excluding income from Puerto Rico or are you filing Form 2555, Form 2555-EZ (relating to foreign earned income), or Form 4563, Exclusion of Income for Bona Fide Residents of American Samoa?

If **NO**, go to Step 7.

If **YES**, you must use Publication 972 to figure the credit.

step

Are you claiming any of the following credits?

Residential energy efficient property credit, Form 5695, Part II; Mortgage Interest credit, Form 8396; District of Columbia first-time homebuyer credit, Form 8859; Retirement savings contribution credit, Form 8880; Education Credits, Form 8863; Alternative motor vehicle credit, Form 8910, Part III; Plug-in electric vehicle credit, Form 8934, Part I; Plug-in electric drive motor vehicle credit, Form 8936, Part III;

If **NO**, use the Child Tax Credit Worksheet to figure the credit. If **YES**, you must use Publication 972 to figure the credit.

### **Exception to Time Lived with You**

A child is considered to have lived with you for all of 2010 if the child was born or died in 2010 and your home was this child's home for the entire time he or she was alive. Temporary absences for special circumstances, such as for school, vacation, medical care, military service, or detention in a juvenile facility, count as time lived at home.

### Kidnapped Child

A kidnapped child is considered to have lived with you for all of 2010 if:

- In the year the kidnapping occurred, the kidnapped child is presumed by law enforcement to have been taken by someone who is not a family member, and
- The kidnapped child lived with the taxpayer for more than half of the portion of the year prior to the kidnapping.

### Children of Divorced or Separated Parents

A child will be treated as being the qualifying child of his or her noncustodial parent if all of the following apply:

- The parents were divorced or legally separated or lived apart at all times during the last 6 months of 2010.
- The child received over half of his or her support for 2010 from the parents.
- The child was in custody of one or both of the parents for more than half of 2010.
- A decree of divorce or separate maintenance or written separation agreement that applies to 2010 provides that (a) the noncustodial parent can claim the child as a dependent, or (b) the custodial parent will sign a written declaration that he or she will not claim the child as a dependent for 2010.
- The custodial parent signs Form 8332 or similar statement that
  he or she will not claim the child as a dependent in 2010. If the
  divorce decree or separation agreement went into effect after 1984
  and before 2009, the non custodial parent can attach certain pages
  instead of Form 8332.



# **Energy Credits**

### Part I. Form 5695 - Key points about the Nonbusiness Energy Property Credit:

- The 2010 credit is 30 percent of the cost of all qualifying improvements paid or incurred in 2010.
- The credit is limited to a total of \$1,500 for tax years 2009 and 2010 combined.
- The credit applies to improvements such as:
  - adding insulation, energy-efficient exterior windows and doors, (does not include labor costs for onsite preparation, assembly or installation)
  - energy-efficient heating and air conditioning systems and certain metal and asphalt roofs. (includes labor costs for onsite preparation, assembly, or original installation)
- The improvements must be made to the taxpayer's principal residence located in the United States (must be existing home).
- Qualifying improvements must be placed into service by the taxpayer during 2010.
- The credit is taken on Part I, Form 5695. See Form 5695 and Instructions for more information.

### Part II, Form 5695 - Key points about the Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit:

- This information is provided as awareness in order that volunteers can identify when the issue is out of scope.
- This credit is taken on Part II, Form 5695. This part of the form is out of scope for return preparation in the volunteer program. Taxpayers that have expenses for the following items should be referred to a professional tax preparer.
- The credit is available to help individual taxpayers pay for qualified residential alternative energy equipment, such as solar hot water heaters, geothermal heat pumps and wind turbines.

Please note, not all ENERGY STAR products qualify for a tax credit. For detailed information about qualifying improvements, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's <u>EnergyStar Web site</u> and the <u>EnergyStar Frequently Asked Questions site</u>.

Manufacturers must certify that their products meet new standards and they must provide a written statement to the taxpayer such as with the product packaging or in a printable format on the manufacturers' Web site. Taxpayers should keep a copy of the manufacturer's certification statement and receipts with their other important tax records.

Notes	



# **Earned Income Table**



# **Common EIC Filing Errors**

- · Claiming a child who is not a qualifying child
- Married taxpayers incorrectly filing as a single or head of household
- · Incorrectly reporting income
- Incorrect social security numbers

\*Note: This particular income is subtracted from the earned income on the EIC Worksheet in the section titled EIC.



# **Summary of EIC Eligibility Requirements**

Part A Rules for Everyone	Part B Rules If You Have a Qualifying Child	Part C Rules If You Do Not Have a Qualifying Child
Taxpayers & qualifying children must all have a valid social security number.	Child must meet the relationship, age, and residency tests.	Must be at least age 25 but under age 65 as of December 31.
Filing status cannot be "married filing separately."	Qualifying child cannot be used by more than one person to claim the EIC.	Cannot be the dependent of another person.
Must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien all year.		Must have lived in the United States more than half the year.
Cannot file Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ (relating to foreign earned income).		
Investment income must be \$3,100 or less.		
Cannot be a qualifying child of another person.		

# Part D Earned Income and AGI Limitations

Must be less than:

- \$43,352 (\$48,362 for married filing jointly) if you have three or more qualifying children,
- \$40,363 (\$45,373 for married filing jointly) if you have two qualifying children,
- \$35,535 (\$40,545 for married filing jointly) if you have one qualifying child, or
- \$13,460 (\$18,470 for married filing jointly) if you do not have a qualifying child.



# **Disallowance of the Earned Income Credit**

Form 8862, *Information to Claim Earned Income Credit After Disallowance*, must be attached to the return of any taxpayer whose EIC claim was denied or reduced for any reason other than a math or clerical error. If the taxpayer's EIC was denied or reduced as a result of a math or other clerical error, Form 8862 is not required.

A taxpayer who is determined to have claimed the EIC due to reckless or intentional disregard of the EIC rules cannot claim the EIC for 2 tax years. If the error was due to fraud, then the taxpayer cannot claim the EIC for 10 tax years. See Publication 596, *Earned Income Credit*, for specific guidance.



# **EIC General Eligibility Rules**

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:

Calculate the taxpayer's earned income and adjusted gross income (AGI) for the tax year. Are both less than:

- \$43,352 (\$48,362 married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children;
- \$40,363 (\$45,373 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children;
- \$35,535 (\$40,545 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child; or
- \$13,460 (\$18,470 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children?

If YES, go to Step 2.

If NO, STOP. You cannot claim the EIC.

Do you (and your spouse, if filing jointly) have a social security number (SSN) that allows you to work?

**Note:** Answer "no" if the taxpayer's social security card has a "NOT VALID FOR EMPLOYMENT" imprint, and if the cardholder obtained the SSN to get a federally funded benefit, such as Medicaid.

If YES, go to Step 3.

If NO, STOP. You cannot claim the EIC.



Is your filing status married filing separately?

If YES, STOP. You cannot claim the EIC.

If NO, go to Step 4.



Are you (or your spouse, if married) a nonresident alien?

**Note:** Answer "no" if the taxpayer is married filing jointly, and one spouse is a citizen or resident alien and the other is a nonresident alien.

If YES and you are either unmarried or married but not filing a joint return, STOP. You cannot claim the EIC.

If NO, go to Step 5.



Are you (or your spouse, if filing jointly) filing Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ (Foreign Earned Income)?

If YES, STOP. You cannot claim the EIC.

If NO, go to Step 6.

step

Is your investment income more than \$3,100?

If YES, STOP. You cannot claim the EIC.

If NO, go to Step 7.



Are you (or your spouse, if filing jointly) an EIC qualifying child of another person?

If YES, STOP. You cannot claim the

If NO, go to the interview tips for EIC—With a Qualifying Child or EIC—Without a Qualifying Child.



# **EIC** with a Qualifying Child

Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:



Does your qualifying child have an SSN that allows him or her to work?

**Note:** Answer NO only if the child's social security card says "NOT VALID FOR EMPLOYMENT" and his or her SSN was obtained to get a federally funded benefit.

If YES, go to Step 2.

If NO, STOP, You cannot claim the

If NO, STOP. You cannot claim the EIC on the basis of this qualifying child.



Is the child your son, daughter, stepchild, adopted child, or eligible foster child, brother, sister, half brother, half sister, stepbrother, stepsister, or a descendant of any of them?

If YES, go to Step 3.
If NO, STOP. This child is not your qualifying child. Go to interview tips for EIC without a

step 3

Was the child any of the following at the end of the tax year:

- Under age 19 and younger than the taxpayer
- Under age 24 and a full-time student and younger than the taxpayer, or
- · Any age and permanently and totally disabled?

If YES, go to Step 4.

Qualifying Child.

If NO, STOP. This child is not your qualifying child. Go to interview tips for EIC without a Qualifying Child.

step 4

Was the child married at the end of the year?¹

Note: Answer NO if the child was married at the end of the year and either (1) you can claim the child's exemption, or (2) you cannot claim the child's exemption solely because you gave that right to the child's other parent.

If NO, go to Step 5.

If YES, STOP. This child is not your qualifying child (failed the relationship test). Go to interview tips for EIC without a Qualifying Child.



Did the child live with you in the United States for more than half (183 days for 2010) of the tax year? **Note:** Active duty military personnel stationed outside the United States are considered to live in the United States for this purpose.

If YES, go to Step 6.

If NO, STOP. This child is not your qualifying child. Go to interview tips for EIC without a Qualifying Child.

step 6

Is the child a qualifying child of another person?

Note: There may be a case when a qualifying child cannot be claimed by anyone. Example: The only parent that the child lives with does not work nor files a tax return and another adult cannot meet the general eligibility rules. In this example no one qualifies to claim this child as a qualifying child for EIC.

If YES, explain to the taxpayer what happens when more than one person claims the EIC using the same child (Qualifying Child of More than One Person rule). If the taxpayer chooses to claim the credit with this child, compute the EIC using the appropriate EIC worksheets.

If NO, compute the EIC using the appropriate EIC worksheet.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> If your child was married at the end of the year, he or she does not meet the relationship test unless you can claim the child's exemption or you cannot claim the child's exemption because you gave that right to the child's other parent.

TIP	EIC without a Qualifying Child		
interview tips	Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer:		
step 1	Can you (or your spouse, if filing jointly) be claimed as a dependent by another person?	If NO, go to Step 2. If YES, STOP. You cannot claim the EIC.	
step 2	Were you (or your spouse, if filing jointly) at least 25 but under age 65 on December 31 of the tax year?	If NO, STOP. You cannot claim the EIC. If YES, go to Step 3.	
step 3	Did you (and your spouse, if filing jointly) live in the United States for more than half (at least 1831 days) of the tax year?	If NO, STOP. You cannot claim the EIC. If YES, compute EIC using the appropriate EIC worksheet.	
	<sup>1</sup> More than 183 days in a leap year.	,	



# **Qualifying Child of More than One Person**

If the child meets the conditions to be the qualifying child of more than one person, only one person can claim the child. The following rules apply:

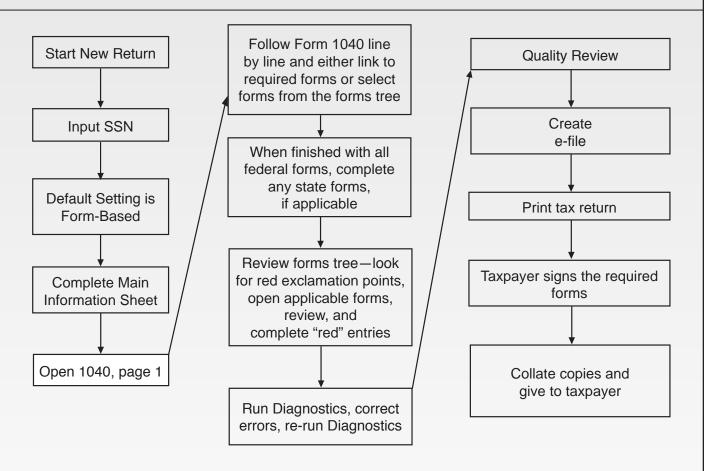
- If only one of the persons is the child's parent, the child is treated as the qualifying child of the parent.
- If the parents do not file a joint return together but both parents claim the child as a qualifying child, the IRS will treat the child as the qualifying child of the parent with whom the child lived for the longer period of time in 2010. If the child lived with each parent for the same amount of time, the IRS will treat the child as the qualifying child of the parent fwho had the higher adjusted gross income (AGI) for 2010.
- If no parent can claim the child as a qualifying child, the child is treated as the qualifying child of the person who had the highest AGI for 2010.
- If a parent can claim the child as a qualifying child but no parent does so claim the child, the child is treated as the qualifying child of the person who had the highest AGI for 2010, but only if that person's AGI is higher than the highest AGI of any of the child's parents who can claim the child.





### TaxWise® Form-Based Flow Chart

At the time this publication went to print, 2010 TaxWise screen shots were not available. Refer to help screens in the 2010 tax software if additional information is needed on applicable software screens.



# **Electronic Filing of Returns with Valid ITIN**

Returns can be electronically filed when the taxpayer has an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) but has a Form W-2 with a social security number (SSN) not belonging to that taxpayer.

- 1. The taxpayer's ITIN must be entered on the Main Information Sheet in the space provided for the taxpayer's, or if applicable, spouse's social security number.
- 2. When completing the Form W-2 in TaxWise, override the ITIN and enter the SSN shown on the paper W-2. Consult to your Site Coordinator or refer to your reference material for override procedures.

# Apply for an ITIN



Go to "File" then select "Apply for ITIN" option, TaxWise® will generate a unique identifier that will always begin with ITIN and be followed by 5 numeric characters.

# Creating a Temporary TIN for Returns with No ITIN for Spouses and Dependents

(These returns cannot be electronically transmitted.)

Although TaxWise® will create a temporary ITIN for the main taxpayer when you use the "Apply for ITIN" feature in TaxWise®, it will not generate temporary ITINs for the spouse and/or dependents. The ITIN application requires a federal tax return be associated with all Form W-7 applications (with some exceptions as noted in the instructions for Form W-7). Federal tax returns cannot be filed using electronic return preparation software without a TIN (taxpayer identification number). If the taxpayer is working under an erroneous social security number, that social security number should not be used on the return.

1. In the TIN field, enter the number "9" followed by a fourth and fifth digit in the 70-88 range and a numerical sequence with the number "1". A return requiring three temporary TINs will be entered as follows:

The taxpayer's 900-70-0001 The spouse's 900-70-0002 The dependent's 900-70-0003

Change the last digits of the TIN each time a new spouse or dependent applying for an ITIN needs a return prepared.

- 2. Print the return package, completely cross-out in **INK** the TIN on each form reflecting the temporary number; and provide the return package to the taxpayer to mail with Forms W-7 to the address shown on the Form.
- 3. If the taxpayer has a family pack that includes multiple Form W-7's with one return, or multiple returns with one Form W-7, these forms should be staggered and stapled together to show the entire package as a family pack. This will prevent separation of the forms/returns that could delay the processing time.

### Taxpayer Identification Numbers and Determining the Last Name of Taxpayer

A name control is a sequence of letters derived from a taxpayer's last name that is used by IRS in processing the tax return filed by the taxpayer. It is important that the combination of name control and taxpayer identification number (TIN) provided on an electronically filed return match IRS's record of name controls and TINs.

In e-file, a taxpayer's TIN and name control must match the data in the IRS database. If they do not match, the e-filed return will reject and generate an Error Reject Code.

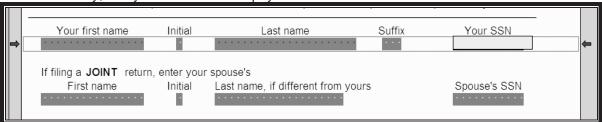
### Per Electronic Filing Error Reject Code (ERC):

ERC The Name Control cannot contain leading or embedded spaces. The left-most position must contain an alpha character.

### Per Tax Preparation Software Instructions:

Taxpayer's Name: For e-filed returns, the only punctuation allowed in the name area is a hyphen (-). For best results, eliminate punctuation throughout the return for electronic filing.

**Tip:** One of the most common reasons that returns are rejected by the IRS is name/TIN inconsistency. To ensure accuracy, verify the name and taxpayer identification number with the card.



Type the primary taxpayer's first name, middle initial, last name and suffix (Jr, Sr, III, etc.). Punctuation is not necessary. When filing electronically, the only punctuation allowed in the name area is a hyphen (-).

### Per Publication 1346, Electronic Return File Specifications for Individual Income Tax Returns

### .01 Name Controls for Individual Tax Returns

1. Primary Name Control (SEQ 0050) of Form 1040/1040A/1040EZ must equal the first four significant characters of the primary taxpayer's last name. **No leading or embedded spaces are allowed.** The first left-most position must contain an alpha character. Omit punctuation marks, titles and suffixes within last name field.

### Examples:

Individual Name Primary/Secondary Name Control

Individual Name on SSN/ITIN Card(s)	Ente	IRS Database Primary/Secondary Name Control			
	FirstName Field	LastName Field			
John Brown	John	Brown	BROW		
Walter Di Angelo	Walter	DiAngelo	DIAN		
Ronald En, Sr.	Ronald En, Sr. Ronald		EN		
Thomas Lea-Smith	Thomas	Lea-Smith	LEA-		
Joseph Corn & Mary Smith	Joseph	Corn	CORN		
	Mary	Smith	SMIT		
Roger O'Neil	Roger	ONeil	ONEI		
Kenneth McCarty	Kenneth	McCarty	MCCA		

2. Consider certain foreign suffixes as part of the last name (i.e., Armah-Bey, Paz-Ayala, Allar-Sid). Particular attention must be given to those names that incorporate a mother's maiden name as a suffix to the last name.

### Examples:

Individual Name Primary Name Control

Individual Name on SSN/ITIN Card	Ente	IRS Database Primary Name Control				
	FirstName Field	LastName Field				
Abdullah Allar-Sid	Abdullah	Allar-Sid	ALLA			
Jose Alvarado Nogales	Jose	AlvardoNogales	ALVA			
Juan de la Rosa Y	Juan	DeLaRosaYObregon	DELA			
Obregon						
Pedro Paz-Ayala	Pedro	Paz-Ayala	PAZ-			
Donald Vander Neut	Donald VanderNeut		VAND			
Otto Von Wodtke	Otto	VonWodtke	VONW			
John Big Eagle	John	BigEagle	BIGE			
Mary Her Many Horses	Mary	HerManyHorses	HERM			
Ted Smith Gonzalez	Ted	Gonzales	GONZ			
Maria Acevedo Smith	Maria	Smith	SMIT			
Robert Garcia Garza Hernandez			GARZ			

### .01 Name Controls for Individual Tax Returns continued

3. Below are examples of Indo-Chinese last names and the derivative Name Control. Some Indo-Chinese names have only two characters. Indo-Chinese names often have a middle name of "Van" (male) or "Thi" (female).

### Examples:

Individual Name Primary/Secondary Name Control

Individual Name on SSN/ITIN Card(s)	Ente	IRS Database Primary/Secondary Name Control		
	FirstName Field	LastName Field		
Binh To La	Binh	La	LA	
Kim Van Nguyen	Kim	Nguyen	NGUY	
Nhat Thi Pham	Nhat	Pham	PHAM	
Jin-Zhang Qui & Yen-Yin	Jin-Zhang	Qui	QUI	
Chiu	Yen-Yin	Chiu	CHIU	

### .02 Name Line 1 Format

1. Name Line 1 CANNOT CONTAIN MORE THAN 35 CHARACTERS (this includes both names on the tax return).

If information in Name Line 1 exceeds 35 characters, it will truncate using the following priority:

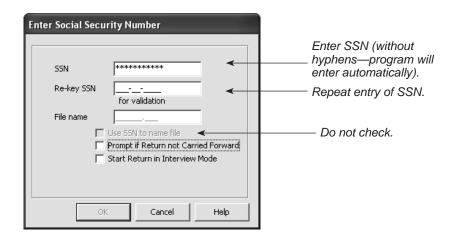
- Substitute the initial for the second given name.
- Omit the second initial of the secondary taxpayer, if necessary.
- Omit the second initial of the primary taxpayer, if necessary.
- Substitute initials for the secondary taxpayer's given name.
- Substitute initials for the primary taxpayer's given name.

# TaxWise® Log In Screen

Open TaxWise<sup>®</sup>, select a "User name:," enter a "Password:," and click **OK**.



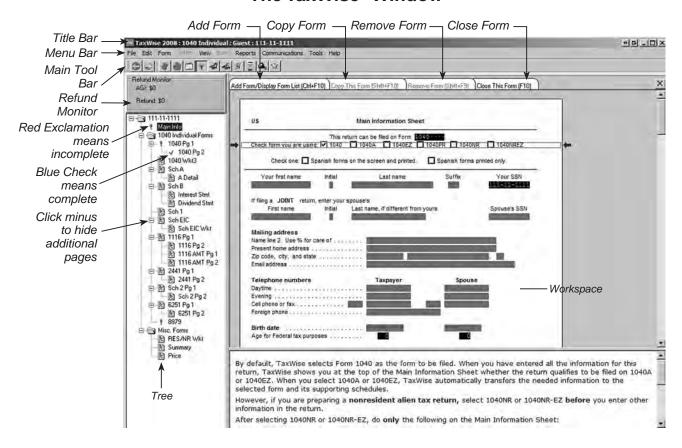
# Starting a New Return



TaxWise® will automatically generate an alpha-numeric filename that will be associated with the SSN. The association will ensure unique file names for each return which will allow the program to show the SSN rather than filename in TaxWise® Explorer and also during Backup and Restore. The option to "Use SSN to name file" will be grayed out.

### TaxWise® Quick Reference

### The TaxWise® Window



### **Browser Tool Bar**



### **Main Tool Bar**

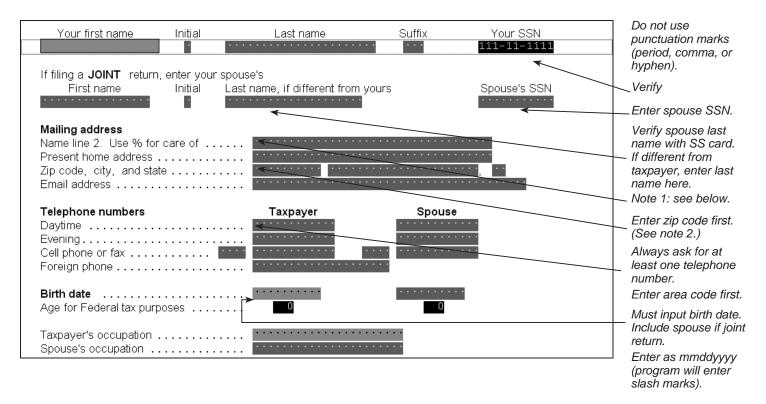


# (Desktop Only)

Shift	IRS Help							Un- Override		Remove Form	Pause Timer
	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10	F11
No Shift	TW Help	Save Return	Add/ Remove Red		Calculator	Second Form	Return Status	Override	Link	Close Form	Insert Variable

# 

### **Main Information Screen**



Note 1: Use only if an additional name is needed for "in care of," for a two line street address, or in the case of," a deceased taxpayer. Enter the name of the person filing the return for the deceased person. This may be the surviving spouse if the filing status is Married Filing Jointly or a personal representative such as an executor, administrator, or anyone who is in charge of the deceased taxpayer's property. When you print the return, the tax software prints the date of death and DECD next to the deceased person's name in the address area at the top of Form 1040 page 1, as required by the IRS.

**Note 2:** Once the zip code is entered TaxWise® will then auto-fill the city and state. The auto entry can be changed if needed.

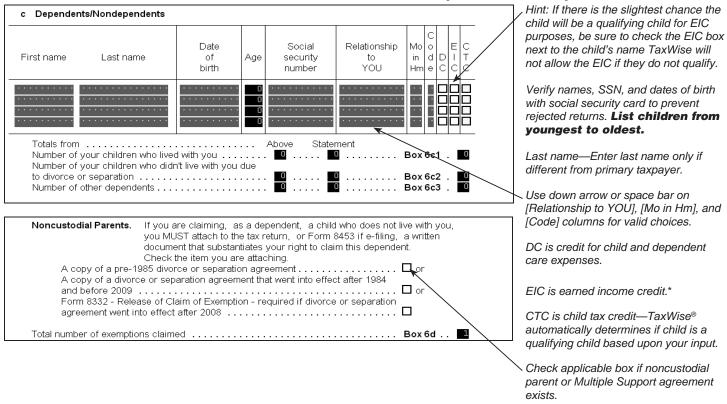
#### **Main Information Screen (continued)** Do not use foreign address field Foreign Address for APO/FPO Foreign street address ..... addresses. Foreign city, state, province, Zip code (See Note 3.) Foreign country. Do not abbreviate.... If the taxpayer served in a combat zone Taxpayer Information during the tax year, click on this box and select the name of the combat zone from the dropdown menu, or choose "Combat Zone." This will identify If "Yes" enter the amount of income excluded ...... the return to the IRS. Spouse Taxpayer and can avoid certain Yes Check if blind ...... ☐ Yes 🥆 reject conditions, such as federal withholding exceeding 50% of the Date of death, ONLY if in 2009 or 2010 ...... wage amount. This tax return is being filed by $\square$ the surviving spouse or someone else Defaulted to No. Important for Presidential Check here if you, or your spouse if a joint return, calculation of standard ☐ Spouse want \$3 to go to this fund ...... □ You **Election Campaign** deduction. Complete for deceased taxpayer. Filing Status and Exemptions Ask taxpayer. Answer 1 Single does not affect refund Married filing jointly (even if only one had income) 2 or balance due. Married filing separately Spouse's first name: Last name: If "Yes", did you and your spouse live together at anytime after Married filing separately, only. If the state in the address above is a community property state (AZ, CA, ID, LA, NV, NM, TX, WA, or WI), Hint: Only enter child's or a return is being filed to one of these states, answer the following name and SSN in questions. this section if not Military. being claimed as a If "Yes", fill in the Community Property Allocation Worksheet. dependent. Are you a resident of this community property state? . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . No Others. If "Yes", fill in the Community Property Allocation Worksheet and use Form 1040. Verify exemptions. If "No", you CANNOT e-file this return. College/high school Head of household (with qualifying person). If the qualifying person is a child but not your students or young dependent, enter the child's name military personnel who security number . A self-supporting child who lives with you IS NOT entered the military a qualifying person. this tax year may be eligible to be claimed 5 Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child . . . . Year spouse died (2007 or 2008 only): on someone else's tax return. a X Yourself **b** Spouse 6 Exemptions Number of boxes checked Hint: Enter year of on 6a and 6b. ..... death and deceased spouse's name on (a) you can be claimed on another person's return ....... Name line 2. (b) filing status 2 and spouse can be claimed on another person's return . . . . . . . (c) you are using filing status 4 and claiming nonresident alien spouse ....... Spouse's first name: Spouse's last name:

**Note 1:** If the return is for a Canadian resident, the address should be put entirely on the foreign street address line. Leave Zip code, city, and state blank.

Spouse's SSN or ITIN:

**Note 2:** If someone else is entitled to claim the taxpayer (or spouse), check the appropriate box on line 6 of the Main Information Sheet. If the taxpayer is filing Head of Household and claiming an exemption for a nonresident alien spouse, check the box on line 6c of the software's main information sheet and enter the spouse's first name, last name and SSN or ITIN.

# **Main Information Screen (continued)**



Enter number of months each individual lived in the taxpayer's home or use MX if the dependent lived in Mexico or CN if the dependent lived in Canada – type in directly or use the drop-down list.

#### \* EIC must be checked to bring up the applicable EIC forms. If in doubt, check the box.

Carefully read the information regarding Dependents/Nondependents, and pay special attention to the codes. If the taxpayer is married filing a separate return and is able, to claim their spouse's exemption, fill in the spouse's name, SSN, and other information in the software Main Information Sheet, Dependents/Non-Dependents section, showing the relationship as "other" and the Code as "3."

Use the Code box to indicate relationship as follows:

- 1 = Your dependent child who lives with you
- 2 = Your dependent child who does NOT live with you due to divorce or separation
- **3** = All other dependents
- **0** (zero) = Nondependents

#### If There Are More Than Four Dependents

If there are more than four dependents to list, enter the first four on the Main Information Sheet. To enter the rest of the dependents, open Form 1040, page 1, link from any field in the dependents section. Link to **NEW AddI Deps - Form 1040 Line 6c**, the Additional Dependents Statement. Last names must be used on the Additional Dependents Statement.

TaxWise® carries the first four dependents from the Main Information Screen to the statement. List the remaining dependents below the first four.

**Note:** Do not list nondependents on the Additional Dependents statement. List nondependents **only** on the Main Information Sheet. Also, children who are qualifying children for EIC or dependent care credit must be entered on the Main Information Sheet.

#### Qualifying Child(ren) for Earned Income Credit (EIC):

If the taxpayer qualifies (or may qualify) for earned income credit (EIC), you MUST enter the birth date and select the EIC check box for qualifying children. This information carries to Schedule EIC. TaxWise® calculates the amount of earned income credit if the client qualifies based on income and other requirements.

#### Child Without SSN or ITIN

If the qualifying child is a resident of the U.S. but does not have a valid SSN or ITIN, you must override the CTC box on the Main Information Sheet.

#### **Main Information Screen (continued)** Check box if not State Information If you are not preparing a state return, check here or fill in state information below preparing state Full year resident: I and I Part-year: and Nonresident: returns. Paper or e-file are **区** E-file ONLY ☐ Paper ☐ Bank products Type of Return only choices. Do not make entries ☐ Republic □ Santa Barbara <</p> Select Your Bank ☐ Chase in this section. ☐ River City ☐ Other Do not use this These products are only available to tax preparers registered to offer them. section unless your agency is **Audit Shield** participating in the program. Does the taxpayer want to have your tax preparation fees deducted from his or her refund?.....□ Yes □ No RTN must be 9 characters. Type account number **Bank Account Information** exactly as shown on Direct deposit available for e-filing, paper returns, or RAL/ERC direct deposit refund. check.\* See "Finishing Electronic Funds Transfer (ACH Debit) available for e-filing only. the Return" section for an example of a Routing transit number (RTN) of financial institution ..... check. Account number (DAN) including hyphens..... \*Note: You will also need to add account information on 1040 page 2.

#### State Information

A federal return may have as many as 9 state returns attached, in any combination; for example, two different full-year resident states (one for taxpayer and one for spouse), two different part-year states, and five different nonresident states.

Consult instructions for each state to determine which status applies to the taxpayer. To view instructions for the state individual package, select **Help** from any field in the "State Information" section of the Main Information Screen and scroll to State Information. Select **[click here]** and then select the applicable state of interest.

\* Do not use a preprinted deposit slip.

See page 13-6 for additional

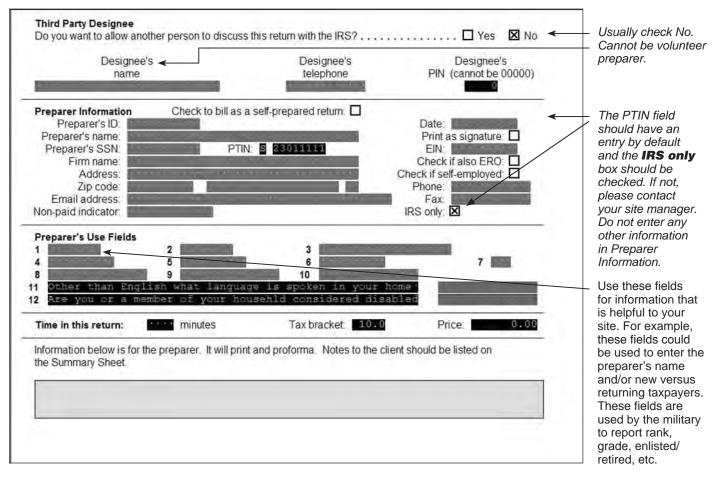
information.

# **Main Information Screen (continued)**

Self-Select and Practitioner PIN(s)	
ERO PIN for both the Self-Select and Practitioner PIN programs	— Enter <b>98765</b>
Check if using the Practitioner PIN method for e-filing this income tax return or Form 4868 with direct debit	Check for     Practitioner PIN.
What form(s) are you e-filing using PINs?	Only first box should be checked.
The income tax return	To use Self-Select PIN, taxpayers must bring their prior year tax return or know their prior year PIN.
spouse AGI, if incorrect.  Taxpayer's original 2008 AGI:  OR taxpayer's 2008 PIN:  OR spouse's 2008 PIN:  OR spouse's 2008 PIN:	Last year's AGI or prior year PIN required for SSP.
The following attachments require the submission of Form 8453. Please note that PINs are still required and that Form 8879 must be signed for all e-filed returns.  Form(s) 1098C  Form 3115  Form 3468 attachment required  Form 5713  Form(s) 8332  Form(s) 8332  Form 8864 attachment required  Copy of divorce or separation agreement	
Revenue Procedure 2009-20 (Ponzi loss)  The information below, as well as the ERO PIN above, must be filled in for all e-filed returns.	For Practitioner or Self-Select PIN signature, taxpayer(s) must
	enter a five digit
The date must be entered below. This is today's date:   □8/14/2010  □ Do NOT use @Today.  Taxpayer's PIN □ □ Enter 5 numbers, other than all zeroes.  □ Date:	number (not starting with zero). If married filing jointly (MFJ), spouse must also enter PIN.
signature on my tax year 2009 electronically filed income tax return.  Spouse's PIN Enter 5 numbers, other than all zeroes. Date:	Check do not authorize for Self-Select PIN.
ERO firm name	Check <b>authorize</b> for Practitioner PIN.*

\*Preparer can enter PIN for Practitioner PIN, and taxpayer will need to sign Form 8879.

# **Main Information Screen (continued)**



Check information on the Main Information Sheet for accuracy and complete any required fields. When complete, close form.

**Note:** Preparer's Use Fields are for site's use and are defined by the site coordinator.

After the end of the tax season a custom report can be created.

2. TaxWise Income

### Income

The following are examples of income items to consider in determining entries into TaxWise®:

Form	Туре	Go to 1040 Line	TaxWise® Entries (See Note 1)
W-2	Wages & Salaries	7	Link and complete Form W-2
1099-INT	Interest	8a	Select Interest Stmt from Forms Tree or Link to Schedule B, and then link to the Interest Stmt
1099-DIV	Dividends	9	Select Dividend Stmt from Forms Tree or Link to Schedule B, and then link to the Dividend Stmt
1099-G	State Tax Refunds	10	Link to State Tax Refund Worksheet
1099-MISC	Miscellaneous Income (See Note 2)	12	Link to Schedule C-EZ, then link from Income to 1099-MISC, and then com- plete Schedule C-EZ
1099-B	Sale of Stock	13	Select Cap Gn Wkt from Forms Tree or Link to Schedule D, and then link Cap Gn Wkt
1099-R	Distributions from IRAs	16	Link and complete Form 1099-R
1099-R	Distributions from Retirement Plans	16	Link and complete Form 1099-R
CSA-1099-R	Civil Service Annuity Paid	16	Link and complete Form 1099-R
CSF-1099-R	Statement of Survivor Annuity Paid	16	Link and complete Form 1099-R
RRB-1099-R	Railroad Retirement Benefits (Tier 2)	16	Link and complete Form 1099-R
Schedule K-1 (Form 1065, 1120S or 1041)	Interest and/or Dividend Income, Capital Gains and Losses, Tax-Exempt Interest Income, Royalties	17	See Note 3
1099-G	Unemployment Compensation	19	Link and complete Form 1099-G
SSA-1099R	Social Security Benefits	20	Link and complete 1040 Wkt 1
RRB-1099	Railroad Retirement Benefits (Tier 1)	20	Link and complete 1040 Wkt 1
W-2G	Gambling Winnings	21	Link from "Amount" box to complete line 21, Other Income

#### Other Income

Once the main information data and income statements are entered, TaxWise® automatically makes available all forms and schedules for credits except American Opportunity and Lifetime Learning Credits and Retirement Savings Contribution Credit if there is only a Roth IRA contribution. These credit forms and schedules will be annotated with a red exclamation point.

Note 1: If the applicable form is in the left-hand tree, it may be selected directly rather than linking from Form 1040.

**Note 2:** For miscellaneous nonemployee compensation, it is important to link to Form C-EZ and then to Form 1099-MISC to ensure that the self-employment tax is properly computed.

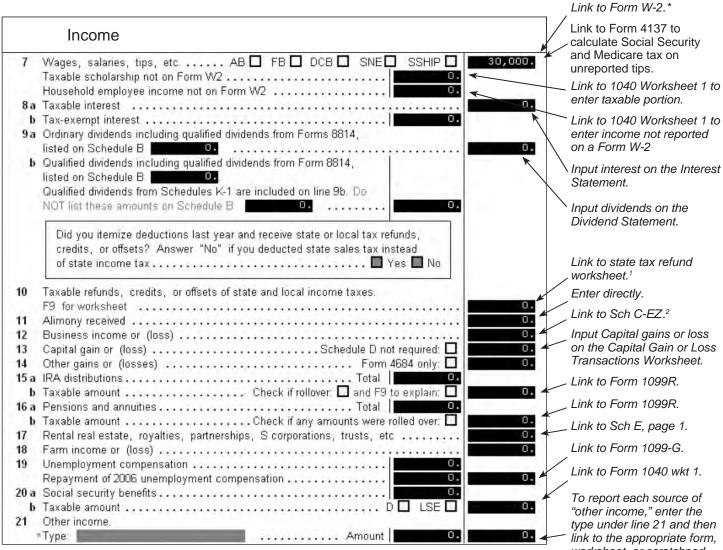
**Note 3:** If K-1 is from Form 1065 or 1120S, go to Schedule E, Part II, line 28 (name) to link to the Partner's and Stakeholder's K-1 Worksheet. If K-1 is from Form 1041, go to Schedule E, Part III, line 33 (name) to link to the Estate and Trust K-1 Worksheet. While the starting point is Schedule E, input of the Schedule K-1 income will carry the entries to the applicable schedules of Form 1040. The income is then reflected on the appropriate lines of Form 1040. Enter the K-1 information before entering any other interest income.

**Tip:** To eliminate unnecessary burden on the taxpayer, such as a CP-2000 Notice, the "Regulatory Explanation" or "Election Explanation" form should be added to the return to provide further explanation about an item reported or not reported on the tax return. The "Regulatory Explanation" form is added to the TaxWise forms tree by selecting the "Add Form" option and typing "RegExpl" in the search box. The "Election Explanation" form is added to the TaxWise forms tree by selecting the "Add Form" option and typing "Election" in the search box.

### How/Where to Enter Income

Select "1040 Pg 1" from the tree and press the **Page Down** key twice to go to Form 1040, line 7.

**Note:** Where the type is yellow (calculated entry), link to access the appropriate entry form. Once you link, use existing forms (if applicable) prior to adding a new form.

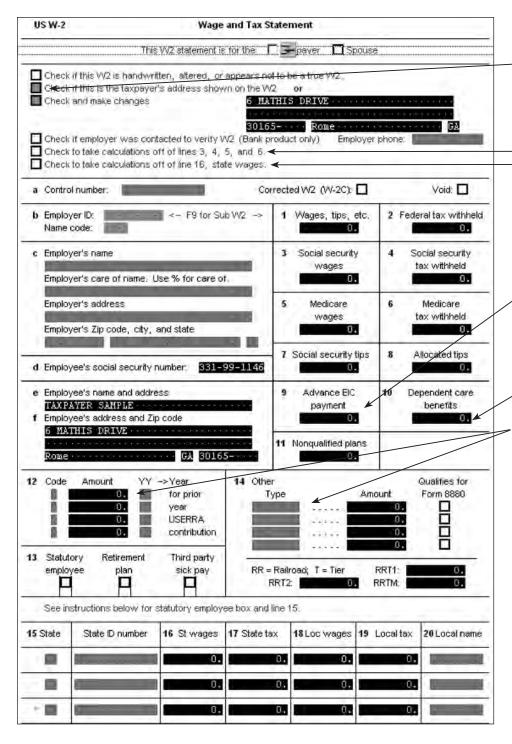


- List state refund only if taxpayer itemized deductions (on Schedule A) last year and taxes were reduced because of deductions.
- <sup>2</sup> For taxpayers with Form 1099-MISC with nonemployee income, link from line 12 to Schedule C-EZ and then link to Form 1099-MISC from line 1. Entering the information this way will automatically calculate selfemployment tax.

Hint: If taxpayer has income from a foreign employer link from line 7 to Form FEC-Foreign Employer Compensation. If the taxpayer qualifies to claim the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion, Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ can be filed electronically. Enter the taxpayer's address at the time the money was earned. For Section e, TaxWise Help can be used to determine the appropriate country code. Enter the foreign employer's information. List the compensation amount in U.S. dollars. Once you enter the information, TaxWise automatically reports the total on line 7 of Form 1040.

Link to Sch E, page 1. Link to Form 1099-G. Link to Form 1040 wkt 1. To report each source of "other income," enter the type under line 21 and then link to the appropriate form, worksheet, or scratchpad. TaxWise adds up the other income amounts and displays the total on line 21. Use Add Form feature to complete Form 2555 or Form 2555-EZ, if applicable. The exclusion amount will be calculated by TaxWise and entered as a negative number on line 21 of Form 1040.

### Form W-2 Instructions



**Note:** If the employer's address is Canadian, enter as much as possible in the city field, enter a period(.) in the state field, and use estimate function in the Zip field to get the red out. You may need to abbreviate some information so that it will all fit in the city field.

**Tax Tip:** If there is more than one Form W-2, select the **Copy W-2** tab.

Compare this address to Form W-2 address. If same, check second box. If different, check third box and enter address exactly as it appears on Form W-2.

If boxes 3, 4, 5, 6, and/or 16 do not match taxpayer's copy of Form W-2, check fifth and/or sixth box and enter data exactly as it appears on Form W-2.

Review box 2 and box 17 to ensure tax withheld was entered and is correct.

Hint: If the taxpayer received Advanced Earned Income Credit, the amount will appear in box 9 of the W-2. Make sure to enter this information.

If there is an entry in Box 10, Form 2441 must be completed.

Enter codes and amounts in boxes 12 and 14 **exactly** as they appear on the taxpayer provided W-2.

### Form W-2 ALERT!

IRS requires that information on electronically filed Form(s) W-2 match the printed Form(s) W-2 exactly.

A taxpayer with multiple Forms W-2 could possibly have a different address on several, if not all, of the Forms W-2.

Check them carefully; the change must be made on every Form W-2 that is different from the current address.

#### **IMPORTANT!**

The most current address entered in MAIN INFO will not be affected and will remain the current address for the taxpayer(s).

## **How to Enter Tips**

Hint: Allocated tip income will appear in box 8 of the W-2 and TaxWise will carry this amount to line 7 of the Form 1040. If there are unreported tips, Form 4137 should be chosen and completed.

#### Allocated Tips:

Allocated tips in box 8 of Form W-2 will carry over to line 3 of Form 4137. If this amount is not correct, verify the amount entered in box 8 of Form W-2.

#### **How to Enter Unreported Tips:**

Link to Form 4137 from line 7 or Line 59 of Form 1040. Form 4137, line 2 will automatically calculate the figures on lines 3 and 4. From Form W-2 the Social Security tips (box 7) will appear on line 3 and the Allocated tips (box 8) will appear on line 4.

If the taxpayer has unreported tips, you may need to override a few entries on Form 4137.

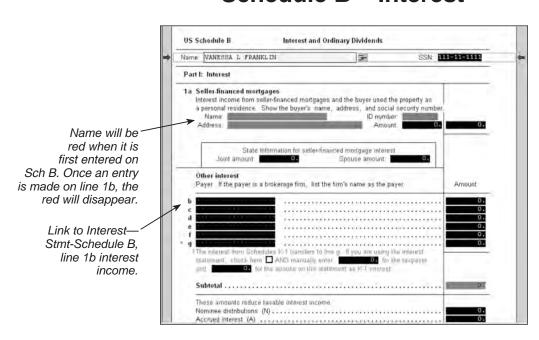
Use the override function on the Employer's Name and enter it if it does not appear automatically. If the taxpayer has a tip log that shows a different amount than his or her allocated tips, override line 4 and enter the actual amount received.

If the taxpayer has no allocated tips, then the amount of unreported tips can be entered directly on line 4. If, in any month, less than \$20 in tips were received and not reported to the employer, enter the amount on line 5. If the correct occupation doesn't carry from the Main Information Sheet, override the Occupation block and enter it.

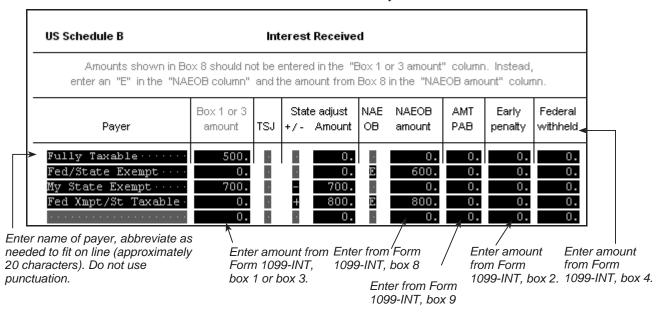
Unreported tips will display on line 7 of Form 1040. In TaxWise®, Form 4137 figures the employee portion of social security and Medicare taxes; these will display on line 57.

#### IIS 4137 Social Security Tax on Unreported Tip Income Name: JOHN SAMPLE SSN: []]]=]]] Total cash Total cash and charge and charge Name of employer(s) to whom tips you tips you ΕIN you were required to. received reported but did not, report your tips rincludina to your unreported employer tips) b 0. 0. 0. d 0. ο. е Total cash and charge tips received this year. Total of line 3 + line 4 Total cash and charge tips reported to your employer. VV2 social security tips . . . . Unreported tips. Allocated tips from W2 or F8 to enter the amount you wish ... Cash and charge tips you received but did not report to your employer because Unreported tips subject to Medicare tax 0. Maximum amount of wages (including tips) subject to social security tax Total social security wages and social security tips, total of boxes 3 and 7 on Forms W2, or railroad Subtract line 8 from line 7. If line 8 is more than line 7, enter -0- here and 106,800. Unreported tips subject to social security tax. Smaller of line 6 or line 9. If you received tips as a Federal, state, or local government employee, 0. 12 0.

### Schedule B - Interest



## Interest Statement for Schedule B, Line 1b Interest Received



**Note:** Use only 1 interest statement to record all interest income.

## Additional Interest, NAEOB, and State Adjustments

TSJ (T= Taxpayer, J=Joint, S=Spouse) column: annotating who received interest is important for state tax purposes.

State Adjustment column: IMPORTANT—When a state return has been selected on the Main Information Screen, the entries are transferred directly to the state return. If state tax law treats the interest differently, an adjustment has to be made in the State adjust column.

NAEOB column: Enter:

- N Nominee interest—Interest transferred to another person
- A Accrued interest—Interest paid to seller at time of purchase
- E Federal tax exempt interest
- O OID Generally not used since most interest reported on Form 1099-OID is fully taxable and should be entered as ordinary interest.
- B Amortized bond premium—See IRS Publication 1212 for more details.

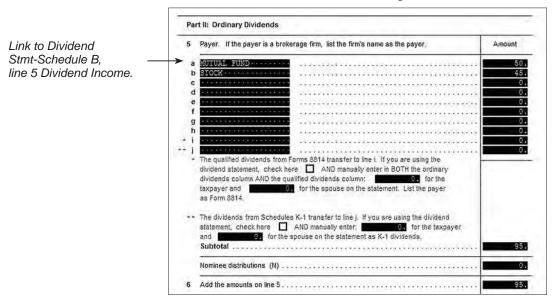
Interest on in-state municipal bonds is NOT taxable on the federal and state returns (second line in screen shot above).

Interest on U.S. savings bonds is taxable on the federal return but is NOT taxable on the state return (third line in screen shot above).

Interest on out-of-state municipal bonds is NOT taxable on the federal return BUT is taxable on the state return (fourth line in screen shot above).

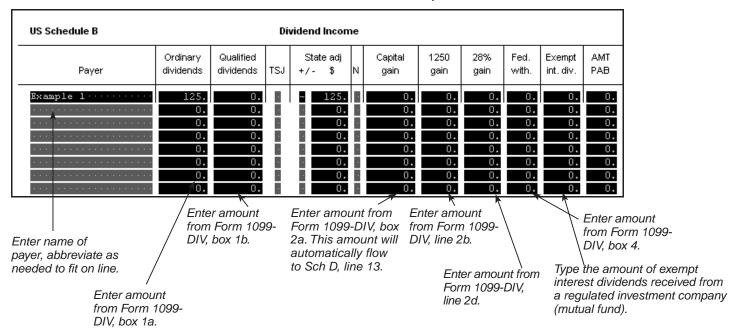
TAX TIP: Always fill in the additional interest form as though there is only a federal return. This entry is transferred directly to the state return. Then, ask the question, "Is the interest treated differently on the state return?" If the interest is treated differently, adjust by entering the appropriate +/- and amount in the State adjust column.

## Schedule B – Ordinary Dividends



Note: Do not make entries directly on line 5a; link to the worksheet.

## Dividend Statement for Schedule B, Line 5 Dividend Income



**Note:** Use only 1 dividend statement to record all dividend income.

### **Additional Dividends Entries**

State adjustment: When a state return has been selected on the Main Information Screen, entries made on the Dividend Statement will be treated the same on the state return. If state tax law treats the dividend differently, an adjustment has to be made in the State adj column.

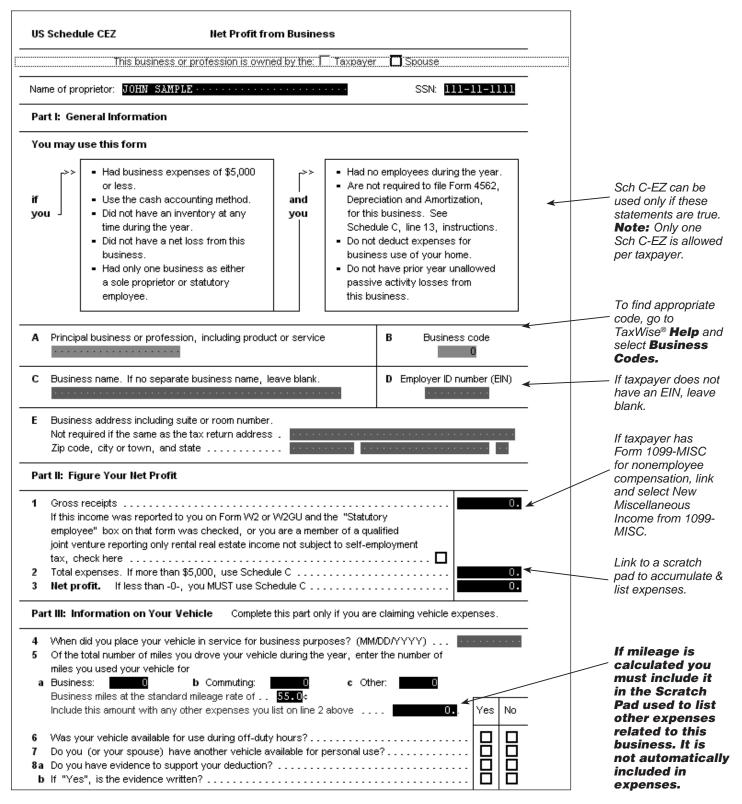
**Example 1:** Enter dividends from direct federal government obligations which are fully taxable on the federal return but tax exempt on the state return. Entering the dividend in the Amount column will result in the dividend showing up as taxable on both the federal and state returns. Therefore, an adjustment has to be made in the State adj column by entering a "-" and the amount. This will result in the dividend showing up as tax exempt on the state return.

TAX TIP: Always fill in the Dividend Statement as though there is only a federal return. This entry is transferred directly to the state return. Then, ask the question, "Is the dividend treated differently on the state return?" If yes, adjust by entering the appropriate +/- and amount in the State adj column. Note that the procedure for entering tax exempt interest dividends on the dividend statement does not require an entry in the Ordinary Dividend column. Tax exempt dividends are entered once in the Exempt int.div. column.

Amounts from Form 1099-DIV box 2a are entered in the Capital Gain column. The total of this column will be shown on 1040 line 13 or Sch D line 13.

Note: If Foreign tax paid (box 6) is shown on 1099-DIV, see Tab 5 "Nonrefundable Credits" for Foreign Tax Credit information.

### Schedule C-EZ Business Income



Any Form 1099-MISC with nonemployee compensation (box 7) must be entered on line 1 by linking to Form 1099-MISC. A separate TaxWise Form 1099-MISC must be completed for each Form 1099-MISC that the taxpayer provides. For other income link to a scratch pad and enter the business income. All Forms 1099 and scratch pad income will be totaled on line 1.

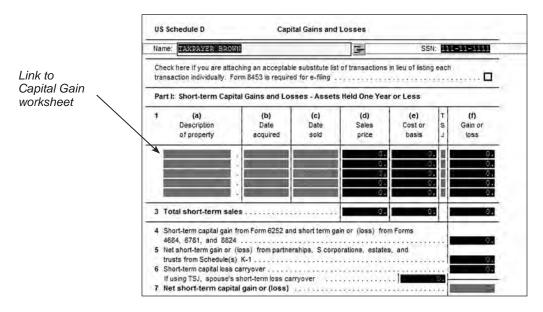
Self-employment tax and the adjustment of half of the self-employment tax are automatically calculated and carried to the appropriate forms.

### **Schedule C Business Income**

US	Schedule C Profit or Loss from Business		
	This business or profession is owned by the: 🏻 Taxpay	er 🏻 Spouse	To find an available
Nan	e of proprietor: JOHN SAMPLE	SSN: 111-11-1111	To find appropriate code, go to  TaxWise® <b>Help</b> and
А	Principal business or profession, including product or service	B Business code	select Business Codes.
С	Business name. If no separate business name, leave blank.	D Employer ID number (EIN)	If taxpayer does not have an EIN, leave blank.
E	Business address including suite or room number .  Zip code, city or town, and state		
F	Accounting method	ccrual	
G H	Did you "materially participate" in the operation of this business during If "No", losses may be limited	Yes No	
	For state purposes, check if this business is an LLC		
Pai	t I: Income		If taxpayer has
2 3 4 5 6 7	Gross receipts or sales  If this income was reported to you on Form W2 or W2GU and the "Statemployee" box on that form was checked, or you are a member of a capital venture reporting only rental real estate income not subject to self-tax, check here  Returns and allowances  Subtract line 2 from line 1  Cost of goods sold from line 42 on page 2  Gross profit. Subtract line 4 from line 3  Other income, including Federal and state gasoline or fuel tax credit or Gross income.  Add lines 5 and 6	utory  µualified employment	Form 1099-MISC for nonemployee compensation, link and select New Miscellaneous Income from 1099-MISC.
Pai	t II: Expenses		
11 12 13 14 15 16 a		0. 0. 0. 0. 0.	
17 18 19 20	Legal and professional services Office expense Pension and profit-sharing plans Rent or lease	<b>0.</b>	
a	Vehicles, machinery, and equipment	0 <b>.</b>	

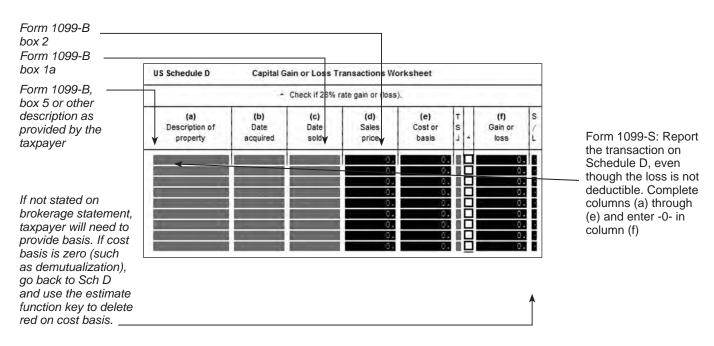
Following are some of the types of expenses that are in scope for volunteer prepared returns: advertising, car and truck, commissions and fees, insurance, interest, legal and professional services, office, rent or lease, repairs and maintenance, supplies, taxes and licenses, travel, and utilities.

## Schedule D – Capital Gains and Losses



**Note:** Never enter directly to Schedule D. Link to the Capital Gain or Loss Transactions Worksheet.

# Schedule D – Capital Gain or Loss Transactions Worksheet



- **Note 1:** Use VARIOUS for mutual funds. When using various for multiple short-term transactions, the S/L column must be overridden and an S entered. The holding period for long-term transactions is one year and one day.
- **Note 2:** Use INHERIT for inherited stock in column B if property was inherited from someone who died before 2010. Special rules apply to property inherited from someone who died after 2009 and before January 1, 2011. See Publication 550 for additional information.
- Note 3: For withholding on Form 1099-B, enter on the Dividend Statement for Schedule B.
- **Note 4:** Sales commissions and fees must be added to the basis unless they are reflected in Form 1099-B box 2.
- **Note 5:** Net losses greater than \$3000 will be shown on TaxWise Sch D Wkt 2. Excess losses will carry-forward to future tax years.

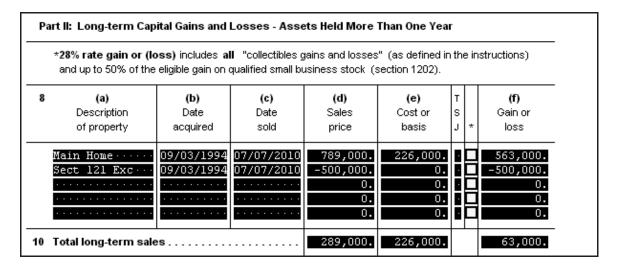
## Example: Eliminating Capital Loss on Foreclosure.\*

Link to Schedule D Worksheet 2 and use the Sale of Your Home Worksheet to determine the amount of the gain. The worksheet does not automatically carry the gain to Schedule D. If the taxpayer has a taxable gain, you will need to enter the information from the Sale of Your Home Worksheet in Part I or II of Schedule D and show any portion of the Section 121 Exclusion for which the taxpayer qualifies. TaxWise requires a sale and purchase date on the line with the exclusion amount and a cost basis of \$0.

	<b>28% rate gain or (lo</b> and up to 50% of the		_	•	•	th	е іг	nstructions)
8	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Т		(f)
	Description	Date	Date	Sales	Cost or	s		Gain or
	of property	acquired	sold	price	basis	J	*	loss
Ī	ain Home	09/03/1994	07/07/2010	225,000.	300,000.			-75,000.
F	orm 1099C·····	09/03/1994	07/07/2010	75,000.	0.	ī		75,000.
Ī				0.	0.	Ī		0.
Ī				0.	0.	Ī		0.
Ī				0.	0.	ī		0.

<sup>\*</sup> Loss on personal residence is not deductible

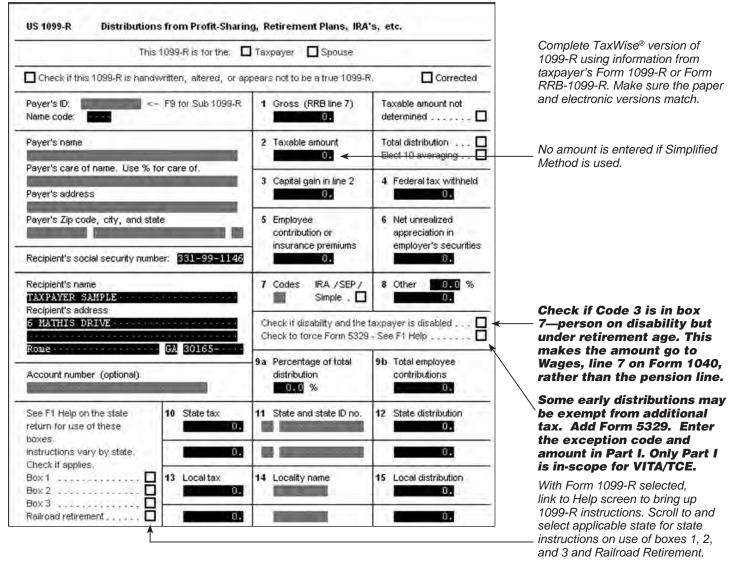
# Example: Applying Section 121 Exclusion to Excessive capital Gains on Sale of Main Home





To eliminate unnecessary burden on the taxpayer, such as a CP-2000 Notice, the "Regulatory Explanation" or "Election Explanation" form should be added to the return to provide further explanation about an item reported or not reported on the tax return. The "Regulatory Explanation" form is added to the TaxWise forms tree by selecting the "Add Form" option and typing "RegExpl" in the search box. The "Election Explanation" form is added to the TaxWise forms tree by selecting the "Add Form" option and typing "Election" in the search box.

# 1099-R Pension and Annuity Income

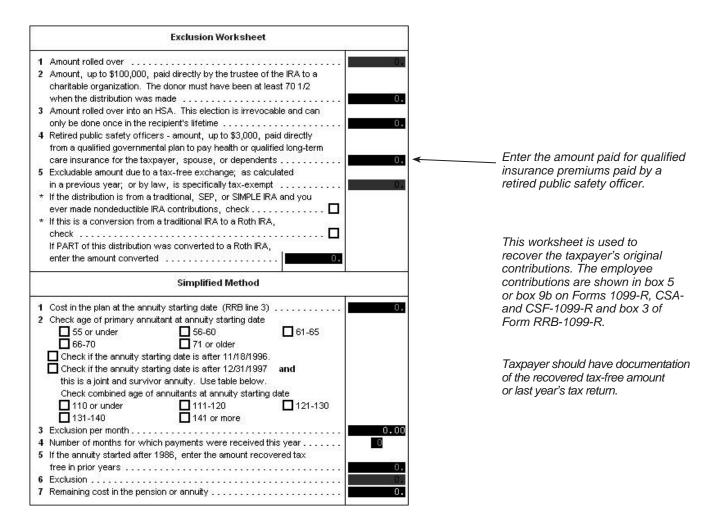


#### Form 1099 Alert

IRS requires that information on electronically filed Form(s) 1099 match the printed Form(s) 1099.

**Note:** Distribution codes for box 7 can be found in TaxWise® by accessing from box 7 or on the back of Form 1099-R.

### 1099-R Exclusion Worksheet



**Note:** There are two methods used to figure the taxable portion of each pension or annuity payment: the General Rule and the Simplified Method. For additional information see Publication 17.

#### Rollover

If this is a rollover, complete line 1 of the Exclusion Worksheet indicating the amount that was rolled over within the 60-day period. TaxWise will transfer the amount to the proper lines on page 1, Form 1040. In addition, you will need to check the box on line 15b and link (F9) to explain the facts of the rollover: from which financial institution, to which financial institution, and if it was a direct rollover.

### **Partially Taxable - Simplified Method**

Input the information from the taxpayer's copy of 1099 R. Move down the screen to the Simplified Method worksheet and complete items 1, 2, 4 and 5. Item 2 asks for the annuity starting date which may be earlier than the current tax year. Item 5 is an accumulation of tax-fee amounts from previous years. This information should be available on the taxpayer's prior year return.

#### SSA Form 1099 and Form RRB -1099 (Blue)

From Form 1040, line 20a, link to Form 1040 Worksheet 1. Be sure to record the Social Security (Form SSA-1099, box 5) and Railroad Tier 1 (Form RRB-1099, box 5) benefits on the proper lines and in the proper columns (if a joint return). Include any amounts paid for Medicare (Form SSA-1099, Description box and Form RRB-1099, box 11) for potential itemized deductions. Medicare premiums include Part B and Part D. Include any amounts for federal income tax withholding (Form SSA-1099, box 6 and Form RRB-1099, box 10). TaxWise will perform all the calculations to determine the taxable amount based on other information in the return. See page s 2-12 and 2-13 for further details.

# Railroad Retirement, Civil Service, and Social Security Benefits

1: Form RRB-1099-R—Tier 2 (Green form) Non-Social Security Equivalent Benefits (NSSEB)—

NSSEB includes all Tier 1 and Tier 2 Railroad Benefits not included on Form RRB-1099. It should be treated the same as any other qualified employee retirement plan.

Enter RRB-1099-R data on TaxWise® Form 1099-R as follows:

Box	From RRB-1099-R	10 Taxvvise®
3	Employee contributions	1099-R box 9b and line 1 of Simplified Method section
7	Gross distribution	1099-R box 1
9	Federal income tax withheld	1099-R box 4
12	Medicare premium total	Sch A—Detail—if itemizing deductions

Complete TaxWise® Form 1099-R as follows:

E DDD 4000 D

- Click in box to the right of box 1—"Taxable amount not determined"
- A distribution code (box 7) is required and the code is "7" unless the interview with the taxpayer indicates it is not a normal distribution.
- Complete Simplified Method section, if applicable
- "X" the **Railroad retirement** box to the left of block 13 for railroad pensions that qualify for subtraction on state returns.
- 2: <u>CSA-Form 1099-R—Civil Service Retirement Benefits</u>—The Office of Personnel Management issues CSA-Form 1099-R for annuities paid or CSF-Form 1099-R for survivor annuities paid. The CSA-Form 1099-R box numbers reflect the standard numbering on a Form 1099-R. If the taxable amount is not calculated in box 2:
  - The Simplified Method must be used
  - Enter box 9b on line 1 of the Simplified Method section, if applicable
  - Complete the other required entries of the Simplified Method section
- 3: Form RRB-1099—Tier 1 (Blue form) Social Security Equivalent Benefits (SSEB)—Treat the benefits reported on this form just like the information reported on SSA-Form 1099. (See below)

  Note: If there is any amount in box 7, 8, or 9 (benefits for previous year), refer your client to a

tax professional.

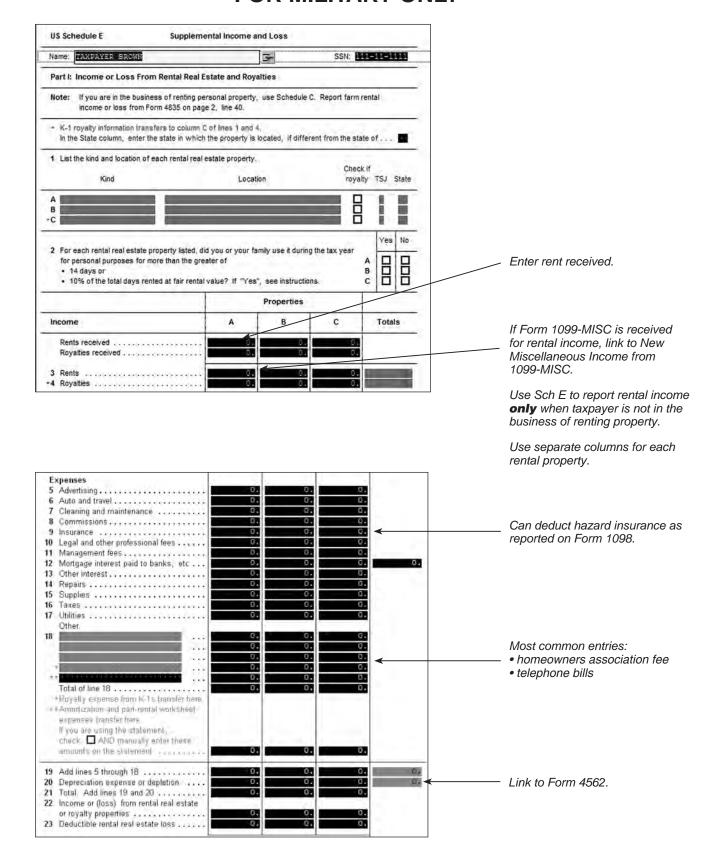
- 4: <u>SSA-Form 1099—Social Security Benefit Statement</u>—The Social Security Administration issues SSA-Form 1099 to report benefits paid. Use the following procedures for entering this information into TaxWise®:
  - From Form 1040, line 20, link to 1040 Wkt 1
  - Scroll to Social Security and Railroad Tier 1 Benefits section
  - "Social Security Received This Year"—Enter SSA-Form 1099, box 5 amount or RRB-Form 1099, box 5 amount
  - "Medicare to Schedule A"—Enter SSA-Form 1099, Medical Premiums or RRB-Form 1099, box 11 amount
  - "Federal Tax Withheld"—Enter SSA-Form 1099, box 6 amount or RRB-Form 1099, box 10 amount

## **1099-R Entry Variations**

- **A. Example 1 (most common)**—An amount is entered in box 1, box 2a is blank or the same amount as box 1, the distribution code in box 7 is [7], and nothing is entered in boxes 5 or 9b.
  - The amount in box 1 is fully taxable. TaxWise® will transfer the amount in box 1 to Form 1040 page 1, line 16b. Nothing has to be entered in box 2; use the estimate function to remove red.
- **B. Example 2**—An amount is entered in box 1, box 2a is blank, the distribution code is [7], and an amount is entered in box 9b.
  - The Simplified Method section will have to be completed to determine the amount in box 9b that will be tax free. TaxWise® will automatically deduct this amount from the amount in box 1 and enter the result on Form 1040 page 1, line 16b.
  - Do not make an entry to box 2 of Form 1099-R.
- **C. Example 3**—An amount is entered in box 1 and the taxable amount (other than zero) is entered in box 2a with a distribution code of [7]. There may or may not be an entry in box 5. Generally, the amount in box 2a is [box 1 minus the amount in box 5].
  - The payer has made things easy by providing the taxable amount. TaxWise® will enter the taxable amount on Form 1040 page 1, line 16b.
- **D. Example 4**—An amount is entered in box 1, box 2a is blank or zero, an amount is in box 5, and the distribution code is [7].
  - Generally, the amount in box 5 should be nontaxable and therefore should be subtracted from line 1 and the result entered on Form 1040 page 1, line 16b. The tax preparer must ascertain from the taxpayer what amount should be nontaxable. In the TaxWise® 1099-R form, enter the tax-exempt amount on line 5 of the *Exclusion Worksheet*. (The *Exclusion Worksheet* is located just below the primary 1099-R form.) TaxWise® will subtract the amount from line 1 and enter the result on Form 1040 page 1, line 16b.

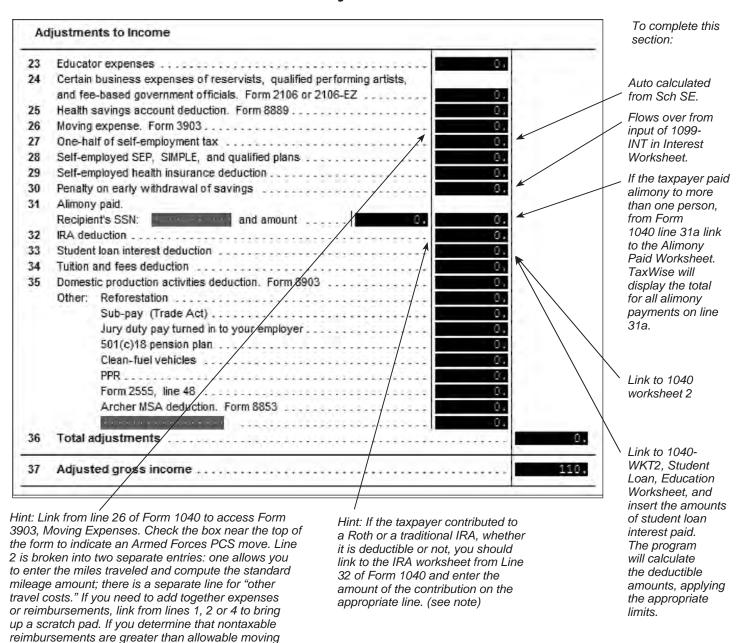
Note: If zero is entered in box 2 of TaxWise® 1099R, the box will become red and lines 1 and 2 of the *Exclusion Worksheet* will become red. This indicates that there is a required entry in the *Exclusion Worksheet*. Enter the tax-exempt amount on line 5 of the *Exclusion Worksheet*. TaxWise® will subtract this amount from line 1 and enter the amount on Form 1040 page 1, line 16b. Then the red on line 2 and in the *Exclusion Worksheet* will disappear.

# Schedule E – Rental Income and Loss FOR MILITARY ONLY



	Notes	
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## Form 1040 – Adjustments to Income



**Note:** On line 32 taxpayer's age must be  $70 \frac{1}{2}$  or younger; if married filing separately, **could not** have lived together any time during the year.

return.

expenses, remove Form 3903 before continuing with the

Notes	
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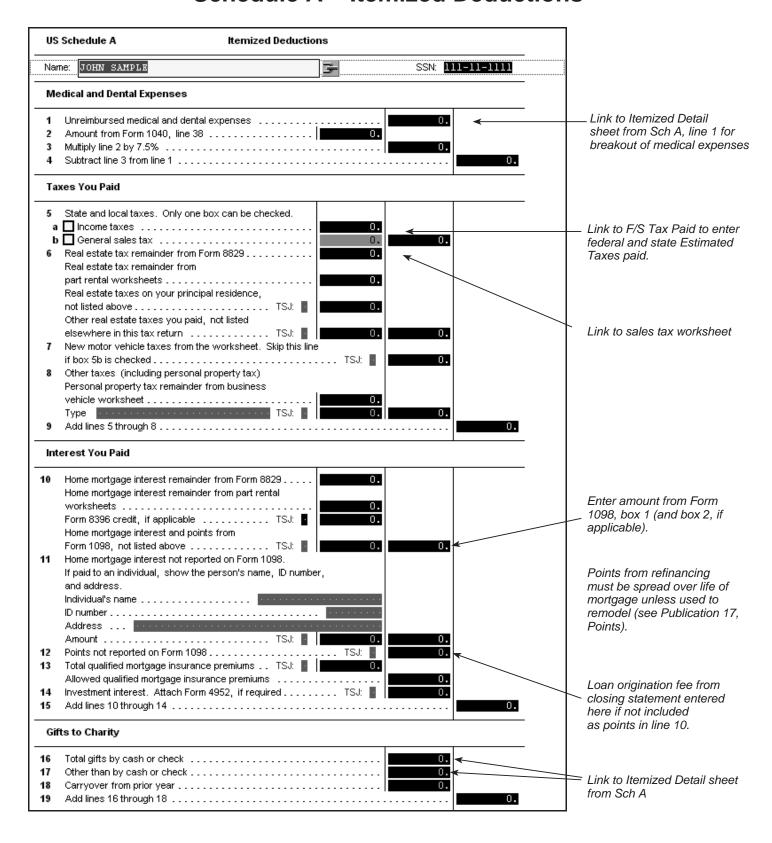
# Form 1040, Page 2 – Deductions

Tax	xable Income and Tax	
	Amount from line 37 (adjusted gross income) 64,325.  Taxpayer 65 or older Blind; Spouse: 65 or older Blind  Total boxes checked	
b	If you are married filing separately and your spouse itemizes deductions, or you are a dual-status alien, check here or F3	
	Itemized deductions or standard deduction. If you elect to itemize deductions even though the standard deduction is larger, check here	
b	If you are increasing your standard deduction by certain real estate taxes, new motor vehicle taxes, or a net disaster loss, attach Schedule L and check here	If itemizing deductions,link to Sch A Itemizedleductions. Complete the
41 42	Subtract line 40a from line 38  If line 38 is over \$125,100, married filing separately; \$166,800, single; \$208,500, head of household; \$250,200, married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er), the exemption amount is reduced. If housing to Midwestern displaced individual was provided, see instructions. Otherwise, multiply \$3,650 by the total number of exemptions on line 6d.  3,650.	blank fields that apply to the taxpayer's situation.
43 44	Taxable income  Tax. From . X the tax table or schedule Form 8615  Schedule D Tax Worksheet Schedule J Foreign earned income tax worksheet	
45 46	Check if any tax is from:       ☐ Form(s) 8814       ☐ Form 4972       0.         Education credit recapture amount       0.       0.         Alternative minimum tax.       Attach Form 6251       0.         Add lines 44 and 45       0.	

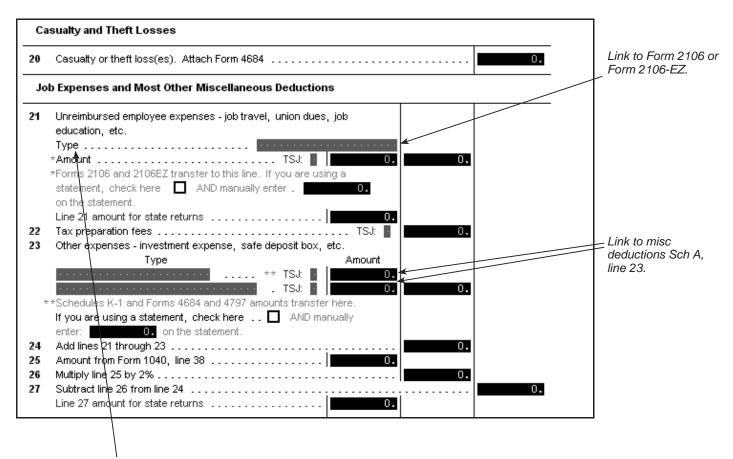
#### Note:

- TaxWise will automatically calculate the standard deduction based on the information collected from the approved intake and interview sheet and entered into the Main Information Sheet. If the taxpayer cannot take the standard deduction, TaxWise will prompt the preparer to itemize deductions.
- TaxWise will automatically calculate a dependent's standard deduction, if the box indicating, "the taxpayer can be claimed on another person's tax return", has been checked in the Main Information Sheet.
- TaxWise will automatically calculate real estate taxes when not itemizing deductions; if the real estate taxes paid are entered on line 6 of Sch A, then the allowable deduction will carryback to Form 1040.

### Schedule A - Itemized Deductions



# Schedule A – Itemized Deductions (continued)

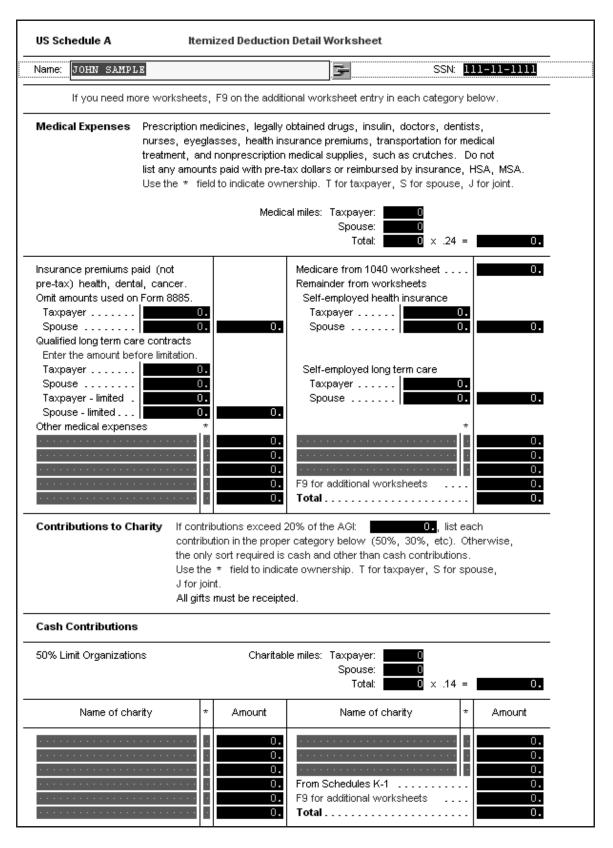


Hint: On the entry screen for Form 2106 page 1, there is a box at the bottom for "Minister, QPA, FBO, RC, and Impairment Related Work Expenses." On the line to the right of RC, enter the portion of the amount from Line 10 of Form 2106 that is due to reservist travel expenses over 100 miles. You can link from the entry field to a scratch pad to add up the separate items (vehicle expenses, lodging and 50% of food) if you wish. The software will carry the "RC" reservist expenses to line 24 on the front of Form 1040, and the remainder to line 21 of Schedule A.

#### Schedule A Nondeductible Items

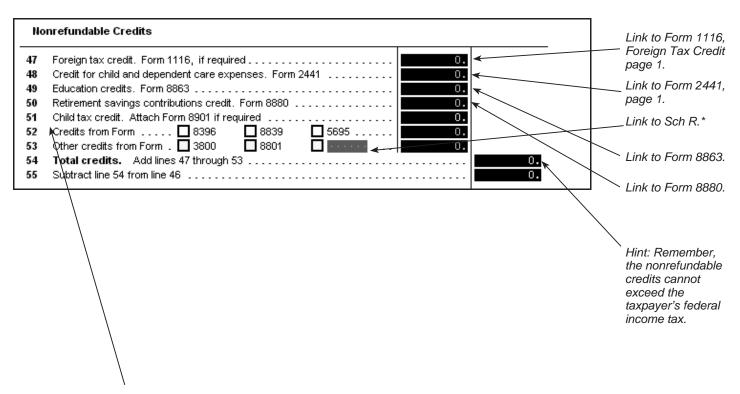
- Medical: cosmetic surgery; funeral/burial; nonprescription drugs; weight loss program not prescribed; diet food
- Taxes: fees/licenses (drivers, marriage, dog); sales tax; assessments for improvements that increase property value
- **Contributions:** political; country club/fraternal lodge; raffle, bingo, or lottery tickets; tuition; value of time/services; gifts to lobby groups; civic leagues, social clubs; labor unions.
- **Miscellaneous:** commuting; home repair; rent; loss from sale of home; personal legal expenses; lost/misplaced cash or property; nonprescription drugs; fines/penalties.

### **Itemized Deductions Detail Worksheet**



Note: Enter amounts given by cash or check under Cash Contributions for 50% Limit Organizations. Enter the value of noncash items donated under Other Than Cash Contributions from 50% Limit Organizations. Be Careful to list them separately.

### **Nonrefundable Credits**



### Form 5695 Residential Energy Credits

Link to Form 5695, complete Part I. Part II is out of scope. Maximum credit is limited to \$1,500 claimed for 2009 and 2010 combined.

#### Form 8863

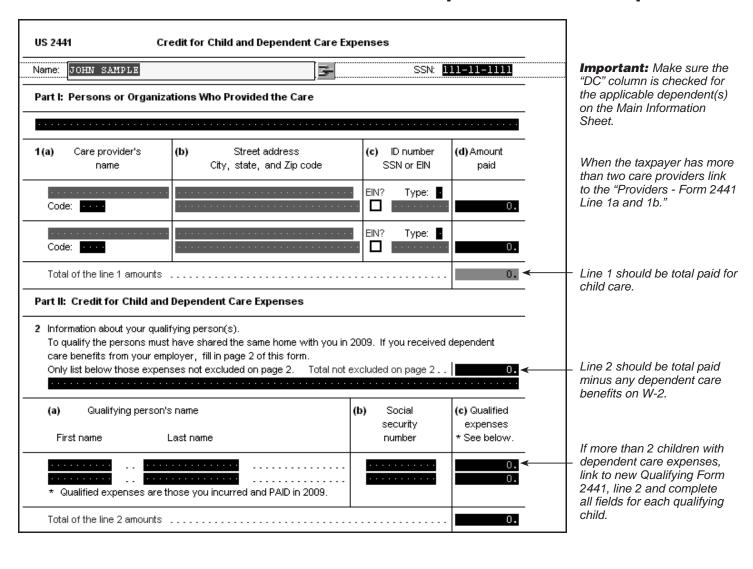
Link to Form 8863 Education Credits. Enter each student's name, SSN, and qualified expenses in the appropriate section of Form 8863. TaxWise does the calculations. You can enter the total amount of qualifying expenses for each student; TaxWise will apply the limitations.

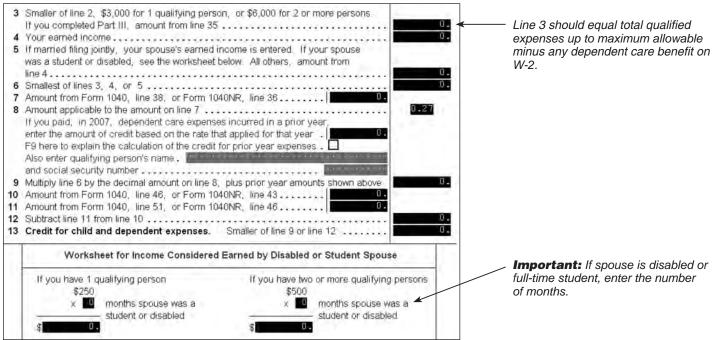
Caution: When completing the worksheet for an Education Credit, TaxWise helps you create an accurate claim, however, TaxWise will not catch other errors, such as taking more than one benefit for the same taxpayer.

#### Schedule R

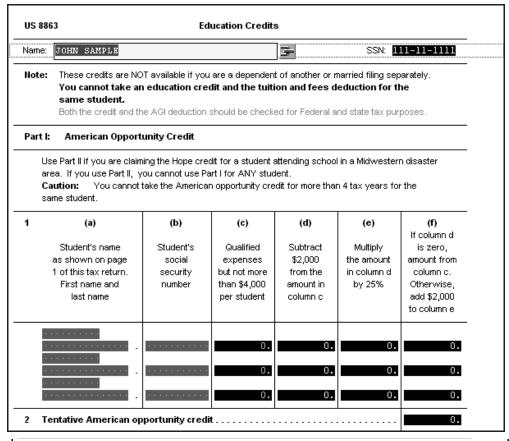
If taxpayer qualifies for the credit for the elderly or the disabled, link to Schedule R. If the taxpayer is permanently and totally disabled, check the box in Part II. Otherwise, complete Part III by entering the amount of veterans' pensions or any other pension, annuity or disability benefit that is excluded from income.

# Form 2441 – Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses

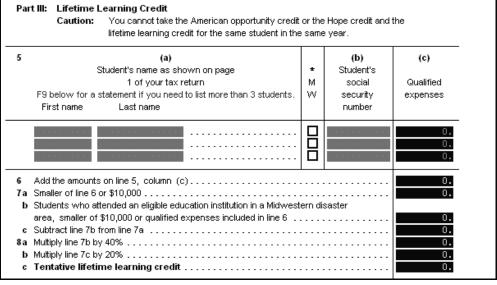




### Form 8863 - Education Credits



For both Education credits, enter qualified student's name, SSN, and qualified expenses; software will calculate the credit.

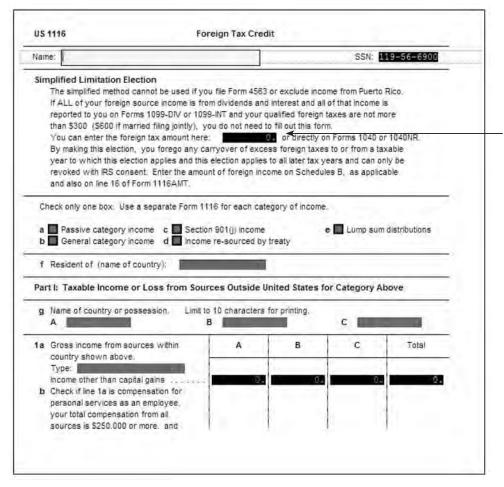


To claim this credit:

- Taxpayers cannot file married filing separately or be a nonresident alien (unless married filing jointly with resident)
- Only the taxpayer is eligible if he or she claims the student as a dependent. Only the student is eligible if he or she is **not** claimed as a dependent (even if he or she *can* be claimed)—no matter who pays.
- For the American Opportunity credit only, qualified tuition & related expenses include books, supplies & equipment needed for the course, whether or not they were purchased from the institution as a condition of enrollment. Computers, however, can only be included IF they are a requirement for enrollment or attendance.

**Note:** The following are not qualifying expenses for Education Credits: room and board, insurance, medical, transportation, or personal expenses, even if the amount must be paid to the institution as a condition of enrollment or attendance. If the educational expenses are associated with sports, games, hobbies, or other noncredit courses, see Publication 970 for more information.

# Form 1116 - Foreign Tax Credit



If qualified foreign taxes are \$300 (\$600 if MFJ) or less and the income is from interest, dividends, royalties, etc., enter exact amount of foreign tax paid here. Do not complete the rest of the form.

# FOR INTERNATIONAL ONLY:

If the foreign tax is not passive and is greater than \$300 (\$600 if MFJ), complete Form 1116. Read each line carefully and enter all applicable information.

Be sure to link to Form 1116 from Form 1040, and complete the box at the top of the form. TaxWise will automatically include this amount but will not bring up Form 1116 unless it's required.

Hint: TaxWise will show the amount of itemized or standard deduction to the left of the entry field, but the amount of the deduction must be manually entered on line 3a, Form 1116. TaxWise will perform all other calculations.

## **Retirement Savings Contributions Credit**

TaxWise® will automatically insert Form 8880, *Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions*, if the taxpayer meets eligibility criteria and any of the following are true:

- 1. A traditional IRA contribution is entered on Form 1040, line 32.
- 2. The taxpayer or spouse's Form W-2 includes box 12 entries of D, E, F, G, H, S, AA, BB, or box 14 amounts are marked as "Qualifies for Form 8880".

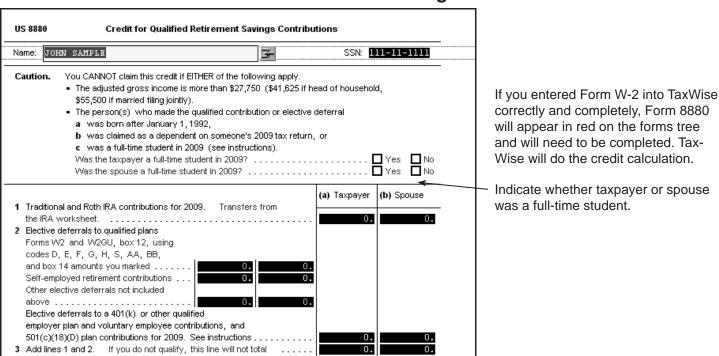
Form 8880 will have a red exclamation mark and will need to be completed prior to return completion.

Verify total contribution amounts with the taxpayer.

If the taxpayer contributed to a **Roth IRA only**:

- 1. Link to IRA worksheet from Form 1040, line 32.
- 2. Enter Roth contributions on worksheet, line 20.
- 3. Close form.
- 4. Open Form 8880 and complete any red entries.

### Form 8880 - Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions



**Note:** Certain distributions received after 2007 and before the due date (including extensions) of your 2010 tax return from any of the following types of plans must be entered on Form 8880, line 4:

- · Traditional or Roth IRAs
- 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457, 501(c)(18)(D), SEP, or SIMPLE plans

If taxpayer took no distributions during the testing period, press F3 to eliminate the red in box 4.

#### Do not include any:

- · Military pensions
- Distributions not taxable as the result of a rollover or a trustee-to-trustee transfer
- Distributions from your IRA (other than a Roth IRA) rolled over to your Roth IRA
- · Loans from a qualified employer plan treated as a distribution
- · Distributions of excess contributions or deferrals (and income allocable to such contributions or deferrals)
- Distributions of contributions made during a tax year and returned (with any income allocable to such contributions) on or before the due date (including extensions) for that tax year
- Distributions of dividends paid on stock held by an employee stock ownership plan under section 404(k)

If you are filing a joint return, include each spouse's amounts in the appropriate columns.

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# Form 1040, Page 2 – Other Taxes and Payments

Hint: TaxWise provides all the forms and schedules you need in order to figure and report these taxes and in most cases performs the calculations. You may link to these forms from the applicable line on the Form 1040 TaxWise screen.	Entered , automatically from Sch SE.
Other Taxes	See Form 5329, Part I
56 Self-employment tax	Entered automatically from Form W-2.  Volunteers do not
b Household employment taxes. Schedule H	prepare returns with these taxes.
EPP:       0. 453A (C):       0. S72P:       0.         ADT:       0. 4255:       0. 8828:       0.         IECR:       0. QEVCR:       0. 8866:       0.         MEDMSA:       0. 8697:       0. 8611:       0.         ECCR:       0. HSA:       0. NQDC:       0.	Entered automatically to the payments section from Form W-2 or Form 1099
453 (I) 3:	Link to F/S TaxPaid Federal Estimate/ State Payment for current tax year.
Payments	Sch EIC will be completed automatically.
61 Federal income tax withheld	Amount will calculate based on
62 2009 estimated tax payments and amount applied from 2008 return  If estimated tax was paid in joint names and you are now divorced,	previous entries. Sch EIC wkt will
enter ex-spouse's SSN: and check here	appear in forms tree with red exclamation mark.
64a Earned income credit	Calculated automatically.
65 Additional child tax credit. Form 8812	If there is a balance due,
67 First-time homebuyer credit. Form 5405	open 1040-V and click on TaxWise
70 Credits from Form	Help for additional information. You may also
71 Total payments. Add lines 61 through 70	link to Form 9465 to request
	an Installment Agreement. On
Refund	the form, electronic funds withdrawal
72 Amount overpaid	may be selected for the taxpayer's payment.  Form 2210 will
Account number:  74 Amount to be applied to 2010 estimated tax	be defaulted in TaxWise and \$0 will
Amount You Owe	be reflected on line 9. Inform taxpayers with a balance due
75 Amount you owe	they may receive a notice from the IRS.
Flectronic Funds Withdrawal  If this option is chosen for an electronic return prepared using TaxWise®:	Check yes for Electronic Funds Withdrawal, then go to ACH 1040/ES
Transition of an older one retain properties doing reaction	Form

- Enter the bank account information on the Main Information Screen.
- Make the selection for an electronic funds transfer on the bottom of Form 1040/1040A, page 2 or Form 1040EZ, page 1. Check the "Yes" box below Amount You Owe. Go to ACH 1040/ ES form and complete it.

# Form ACH 1040/ES Direct Debit for Balance Due or Estimated Tax Payment

Name: JOHN SAMPLE	5	SSN: 111-11-1111	
This worksheet is for electronic funds transfe 2009 income tax balance due:	, ,	ated tax payment:	Hint: If the taxpayer mad estimated
If you want direct debit for both the balance di tax payment or you want direct debit for more separate worksheet for each. Shift F10 will d	than one 2010 estimated tax p		payments during the year, link to the estimated
For The Balance	e Due On Your 2009 Tax Retu	ırn	tax payments worksheet
Amount of tax due: 0.	Amount ·	you want debited: 0.	from Line 62 of the
Routing number: C Account number: For accuracy, rekey the routing number	hecking Savings Savings here and account number on the	Main Information Sheet.	Form 1040 and record the date and amount of each paymer
If the return is transmitted on or before April April 15. If the return is transmitted after Apr Penalties may be added if the return is filed a	il 15, the requested payment of fter April 15, 2010.	e cannot be later than	
If the return is transmitted on or before April April 15. If the return is transmitted after Apr Penalties may be added if the return is filed a	15, the requested payment dat il 15, the requested payment o	e cannot be later than	
If the return is transmitted on or before April April 15. If the return is transmitted after Apr Penalties may be added if the return is filed a	15, the requested payment dat if 15, the requested payment of if 15, the requested payment of if 15, 2010.    day's date:   08/16/2010     Estimated Tax Payment	e cannot be later than late must be today's date.	Estimated Ta Payments
If the return is transmitted on or before April April 15. If the return is transmitted after Apr Penalties may be added if the return is filed a This is to  For 2010  If you filled in amounts above to pay your bal	15, the requested payment dat if 15, the requested payment of if 15, the requested payment of if 15, 2010.    day's date: 08/16/2010	te cannot be later than late must be today's date.	
If the return is transmitted on or before April April 15. If the return is transmitted after April Penalties may be added if the return is filed at This is to For 2010  If you filled in amounts above to pay your ball for a new worksheet and fill in the bottom path Amount you want debited for this 2010 estim Routing number:  Account number:	15, the requested payment dat if 15, the requested payment of if 15, the requested payment of if 15, 2010.    day's date: 08/16/2010	te cannot be later than late must be today's date.  formation below. Shift F10	
If the return is transmitted on or before April April 15. If the return is transmitted after April Penalties may be added if the return is filed at This is to For 2010  If you filled in amounts above to pay your ball for a new worksheet and fill in the bottom path Amount you want debited for this 2010 estim Routing number:  Account number:	15, the requested payment data in 15, the requested payment of inter April 15, 2010.  Iday's date: 08/16/2010  Estimated Tax Payment and inverse due, do NOT fill in any invert of that worksheet.  Interesting: Savings:  In above is not verified by Taxy in above in a verified by Taxy in	te cannot be later than late must be today's date.  formation below. Shift F10	

# Complete Form ACH 1040/ES, Direct Debit for Balance Due or Estimated Tax Payment.

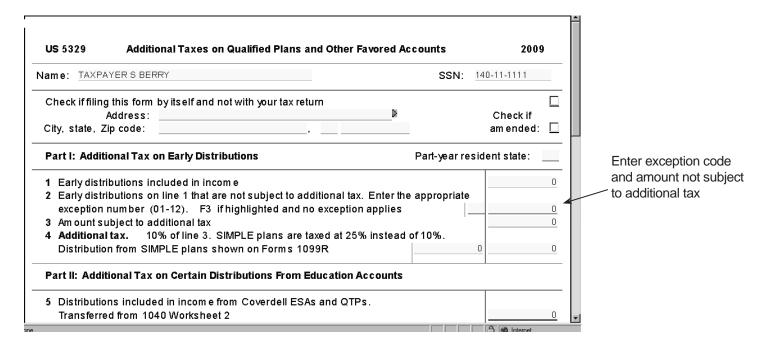
- Click 2010 income tax balance due
- · Re-enter bank account information
- Enter Requested Payment Date

#### **Estimated Tax Payments:**

- When *e-filing* a Form 1040 series return, up to four estimated payments can be scheduled for withdrawal on the following dates:
  - April 15, 2011
  - June 15, 2011
  - September 15, 2011
  - January 15, 2012

When the due date for doing any act for tax purposes - filing a return, paying taxes, etc - falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the due date is delayed until the next business day.

### Form 5329



Exception Codes and explanations for Premature Distributions from IRA or Retirement Plans:

#### No. Exception

- **Qualified retirement plan distributions (does not apply to IRAs) if you separated from service in or after** the year you reach age 55 (age 50 for qualified public safety employees).
- **02** Distributions made as part of a series of substantially equal periodic payments (made at least annually) for your life (or life expectancy) or the joint lives (or joint life expectancies) of you and your designated beneficiary (if from an employer plan, payments must begin after separation from service).
- 03 Distributions due to total and permanent disability.
- **04** Distributions due to death (does not apply to modified endowment contracts).
- **Qualified retirement plan distributions up to (1) the amount you paid for unreimbursed medical expenses** during the year minus (2) 7.5% of your adjusted gross income for the year.
- **06** Qualified retirement plan distributions made to an alternate payee under a qualified domestic relations order (does not apply to IRAs).
- **07** IRA distributions made to unemployed individuals for health insurance premiums.
- 08 IRA distributions made for higher education expenses.
- 09 IRA distributions made for purchase of a first home, up to \$10,000.
- 10 Distributions due to an IRS levy on the qualified retirement plan.
- 11 Qualified distributions to reservists while serving on active duty for at least 180 days.
- 12 Other (see Other, below). Also, enter this code if more than one exception applies. \*

\*Other: Distributions incorrectly indicated as early distributions by code 1, J, or S in box 7 of Form 1099-R. Include on line 2 the amount you received when you were age 59½ or older. See Form 5329 Instructions for additional exceptions.

For additional exceptions that apply to annuities, see Pub. 575.

# **Schedule EIC**

US Schedule EIC		Earned Income	e Credit			
Name: JOHN SAMPL	E		<b>]</b>		SSN: IIII	-111-11111
Before you begin	See the requirement If you qualify for to box on the Main In to qualify for EIC,	he credit and hav nformation Sheet f	e at least one or each qualit	qualifying ch fying child.	ild, mark the	EIC
A qualifying child						
Is YOUR	A w	as (on Decembe	er 31, 2009)		wh	10
If your child w	N D a sa child placed with you for more died during to find the person, see in	re than half of 200 uring the year, an with you. wild, go to line 1.	and a dent manently abled orized placem 09 but less the d your home v	N D anent agency. an 7 months, was the child		home ne States e than nths 109
		Child 1	Chil	d 2	Chi	d 3
Child's first name. Child's last name. Child's SSN Child's year of birth		0				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
	ı) was born afte SPOUSE IF FILIN					(OR
4a Was the child under 24 at the end of 20 a student, and you than you (or your if filing jointly)? If "Yes", go to line b Was the child permanently and to disabled during 20 5 Child's relationship you	oog unger spouse	_	☐ Yes ☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Yes	□ No

Caution: Only answer 4a  $\underline{or}$  4b. DO NOT ANSWER BOTH QUESTIONS.

## Schedule EIC - Worksheet

#### COMPLETE ONLY THOSE QUESTIONS IN RED

US	Schedule EIC Earned Incom	e Credit Workshee	et								
Nan	e: John Sample	]=	SSN:								
	Questions to see if you can claim the earned income credit										
4a b 5	Is the taxpayer's filing status married filing seps Yes - STOP. You cannot take the credit Does the taxpayer, and the taxpayer's spouse allows him or her to work or is valid for EIC pur issued by the Social Security Administration is the social security card and the number was is benefit. Any other SSN issued by the SSA is vor No - STOP. You cannot take the credit Is the taxpayer filing Form 2555 or Form 2555-EIC Yes - STOP. You cannot take the credit Was the taxpayer a nonresident alien for any profit household and claiming an exemption for you yes - go to question 4b	e if filing jointly, have poses? For purposes? For purposes saued solely to apply valid for EIC purposes part of the year? Che ur nonresident alien say?	a social security nur coses of taking the E I for Employment" is for or receive a fede s  Yes - Go to que gn income?  Yoo - Go to que eck "Yes" if filing as spouse  Yes - Go to que axpayer cannot an \$3,100?  No - Go to que qualifying child	nber that IC, an SSN printed on erally funded uestion 3. estion 4a. head estion 5. uestion 5.							
	If any of the children listed do not qualify based calculate. You will need to go to the Main Infor that do not qualify.										
7	Qualifying children listed on Schedule EIC Is either of the following true?  The child is unmarried  The child is married and can be claimed as the taxpayer's dependent and is not filing a 2009 joint return (or is filing it only as a claim for refund)	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No							

Hint: TaxWise will automatically compute EIC with and without non-taxable combat pay and choose the method that is best for the taxpayer.

Hint: Enter income earned while an inmate in a penal institution on the TaxWise EIC Worksheet in the section titled Figuring the Credit. TaxWise will subtract this amount from other earned income.

Note 1: If the taxpayer has had their EIC previously denied, you will need to complete Form 8862.

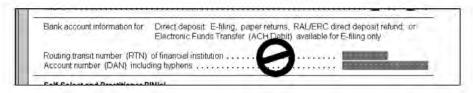
**Note 2:** As with any form, read and answer the questions carefully. Make sure there are no red check marks on Schedule EIC or the Schedule EIC worksheet.

# Split Refund Option

When the taxpayer elects to direct deposit his or her refund into two or three accounts or to purchase saving bonds, you will need to complete Form 8888, *Allocation of Refund (Including Bond Purchases)*. Add the Form 8888 to the forms tree.

US	8888	Direct Dep	osit of Refund in	Two or Mor	e Accounts	•	
Narr	ne: John sa	MPLE		3		SSN: I	
Do	not use this	s form if you want Account info	the Federal refu rmation below i	_			IE account.
an	nount you requ	t a portion of your re uest must be a multip ou and your spouse	le of \$50. If you fi	le a joint return	, the bonds	: will be issue	
of	\$50, but not	ition, do the followin more than \$5,000. E DS" in the account i	inter 043736881 a:				
b	Routing numb	deposited to first ac er	count	<b>c</b> Chec	cking: S	Savings: 🔲	0.
b	Routing numb	deposited to secono er	d account		cking: S	Savings:	0.
b	Routing numb	deposited to third and the control of the control o		c Chec	cking: 🔲 S	Savings:	0.
4		nt to be directly de above MUST equal th	•			0.	0.
			form is not approvi m using "Print Retu	_			1

<u>Caution:</u> **Do not** enter the routing or account number on the TaxWise Main Information Screen if using the Form 8888 *Allocation of Refund (Including Bond Purchases).* 



# Filing for an Extension Using TaxWise®?

You can help taxpayers file for an extension using TaxWise®, as long as their payment will not include Direct Debit. This option does not require a taxpayer PIN. The steps are outlined below.

- 1. Complete the client's return as accurately as possible.
- 2. Go to the PIN section on the TaxWise® Main Information Sheet, near the bottom of the form.
- 3. In the PIN section, select "Form 4868 without direct debit."
- 4. Open Form 4868 and select for the box at the top of the form labeled "Check here if using this form." TaxWise® overrides and locks lines 4 and 5, "Estimate of total tax liability" and "Total payments."
- 5. Enter the amount being paid with Form 4868, if any.
- 6. Close the return.
- 7. From the Tools menu, select "Make extension e-files."
- 8. Select the return and click OK. TaxWise® runs Diagnostics and creates the extension e-file.
- 9. Close the diagnostic screen.

## **Setting up TWO**

To set up TaxWise® Online as a Favorite in Internet Explorer, use the following steps:

- 1. Open Internet Explorer.
- 2. Type https://twonline.taxwise.com in the address line.



- 3. Click on the **Favorites** icon.
- 4. Click Add.
- 5. In Name:, type the name you want the favorites to display.



6. Click OK.

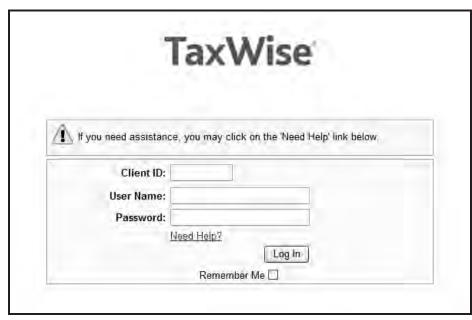
## Logging on to TWO the first time

From your Favorites, select TWO.

The user name is case sensitive.

To log on to TaxWise® Online, do the following:

• Enter your client ID, User Name, and Password.

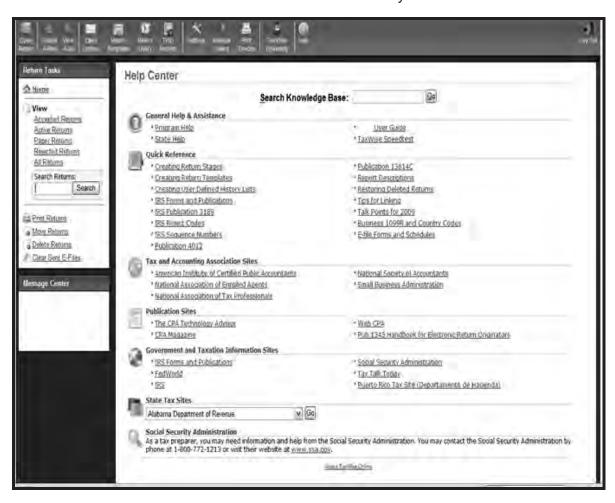


Except for the ADMIN user, your User Name and Password will be the same during this process.

# 3. Creating

## **TWO Homepage**

The following illustration depicts the TaxWise® Online **Homepage** while logged in as a created user. The user will have access to all returns created by the user.





New Return-Select to start a new return.

Open Return-Select to open existing return.

**Return Query**–Select to check the status of any tax return.

**Settings**–Select to set your options for users and administrators.

TaxWise® University—Select to log into TaxWise® University.

**Help**–Select when in a return to access the Help Center.

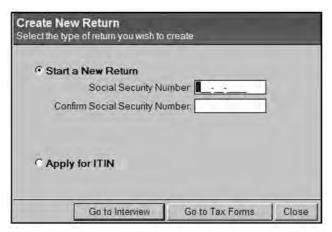
#### Shortcuts available in TWO

Shortcut	Function
Ctrl-Enter	(un) Override
Ctrl-Space	(un) Estimate (Removes "Red")
Ctrl-R	Refreshes the return
Ctrl-F	Search for an entry on the page
F11	Minimizes the Internet Explorer toolbar

## **Creating a New Return**

To start a new return, use the following steps:

1. Click on the **New Return** icon on the toolbar and the following dialog box is displayed:



- 2. Enter the taxpayer's SSN in the Social Security Number box.
- 3. Re-key the taxpayer's SSN in the Confirm Social Security Number box.

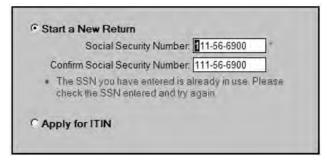
TWO has two methods for input of the tax return, Interview and Forms based.

- The TaxWise Online Interview allows you to gather information that determines which
  tax forms must be included in each return. Based on the answers to the questions, the
  program will load needed tax forms and will determine when some additional information
  is needed. Many questions require the user to make decisions using information already
  collected from the client through the Intake and Interview Process.
- The "Go to Tax Forms" method is similar to TaxWise® Desktop. The preparer completes
  the Main Information Sheet, opens Form 1040, page 1 and adds the appropriate forms
  as the Form 1040 is completed.

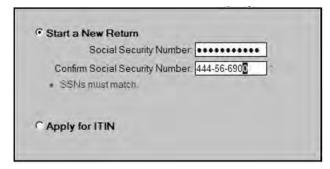
**Note:** The user may toggle between interview completion and forms completion at any time.

• Click the Close button to cancel the process and return to the TaxWise® Online Homepage.

If the SSN is already in use, TWO displays the following:

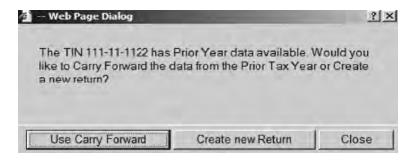


If the SSN does not match, TWO displays the following:



#### **Using the Carry Forward Function**

In TWO Online there are no preliminary steps needed to perform the Carry Forward function. Click on the **New Return** button and enter the SSN for the taxpayer you wish to carry forward the information. You will receive the message below with the option to use carry forward, create a new return, or close this window.

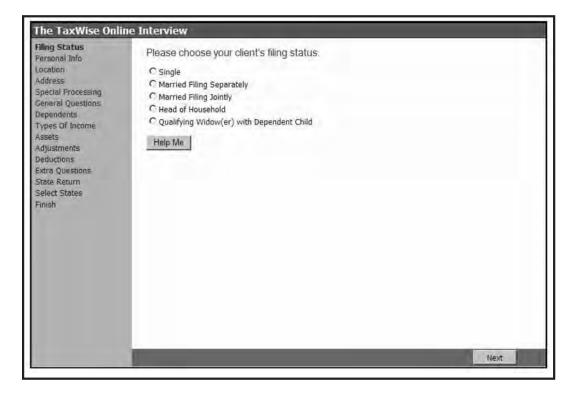


If you select to use the Carry Forward function, the return will open with the prior year's information, and there are no further steps to take. Information to be verified will be underlined in red, simply verify, remove the red and complete the return as normal.

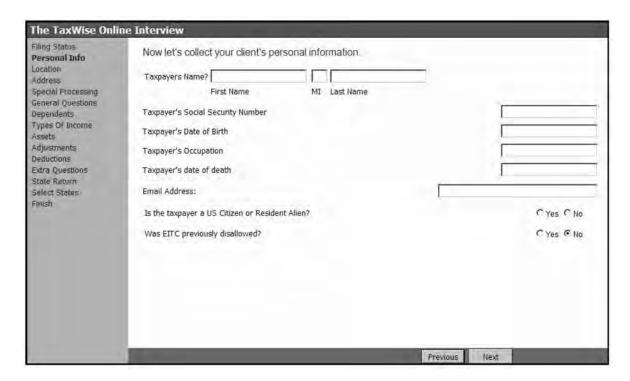
#### The TaxWise® Online Interview

- On each page you have the options of **Next** to continue or **Previous** to go back one page.
- The **Help Me** button displays a PDF of Publication 17, *Filing Status Decision Tree*.

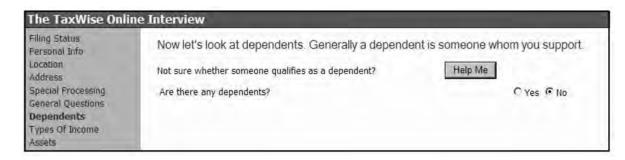
After collecting necessary information from Form 13614-C, Intake/Interview & Quality Review Sheet and properly applying the tax law, you should choose your client's filing status.



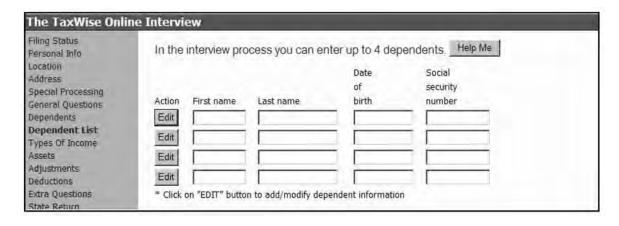
After filing status the next screen is an input screen that gathers client's personal information.



Some interview screens have preset answers that may need to be changed. For example, if this customer were permanently disabled, you would need to select the **Yes** option.

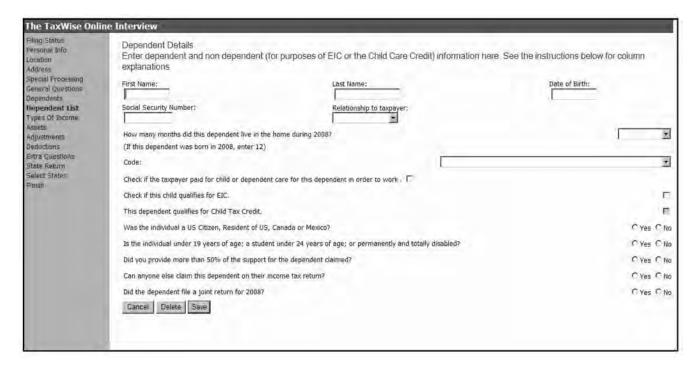


Some interview screens have questions that require additional information. For example, answering Yes to this question about dependents causes a new screen to appear asking for more information about the dependent(s).



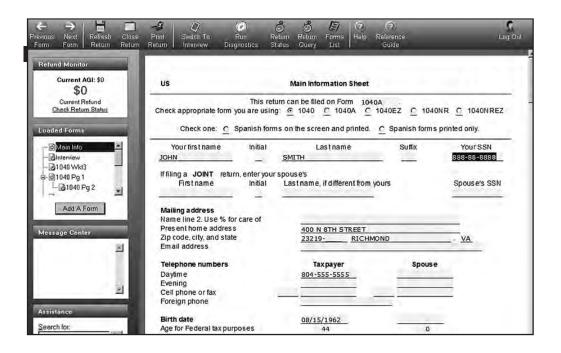
This screen requires you to click an Edit button and input additional information about each dependent.

Clicking the Edit button causes this screen to appear. After collecting the Intake and Interview information from the client, it is imperative that you input all the required information correctly.



For example, the "Check if this child qualifies for EIC" box should be checked only after carefully reviewing the applicable tax laws.

Click **Finish** to continue. Complete the return by inputting any additional information directly into the tax return. Your screen will look something like the following:



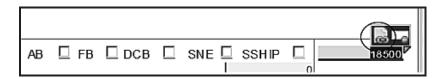
## **Navigating the Tax Return**

**Color coding:** 

Underline Color	Function
• Red	Required Entry or Required Verification
Yellow	Calculated Entry
• Black	Direct Entry
• Blue	Overridden Entry

## Linking to a Form

To link to a supporting or additional form, you will click on the **Link** icon to access the window where you can select the form you need. For an example if your cursor is on Form 1040, line 7, click the Link icon to open the window to show any forms that will carry income to this line.



In the screen shot below, the **New** button is the active window (lighter gray). Clicking on the **Existing** button will list any forms that are already associated with the active field (Form 1040, line 7).



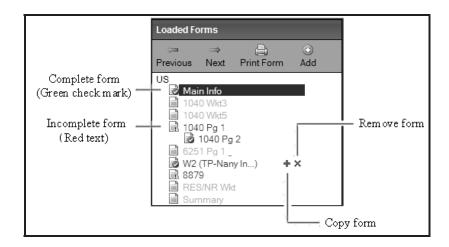
You can also use the **Link** icon to link worksheets or scratch pads to entries. For example, while on Schedule A, line 1, the **Link** icon will open the window where you can select the *Itemized Deduction Detail Worksheet*.

### The TaxWise® Online Tax Forms

Go to Tax Forms allows the preparer to complete the tax return using the forms-based method.

This option is very similar to TaxWise® Desktop. Preparers complete the Main Information Sheet, open Form 1040, page 1, and add the appropriate forms as they go down Form 1040.

The Forms Tree to the left of the return shows all the forms that are currently loaded for the active return. The icons next to the forms indicate whether a form has been loaded, is complete, needs completion, or is not used.

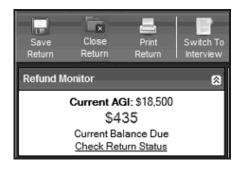


To navigate the tax return, it is better to use the navigational buttons located above the Loaded Forms tree. The following describes these buttons when completing a return:



Previous	Opens the previous form on the active screen.
Next	Opens the next form on the active screen.
Print Form	Prints the active tax form.
Add	Adds a single form to the active return.

The Refund Monitor, shown to the left of the return, displays the current AGI and the refund amount or balance due for the active return. These figures change as return data is added.



The Refund Monitor can be hidden from display by clicking the Show/Hide Details button:



# TaxWise® Online Toolbar Icons

The following illustration shows the available toolbar icons when completing a return:

Icon	Description
Save Return	Saves the active return
Close Return	Closes the active return
Print Return	Prints the active return
Switch To Interview	Changes to the interview process
Run Diagnostics	Checks the return for electronic errors prior to creating the electronic file
Return Summary	Checks the status of the active return
Return Query	Checks the status of any return
Forms List	Displays the list of available forms to be added to the active tax return
(2) Help	Provides a link to the Homepage and the Help functions
Log Out	Closes the software and all returns

# Basic Steps in Preparing a Tax Return Using TaxWise® Online

#### Start the Return

- · Click New Return link on the Homepage.
- Enter the primary taxpayer's SSN.
- · Retype the SSN for validation.
- · Go to Tax Forms.

#### **Main Information Sheet**

- · Complete Main Information Sheet.
- Verify and enter in the "Dependents/Nondependents" section any dependents. Ensure that the Child and Dependent
  Care Credit, Earned Income Credit, or Child Tax Credit, are checked, as appropriate.
- Refresh (Ctrl + R) or Save the information.
- Direct Deposit information, if any, is also entered on the Main Information Sheet.

#### Add Form W-2 Information

- · Link to Form W-2 from Line 7 of the Form 1040.
- Click the box next to Taxpayer or Spouse, whichever applies.
- Complete all entries exactly as printed on the paper copy of Form W-2.
- · Verify that the electronic W-2 matches exactly with the taxpayer's paper copy.
- Enter other Forms W-2, if applicable.

#### **Add Other Types of Supporting Documents**

- Pension, Form 1099-R
- Interest, Form 1099-INT
- · Dividends, Form 1099-DIV
- Unemployment, Form 1099-G
- Gambling, Form W-2G
- Dependent Care, Form 2441
- All tax documents from taxpayer should be entered before working the tree.

#### Working the Tree/Completing the Return

- · Review the return tree for incomplete forms.
- Each incomplete form will have a yellow exclamation mark and print will be in red.
- Click on the incomplete form and complete only the remaining red entries.
- Refresh (Ctrl + R) or Save the information.
- Repeat this process until no forms in the tree are red or have exclamation marks.
- Run Diagnostics.

#### Finishing the Return

- Review by clicking Return Summary on Toolbar.
- · Correct any errors from Quality Review process.
- You must verify each overridden entry.
- Click link to enter PIN for taxpayer(s).
- Run Diagnostics.
- Click create Efiles button.
- Change Return Status to Ready to Transmit.

#### Printing the Return

- · Click Print Return Button.
- · Open PDF File and Print Return.
- Taxpayer must sign both copies of Form 8879.

#### Assembling Tax Return (File Copy)

- Form 8879, Signature Document (should be the top document)
- Form 13614-C, Intake/Interview & Quality Review Sheet
- Forms W-2
- Forms 1099 (with withholding)

# Following steps are for ERO or Site Coordinator Only Submitting Returns to IRS

- Click Submit E-files icon on toolbar.
- Print DCR.

#### **Viewing Acknowledgements**

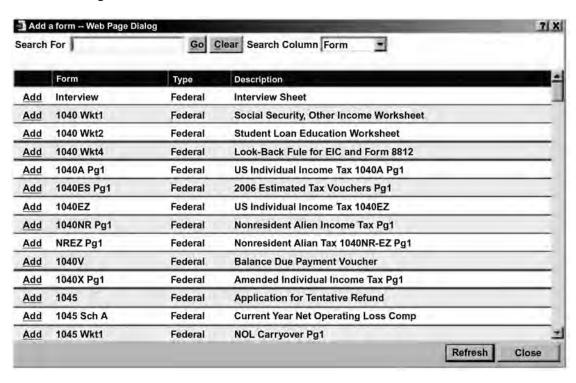
- · Click View Acks icon on toolbar.
- Click, "Get Ack" box at bottom.
- Print ACK file.
- File Accepted returns.
- · Work Rejected returns within 24 hours.

# Adding Forms to a Return

There are two ways to **Add a Form** to the active tax return:

- From the Loaded Forms tree, click the Add a Form icon, or
- Select the Forms List icon.

The following illustration shows the Add a Form window for "Show All Forms":



 Enter the Form Name, Form Number, or part of the form description in the Search For box:



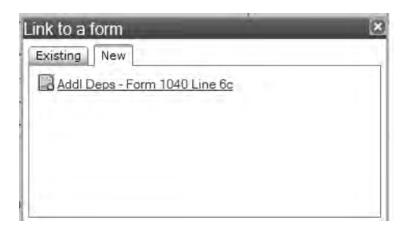
- Select Clear to remove your search criteria.
- Click the **Add** link next to the appropriate form.

## **Additional Dependent Worksheet**

If there are more than four dependents to list, enter the first four dependents on the Main Information and the remaining dependents on the Additional Dependent Statement by **linking** from the first dependent on page 1 of Form 1040.

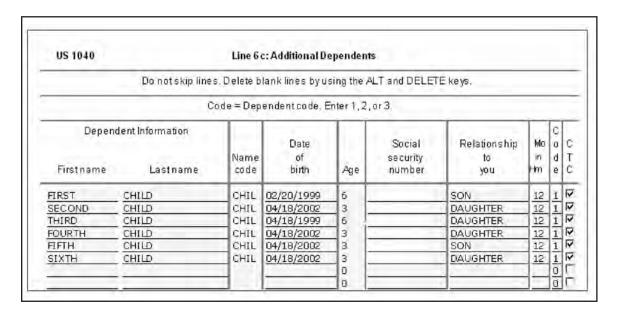
- Nondependents must be listed on the Main Information Sheet—they cannot be listed on the statement.
- Children who are qualifying children for EIC or Dependent Care must be listed on the Main Information Sheet.
- 1. Click on the first name in the list.
- 2. Click on the Link icon.

The following illustration shows the Entry Links window:



- Click on the New tab.
- The Entry Links window defaults to Existing forms.
- Click on the Add icon next to "Addl Deps Form 1040 Line 6c"

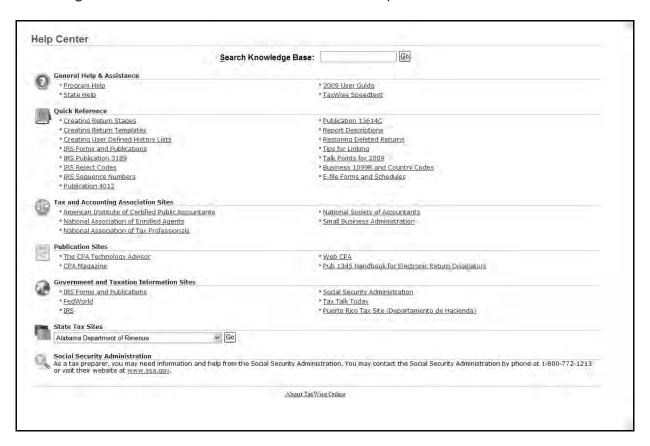
The following illustration shows the Additional Dependent Worksheet:



Note: There is no column for Dependent Care or Earned Income Credit.

# TaxWise® Online Help

The following illustration shows the TaxWise® Online Help window:



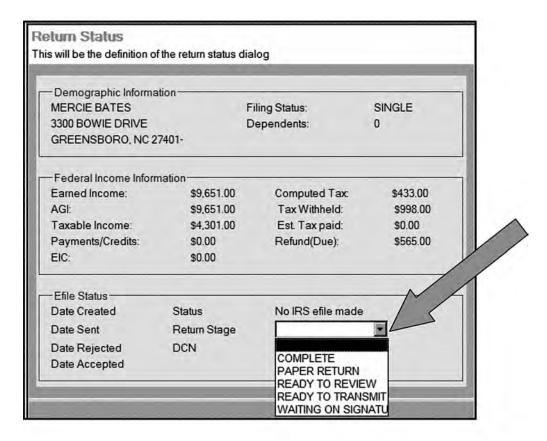
• Enter keyword(s) in the Search box and click Go. This will display a list of choices that are in the Help file.

Notes	

# **Setting the Return Stage**

#### Setting the return stage from inside the tax return:

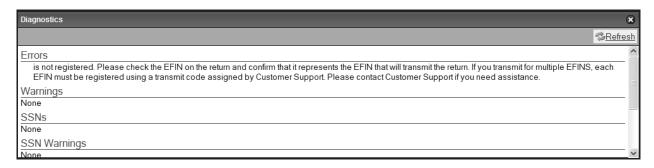
- 1. Open the return.
- 2. Select the **Return Summary** icon.
- 3. Select the stage from the drop down box in the Efile Status section.



# **Running Diagnostics and Creating an Electronic File**

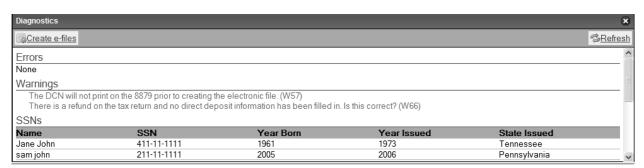
Select the Run Diagnostics icon for the active return.

The following illustration shows the diagnostics details:



- Correct all e-file errors.
- Select the Run Diagnostics icon again.

The following illustration shows the diagnostics details after all e-file errors have been corrected:



- Select the Create Efiles checkbox.
- Close the return.
- Complete this step prior to printing the return. This will print the DCN on Form 8879.

## **Printing the Active Tax Return**

- The pop-up blocker must be disabled.
- Adobe Reader 7.0 or higher is required to print returns.

To print a return while you have the return open, you can click the task bar's **Print Return** button. In the pop-up box, click on the **Download PDF Return** link.

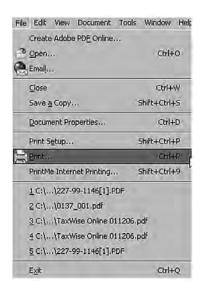


When you click on this link, you will see the File Download box shown below. Click the **Open** button on this box.



**Note:** Be sure to select **Open** and not **Save**. Selecting **Save** will copy to the computer the PDF which has sensitive taxpayer information that is difficult to completely erase. Also, see **TWO Printing Security Requirements** in Publication 3189 for important information.

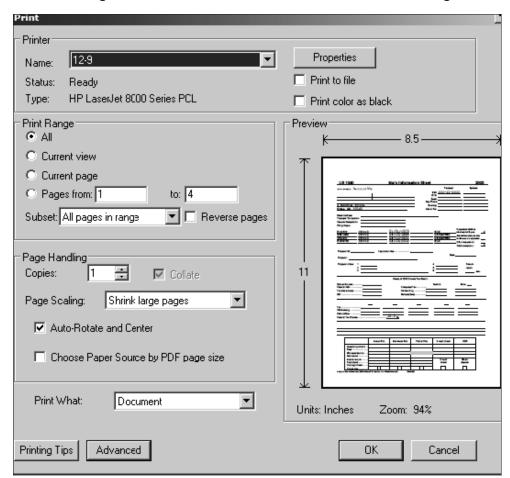
Once the PDF file opens, you can select To Print by clicking on the **Print Return** icon on the task bar or Open the file menu and select Print.



**Note:** This will print the entire return. To print a specific page, identify the page number, change the print range, and increase the number of copies for that page.

Select Cancel to cancel the printing process.

The following illustration shows the Adobe Reader Print dialog box:



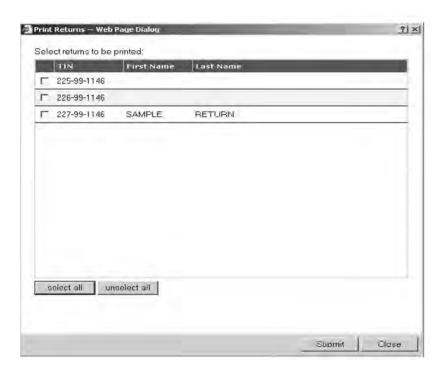
**Scenario:** Print 1 copy of the return and 2 copies of Form 8879, if applicable.

- The first print will provide a copy of the tax return and a copy of Form 8879. All the
  pages of the first print should be given to the taxpayer as a record copy.
- Print the second copy of Form 8879 by printing the specific page. This is your file copy. The taxpayer(s) should sign this copy. This copy must be retained for 3 years, if using the Practitioner PIN Signature Method.

# **Printing from the User Homepage**

Select the Print Return icon found on left Return Task box.

The following illustration shows the **Print Returns** dialog box:



- Select the appropriate returns to print.
- Click on the Submit button.
- Click **OK** to confirm the selected returns to print.



Notes	

# Completing a Return in TaxWise® Desktop (For Taxwise Online instructions see Page 8-8.)

- 1. Complete the applicable state forms.
- 2. Look in the tree for forms with red exclamation marks.
  - Open the form and look for red entries, then correct or complete.
  - A red block with a zero in it does not necessarily prevent a return's being e-filed. If the diagnostic does not indicate error, then it will not be a problem. Press F3 on the red block to remove the red.
- 3. Check return. Press F7 to see the Tax Return Summary.
  - Review with the taxpayer. Click **OK** to close the summary.
  - See balance-due issues and payments later in this section.
- 4. If e-filing, the taxpayer must select the PIN method. Return to the Main Information Screen to complete the PIN information.
- 5. If the return is for paper filing, check that the Main Information Screen has **Paper** selected for Type of return. Check that the state form reflects the taxpayer choice as well.
- 6. Run Diagnostics.
  - Hit F10 twice or right click "Diagnostics" or CTRL+D
  - Review warnings to see if any changes are needed.
  - If there are any filing errors, click the Next Entry button in mid-screen (the form to correct will be in the lower screen and cursor will be on error) and make the necessary correction. When there is an error on a Form W-2, clicking Next Entry will display only the first Form W-2; if the return has multiple Form(s) W-2, you may have to open them from the tree to find the error. Continue until all errors are corrected. Rerun diagnostics.
  - When there are no electronic errors, if you want to e-file the return, click the

- **e-file** button (mid-screen), click **OK** (e-file created). Click **Close** to go back to tax return.
- Quality Review. (The quality review can be done either here or after printing.)
   If errors are found, correct, rerun diagnostics, and recreate e-file.
- 7. For e-file return, see PIN Guidelines on next page.
  - If the return is a joint return, advise the taxpayer that it will not be electronically transmitted until both signatures or PINs, as applicable, are entered.
- 8. Print return, for e-file returns:
  - For Practitioner PIN, 2 copies of Form 8879 are required.
  - For Self-Select PIN, no additional form is required.
  - If Form 8453 is used, 3 copies are required.
- 9. Collate return and review with the taxpayer.
- 10. For a paper return, advise the taxpayer to:
  - Sign and date the return (federal and state, if applicable).
  - Also have the spouse sign the return, if a joint return.
  - Attach copies of Form(s) W-2 and any Form(s) 1099 with withholding.
  - Attach a copy of the federal form(s), if applicable, to the state return.
- 11. If a child cannot sign his or her name, the parent or guardian can sign the child's name in the space provided followed by the words: By (parent or guardian signature) parent or guardian for minor child.
- 12. Follow Distributing Copies of Return shown later in this section.
- 13. Complete site log, if applicable.

## **PIN Guidelines**

There are two signature methods for *e-file* returns: Practitioner PIN and Self-Select PIN. The Practitioner PIN method is the preferred electronic signature method for taxpayers.

#### **Practitioner PIN Guidelines**

**What?** The PIN can be any five numbers except all zeros. If filing a joint return, a PIN is needed for the taxpayer and their spouse. The Practitioner PIN option requires the completion of Form 8879, IRS *e-file* Signature Authorization or Form 8878 if filing Form 4868 with electronic funds withdrawal. The taxpayers may authorize the volunteer to enter their PIN on their behalf using Form 8879.

# How to use the Practitioner PIN option in TaxWise®

- · Go to "Main Information Sheet."
- Scroll to the "Self-Select and Practitioner PIN(s)" section.
- Enter the ERO PIN "98765" (this is the designated ERO PIN for all volunteer *e-file* sites and can be set as a default).
- Check the box below the PIN field to select the Practitioner PIN method.
- Tab to "The Income Tax Return" and place an "X" in the box. (This should be set as a default.)
- In Part III, of Form 8879, the EROs signature should be defaulted with the site name, address, and SIDN.

# When the following has been accomplished, PIN(s) can be entered by the tax preparer.

- · Return has been quality reviewed.
- The customer(s) agrees with the return.
- Go to the "Taxpayer/Spouse PIN" section and enter PIN(s) for the taxpayer(s). Check the "I authorize box" for each taxpayer and enter the date.
- Print the return and two copies of Form 8879
  (Form 8878, if filing Form 4868 with electronic funds withdrawal). Provide one copy to the taxpayer for their record and have the taxpayer(s) sign the second copy. Attach a copy of any Forms W-2, W-2G and 1099R, to the signed copy of Form 8879 and hold at the site.
- If the spouse is not available for signature,
   Form 8879 may be taken home by the taxpayer for signature by the spouse.

#### **Self-Select PIN Guidelines**

The Self-Select PIN method is an additional electronic signature method for taxpayers.

**Why?** It eliminates the requirement for Form 8879, *IRS e-file Signature Authorization.* 

**What?** The Self-Select PIN method allows taxpayers to electronically sign their *e-filed* return by entering **their own** five-digit PIN. The PIN can be any five numbers except all zeros. If filing a joint return, a PIN is needed for the taxpayer and his or her spouse. The taxpayer does not need to register the PIN with the IRS before filing or contact the IRS to get a PIN. If this confuses the taxpayer, suggest that they consider entering their Zip code as their PIN.

# What are the guidelines for entering the original adjusted gross income (AGI)?

When taxpayers sign their electronic tax return using the Self-Select PIN method, they must provide their original prior year AGI or prior year PIN for the IRS to validate their identity. The prior year AGI is the amount from the taxpayer's prior year originally filed return as accepted by the IRS; it is not the amount from an amended return or a math error correction made by the IRS. In some cases the prior year AGI may have unique features as follows:

- If the prior year return was filed as married filing jointly with the same spouse, enter the same prior year total AGI amount for each taxpayer. Do not divide the amount between the taxpayers.
- If the prior year return was filed as married filing jointly with a different spouse, enter the prior year total AGI amount from the joint return filed with the ex-spouse.
- If the taxpayer did not file a prior year tax return, the prior year return was filed after December 9, 2009, the prior year AGI was zero, or the taxpayer did not need to file a prior year tax return but filed a return anyway, the taxpayer must enter "Zero" for the original prior year AGI amount. Do not leave this field blank; the return will be rejected if the field is left blank for a zero amount.
- If the taxpayer's AGI is negative, the negative amount should be entered.

# **PIN Guidelines (continued)**

 If the taxpayer is unsure of his or her original prior year AGI, he or she may call IRS Customer Service at 1-800-829-1040.

# How to Use the Self-Select PIN Option in TaxWise®

- · Go to the "Main Information Sheet."
- Scroll to the "Self-Select and Practitioner PIN(s)" section. For ERO PIN, enter "98765." (This is the designated ERO PIN for volunteer sites and can be set as a default.) Do not check the box below it.
- Tab to "Income Tax Return" and place an "X" in the box. (This can be set as a default.)
- After the return is completed and reviewed, return to the "Main Information Sheet."
- If the taxpayer(s) chooses to use the Self-Select PIN, let the taxpayer(s) enter their PIN.
   Enter the date and the taxpayer(s) prior year AGI or PIN.
- Copies of any Form(s) W-2, W-2G, and 1099R must be retained until December 31 of the processing year. Suggestion: since you should remove Form 8879 from your "Print Packet" for the Self-Select PIN process, these forms may be attached to the printed copy of the Main Information Sheet that prints from TaxWise®.

#### Removal of Form 8879 from the Print Packets:

The following procedures should be taken only when the Self-Select PIN option is used. TaxWise® software is programmed to print Form 8879 each time the Self-Select PIN or Practitioner PIN method is used. To eliminate the automatic print of Form 8879 when the Self-Select PIN is used, edit Print Packets by taking the following steps:

- 1. Go to Tools.
- 2. Select Utilities/Setup Options.
- 3. Select Setup.
- 4. Select View/Edit Print Packets.
- 5. Highlight the "Pin Auth form" on the right side under "Selected Forms to Use."
- 6. Right-click and choose Remove.

**Note:** TaxWise® software users—Do not delete Form 8879 from your TaxWise® Tree. The information contained in this form must be included in the *e-file*.

# Form 8453, U.S. Individual Income Tax Transmittal for an IRS *e-file* Return

Beginning with the 2008 filing season, the Form 8453 is no longer used as a signature document to *e-file* a return. A newly designed Form 8453 will be used to transmit specific supporting documents that cannot be *e-filed*. Those paper forms, schedules and supporting documents include:

- Form 1098-C, Contributions of Motor Vehicles, Boats, and Airplanes (or acceptable documentation/required Donor Documentation);
- Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative (only for an electronic return signed by an agent);
- Form 3115, Application for Change in Accounting Method;
- Form 3468, Investment Credit (if Historic Structure Certificate is required);
- Form 4136, Credit for Federal Tax Paid on Fuels (if certificate and/or reseller statement is required);
- Form 5713, International Boycott Report;
   Form 8283, Noncash Charitable Contributions,
   Section A (if statements required) or
- · Section B, Donated Property;
- Form 8332, Release of Claim to Exemption for Child of Divorced or Separated Parents (or similar statement);
- Form 8858, Information Return of U.S. Persons With Respect to Foreign Disregarded Entities;
- Form 8864, Biodiesel and Renewable Diesel Fuels Credit (if certificate and/or reseller statement is required);
- · Form 8885, Health Coverage Tax Credit;
- Schedule D-1, Continuation Sheet for Schedule D (Form 1040) (or acceptable substitute) if the taxpayer elects not to include their transactions on the electronic STCGL/LTCGL Records;

# **PIN Guidelines (continued)**

 Worksheets 1 through 4 from Pub. 517, Social Security and Other Information For Members of the Clergy and Religious Workers

The Form 8453 is only to be used when the additional forms or supporting documents are required to be attached to the return. Form 8453 is to be mailed to the Austin Submission Processing Center within three business days. The Declaration Control Number (DCN) must be entered on the Form 8453. The IRS requires

that the DCN on the Form 8453 match the DCN on the electronic file. Once a return has been assigned a DCN, it will keep that DCN, even if it is re-transmitted

#### **State Return**

State rules may differ; contact your state Volunteer *e-file* Coordinator for instructions on the handling of any state signature documents for record keeping requirements, or contact your local SPEC office.

## **Return Signature**

A return is not considered valid unless it is signed. Both spouses must sign if the return is filed jointly. The return should be dated and the occupation lines should be completed.

#### Child's Return

If a child cannot sign his or her name, the parent, guardian, or another legally responsible person must sign the child's name in the space provided followed by the words "By (parent or guardian signature), parent or guardian for minor child."

#### **Deceased Taxpayer**

If a taxpayer died before filing the return, the taxpayer's spouse or personal representative may have to file and sign a return for the person who died. A personal representative can be an executor, administrator, or anyone who is in charge of the decedent's property.

If the taxpayer did not have to file a return but had tax withheld, a return must be filed to get a refund.

#### Filing Returns of Deceased Taxpayers

If filing a paper return, write "Deceased," the decedent's name, and the date of death across the top of the tax return.

If the spouse died during the year and the surviving spouse did not remarry, a joint return can be filed. If the spouse died before signing the return, the executor or administrator must

sign the return for the deceased spouse. If the surviving spouse or anyone else has not yet been appointed as executor or administrator, the surviving spouse can sign the return for the deceased spouse and enter "Filing as surviving spouse" in the area where the return is signed.

# Filing Returns for Deceased Taxpayers—Using TaxWise®

If the taxpayer or spouse died in 2010 or 2011, the "Name line 2" must be completed on the Main Information Sheet. Type the name of the person filing the return for the deceased person. Do **not** type the percent (%) sign; type only the name. This may be the surviving spouse if the filing status is married filing jointly, or a personal representative such as an executor, administrator, or anyone who is in charge of the deceased taxpayer's property.

In the Taxpayer Information section of the Main Information Screen, the date of death for the taxpayer must be entered.

#### Claiming a Refund for a Deceased Person

If a surviving spouse is filing a joint return with the decedent, file the tax return to claim the refund. Court-appointed representatives should file the return and attach a copy of the certificate that shows their appointment. All other filers requesting the decedent's refund should file the return and attach Form 1310.

## **Pointers for Direct Deposit of Refunds**

- 1. Using a check as proof of account, verify:
  - Routing Transit Number (RTN). The RTN must contain 9 digits and begin with 01 through 12 or 21 through 32.
  - Depositor Account Number (DAN). The DAN can be up to 17 characters. Include hyphens but omit spaces and special symbols. Do not include the check number or the dollar amount on canceled checks.
- 2. For direct deposit into savings accounts: Routing numbers and account numbers for savings accounts may not be the numbers on the deposit slip or the monthly statement. Obtain a statement from the financial institution to verify the routing number and account number for savings accounts used for direct deposits.
- 3. Entering the incorrect RTN and/or DAN will result in a 4-6 week delay of the refund. If the direct deposit is voided, a paper check will automatically be mailed to the address on the electronic tax form.

**Caution:** Financial institutions generally do not allow a joint refund to be deposited CAUTION into an individual account. The IRS is

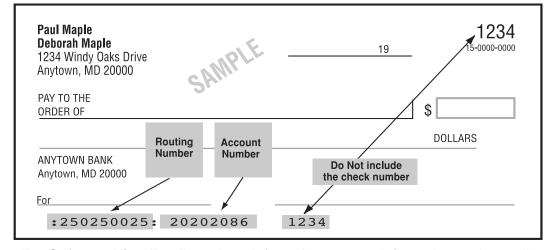
not responsible if a financial institution refuses a direct deposit.

- 4. Double-check the RTN of the financial institution before the return is transmitted if:
  - You are unfamiliar with the financial institution. (Some types of accounts that exist through brokerage firms cannot accept direct deposits.)
  - The RTN is for a credit union, which is payable through another financial institution. The taxpayer should contact his or her credit union for the correct RTN.
- 5. Savings Bonds Taxpayers can buy U.S. savings bonds with their federal tax refund. Even if the taxpayer does not have a bank account or a Treasury account they can elect this option. Taxpayers can make bond purchases for themselves, add beneficiaries or co-owners, and make bond purchases for someone other than themselves. Refer to Form 8888 or IRS.gov for more details.
- 6. Remember the split refund option: If a taxpayer chooses to direct deposit his or her refund into two or three accounts, you will need to complete Form 8888, Allocation of Refund (Including Bond Purchases).



Caution: Direct deposit of a taxpayer's refund is to be made to an account (or CAUTION accounts) only in the taxpayer's name.

Advise taxpayers their refund may only be deposited directly into his/her own account(s).



Note: The routing and account numbers may be in different places on the check.

Tax Software Hint: For direct deposit for only one account the information is entered on the Main Information Sheet and the Refund section of page 2 of Form 1040. If the taxpayer chooses to split the refund into more than one account, the information is entered only on the Form 8888. In addition enter the

information on the applicable line on state forms.

**Note:** Do not use a checking account deposit slip as proof of account because the routing number may be different than on a check.

## Balance Due Returns (amount owed on return)

(See Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ Instructions for additional information)

#### **General Information**

- Taxpayers do not have to pay if balance due is less than \$1.
- Payment in full is due by the April filing due date, to avoid interest and penalties.
- Taxpayer should file his or her return by the April filing due date, to avoid a failure-to-file penalty.
- There are separate penalties for filing late and paying late. The late filing penalty is higher.
- Advise taxpayers to file the return on time, even if they cannot pay the full amount owed. They should pay as much as they can with the return to reduce penalties and interest.

#### **Payment Methods**

#### 1. Check or money order payments

- Do not attach the payment to the return.
- Make check or money order payable to "United States Treasury."
- On checks, write "2010 Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ" in the memo or "For" section.
- Write name, address, daytime phone number, and SSN/ITIN on the payment.
- If filing a joint return, enter the SSN/ITIN shown first on the return.
- Submit the payment with a properly completed Form 1040V, Payment Voucher.
- No cash payments

#### 2. Credit card payments

- American Express, Discover, Mastercard, or Visa cards are accepted.
- A convenience fee will be charged by the service providers:

Official Payments Corporation 1-888-UPAY-TAX<sup>™</sup> (1-888-872-9829) 1-877-754-4413 (Customer Service) www.officialpayments.com/fed

Link2Gov Corporation 1-888-PAY-1040<sup>™</sup> (1-888-729-1040) 1-888-658-5465 (Customer Service) www.PAY1040.com RBS WorldPay, Inc. 1-888-9-PAY-TAX<sup>™</sup> (1-888-972-9829) 1-877-517-4881(Customer Service)

Visit IRS.gov or call service provider for details.

#### 3. Electronic Funds Withdrawal

www.payUSAtax.com

E-filing allows taxpayers to file their return early and schedule their payment for withdrawal from their **checking** or **savings** account on a future date up to the **April filing due date.** (See Tab 6, **Other Taxes and Payments** in the Volunteer Resource Guide for details.)

# 4. EFTPS (Electronic Federal Tax Payment System)

Taxpayers can use EFTPS to pay their federal taxes, but they must **enroll** first. EFTPS is a fast, easy, convenient and secure service provided free by the Department of Treasury. For more information you can visit IRS.gov. Click on the e-file logo and look for "Electronic Payment Options" and the EFTPS logo. To enroll, visit EFTPS.gov or call EFTPS Customer Service at 1-800-316-6541 (for individual payments). TTY/TDD help is available by calling 1-800-733-4829.

## What if the taxpayer cannot pay?

- The taxpayer can request a Full Pay
  Within 60 or 120 day Agreement. There
  is no user fee, but penalty and interest are
  charged for any amount paid after the April
  filing due date.
- The taxpayer may ask to make monthly installment payments by completing Form 9465, Installment Agreement Request. Penalty and interest are charged on any amount paid after the April filing due date. A fee is charged if the request for an installment agreement is granted. Form 9465 can be e-filed with the tax return. For more information taxpayers can go online to the IRS website at www.irs.gov for the Online Payment Agreement (OPA), Enter keyword search: OPA.

# Balance Due Returns (amount owed on return) (continued from previous page)

 The taxpayer can request an extension of time to pay if paying the tax by the due date will be an undue hardship. For details see Form 1127.

# How can a taxpayer avoid a balance due in the future?

- If the taxpayer did not have enough withheld from his/her paycheck or pension income and there is amount owed on the current return:
  - Advise the taxpayer to review Publication 919, How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding? or on the internet the taxpayer can access the Withholding Calculator at IRS.gov.
  - On the Form W-4/Form W-4P, the taxpayer can reduce the number of allowances or request an additional amount to be withheld.

- Advise the taxpayer to submit a revised Form W-4 to the employer. For pension income taxpayers should submit a revised Form W-4P to the pension payer.
- If the taxpayer had income that was not subject to withholding (such as self employment, interest income, dividend income, or capital gain income):
  - Advise the taxpayer to review Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax.
  - Advise the taxpayer to obtain Form 1040ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals in order to make estimated tax payments for the next year.

Forms or Publications can be obtained from www. irs.gov or by calling the IRS at 1-800-829-3676.

# **Distributing Copies of Returns**

#### **Taxpayer**

- Form 1040 with all forms/schedules including Form 8879 and Form 8453 if applicable
- Form 8332, if applicable
- Original Power of Attorney, if applicable
- State forms/schedules, as applicable
- All other taxpayer documents including Form(s) W-2 and Form(s) 1099
- If Self-Select PIN is used, no other distribution of forms is needed.

## Mail the following to:

IRS Processing Center (for e-filed return—after acknowledgement received)

- · Form 8453, if applicable
- · Copy of Form 8332, if applicable
- · Copy of Power of Attorney, if applicable
- · Any other required attachments

IRS SPEC Territory Office (as directed; generally at the end of the season)

- Form 8453, if applicable
- Form 8879 with original signature, if applicable
- · Form 8332, if applicable
- · Copy of Power of Attorney, if applicable
- Copy of Form(s) 1099 R, Form(s) W-2 and Form(s) W-2G
- Any other required attachments

Refer to PIN guidelines earlier in this section for more information.

**Important Note:** Please advise your sites that they must inform all taxpayers who e-file their return that they will not receive a tax package in the mail the following year. Forms and publications may be accessed via the Internet at www.irs.gov/formspubs.



## **Check Your Work – The Quality Review**

- Ensure that each return you file is accurate prior to obtaining the taxpayer's signature.
- Each site should have their own review process which may include the following:

#### The Volunteer Preparer

- 1. **Advise** the taxpayer of the importance of this final step and their role in the process.
- 2. **Compile** the taxpayer supporting documents and their intake and interview sheet (including notes taken during the intake and interview process).
- 3. **Introduce** the taxpayer to your site's quality reviewer and provide him/her the items in Number 2 above.

(NOTE: You may put the source document in the taxpayer's record keeping envelope, Publication 730.)

#### The Quality Reviewer

- 1. **Introduce** yourself to the taxpayer.
- 2. **Remind** them of the importance of this process and what to expect.
- 3. **Answer** any questions the taxpayer may have and make sure all your questions are answered.
- 4. Review the taxpayer's document and tax return (with the taxpayer while completing one of the following forms):
  - Form 13614-C
  - An IRS approved partner developed intake and quality review sheet
- 5. **Conduct** the review by reviewing (at a minimum):
  - · Identification documents
  - Social Security Number/Individual Tax Identification Number
  - Banking information for direct deposits or debits
  - Forms W-2
  - Forms1099 income statements (types of income include miscellaneous, interest, dividend, retirement, real estate transactions, state refunds, etc.)
  - Any earned income not reported on W-2
  - Form 1098 Mortgage Interest/Taxes Paid
  - Childcare statement from the provider which includes the provider's EIN or SSN
  - Charitable Contribution statements
  - Student loan interest statements
  - Education/tuition payments
  - If EIC checked "NO" on the Form 1040, page 2, confirm that this is correct.

#### If there are errors:

- Make other information on income and expenses the correction(s) on Form 13614-C or IRS approved partner form
- Correct the return and (if applicable) review again with the taxpayer.
- Obtain the appropriate taxpayer's signature(s) and e-file the return. (See closeout below.)

#### If there are no errors:

• Obtain the appropriate taxpayer's signature(s) and e-file the return. (See closeout below.)

#### The Closeout:

- Place the copy of the taxpayer's return and supporting documents (including Form 8879, IRS e-file Signature Authorization, if applicable) in Publication 730 (Record Keeping Envelope), if available.
- Advise the taxpayer to bring his/her completed tax return with schedules and worksheets back next year.

#### **Amended Returns**

This information presumes you have the original return in TaxWise®. Amended returns cannot be electronically filed.

- Open the original return in TaxWise<sup>®</sup>. If the return was previously adjusted by the IRS, to modify the original return to match the changes the IRS made before opening Form 1040X.
- Using the process for adding a form, select 1040X Pg 1 from the list. Add the state amended return forms if the taxpayer is required to correct that return as well..
- On the Form 1040X and the state's amended return form, if applicable, check the box at the top to override the original refund or balance due before making changes to any forms.
- Starting with the Main Information Sheet, confirm the address, filing status and exemptions from the original return and make any appropriate changes such as adding or removing dependents. Add additional Forms W-2, other income documents or credit information as if you are preparing the original return.
- TaxWise® will complete the Form 1040X Part I based on changes to the tax return. In Part III, provide an explanation for filing Form 1040X such as receiving another Form W-2 after filing the original return or forgetting to claim the child tax credit. Identify the line numbers that changed in Part I as well.
- Review the forms tree on the left for any red marks and fix them.
- Secure the taxpayer's signature and provide the mailing address from the instructions for the form.

**TaxWise® Hint:** To determine the correct Form 1040X mailing address, access the program help for page 2 of the form and follow the instructions at the bottom of the screen. The mailing addresses can also be found in the Form 1040X instructions.

**Note:** At the time this publication went to print, Form 1040X was being revised. Please go to the updated form in TaxWise and use the help features to complete the form.

# Scope of Service - Form 1040 Line Entries by Certification Level

Certification Level Indicators/Legend











Scope

Out of Link & Learn **Taxes** 

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please print or type. Presidential	City, town	or post office, state, and	I ZIP code. If you	ı have a foreign addre	s, see p	age 14.			ng a box below will r your tax or refund.	not
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page 17 and	-	- #	3 2					-	not entered above	
check here	d To	otal number of exemp	tions claimed					_	Add numbers on lines above >	
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# Scope of Service - Form 1040 Line Entries by Certification Level

Certification Level Indicators/Legend











Out of Scope Link & Learn **Taxes** 

Basic - A Intermediate - B

Advanced - C

Military - D International - E

**OFS** 

L&LT

Form 1040 (2010	)								Page 2
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	41	Subtract line 40 from line					41		
	42	Exemptions, Multiply \$3					42	All	
	43	Taxable income. Subtra			2000	T-100	43		-
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	66	American opportunity cre	edit from Form 8863	3, line 14 .	. 66	Œ	0.00		
	67	First-time homebuyer or	edit from Form 54	05, line 10 .		Œ			
	68	Amount paid with reques	t for extension to fi	le (see page 7					
	69	Excess social security and	tier 1 RRTA tax wit	hheld (see pag	e 72) 69 C				
	70	Credit for federal tax on	fuels. Attach Form	4136	70				
	71	Credits from Form: a 243							
	72	Add lines 61, 62, 63, 64a		7 2 7 7 7 7 7 7 7			72	All	
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Direct deposit? See page 73	74a	Amount of line 73 you wa	ant refunded to you	u. If Form 888			74a		-
and fill in 74b,	b	Routing number			CType: Ch	ecking Savings			
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Here		y are true, correct, and complete							O Delie)
Joint return?	Yo	ur signature		Date	Your occupation		Dayti	me phone number	
See page 15.		All							
Keep a copy for your	Sp				Spouse's occupa	tion			
records.		202 July 2010 6 1630 Th.			1111				
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Preparer	Fire	m's name	V-		4	Firm's EIN ▶	1		
Use Only	_	m's address >				Phone no.			
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## **Useful Publications and Forms**

#### Tax Publications for Individual Taxpayers

#### **General Guides**

- 1 Your Rights as a Taxpayer
- 17 Your Federal Income Tax For Individuals
- 334 Tax Guide for Small Business (For Individuals Who Use Schedule C or C-EZ)
- 509 Tax Calendars for 2010
- 910 IRS Guide to Free Tax Services

#### Specialized Publications

- 3 Armed Forces' Tax Guide
- Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad
- 225 Farmer's Tax Guide
- 463 Travel, Entertainment, Gift, and Car Expenses
- 501 Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information
- 502 Medical and Dental Expenses (Including the Health Coverage Tax Credit)
- 503 Child and Dependent Care Expenses
- Divorced or Separated Individuals
- 505 Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax
- 514 Foreign Tax Credit for Individuals
- 516 U.S. Government Civilian Employees Stationed Abroad
- 517 Social Security and Other Information for Members of the Clergy and Religious Workers
- 519 U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens
- 521 Moving Expenses
- 523 Selling Your Home
- Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled
- 525 Taxable and Nontaxable Income
- 526 Charitable Contributions
- Residential Rental Property (Including Rental of Vacation Homes)
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- Tax Information for Homeowners
- 531 Reporting Tip Income

- **Business Expenses**
- 536 Net Operating Losses (NOLs) for Individuals, Estates, and Trusts
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- Sales and Other Dispositions of Assets 544
- 547 Casualties, Disasters, and Thefts
- Investment Income and Expenses 550 (Including Capital Gains and Losses)
- 551 Basis of Assets
- Recordkeeping for Individuals
- 554 Tax Guide for Seniors
- Community Property
- 556 Examination of Returns, Appeal Rights, and Claims for Refund
- 559 Survivors, Executors, and Administrators
- Determining the Value of Donated Property
- Mutual Fund Distributions 564
- Tax Guide for Individuals With Income 570 From U.S. Possessions
- 571 Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plans (403(b) Plans) For Employees of Public Schools and Certain Tax-Exempt Organizations
- 575 Pension and Annuity Income
- 584 Casualty, Disaster, and Theft Loss Workbook (Personal-Use Property)
- 587 Business Use of Your Home (Including Use by Daycare Providers)
- Individual Retirement Arrangements 590 (IRAs)
- 593 Tax Highlights for U.S. Citizens and Residents Going Abroad
- 594 The IRS Collection Process
- 596 Earned Income Credit (EIC)
- Tax Guide to U.S. Civil Service Retirement Benefits
- 901 U.S. Tax Treaties
- Tax Highlights for Persons with 907 Disabilities

- 908 Bankruptcy Tax Guide
- 915 Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits
- 919 How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?
- 925 Passive Activity and At-Risk Rules
- 926 Household Employer's Tax Guide For Wages Paid in 2010
- Tax Rules for Children and Dependents
- 936 Home Mortgage Interest Deduction
- 946 How To Depreciate Property
- 947 Practice Before the IRS and Power of Attorney
- 950 Introduction to Estate and Gift Taxes
- 967 The IRS Will Figure Your Tax
- 969 Health Savings Accounts and Other Tax-Favored Health Plans
- 970 Tax Benefits for Education
- 971 Innocent Spouse Relief
- 972 Child Tax Credit
- 1542 Per Diem Rates (For Travel Within the Continental United States)
- 1544 Reporting Cash Payments of Over \$10,000 (Received in a Trade or Business)
- 1546 Taxpayer Advocate Service Your Voice at the IRS

#### **Spanish Language Publications**

- 1SP Derechos del Contribuyente
- 17SP El Impuesto Federal sobre los Ingresos Para Personas Fisicas
- 547SP Hechos Fortuitos Desastres y Robos
- 594SP El Proceso de Cobro del IRS
- 596SP Crédito por Ingreso del Trabajo
  - 850 English-Spanish Glossary of Words and Phrases Used in Publications Issued by the Internal Revenue Service
- **1544SP** Informe de Pagos en Efectivo en Exceso de \$10,000 (Recibidos en una Ocupación o Negocio)

#### **Commonly Used Tax Forms**

#### Form Number and Title

- 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
- Sch A Itemized Deductions
- Sch B Interest and Ordinary Dividends Profit or Loss From Business
- Sch C
- Sch C-EZ Net Profit From Business
- Sch D Capital Gains and Losses Sch D-1 Continuation Sheet for Schedule D
- Supplemental Income and Loss Sch E
- Sch EIC Earned Income Credit
- Sch F Profit or Loss From Farming
- Household Employment Taxes Sch H
- Income Averaging for Farmers and Fishermen Sch J
- Sch L Standard Deduction for Certain Filers
- Sch M Making Work Pay and Government Retiree Credits Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled Sch R
- Sch SE Self-Employment Tax
- 1040A U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
- 1040EZ Income Tax Return for Single and Joint Filers With No Dependents
- 1040-ES Estimated Tax for Individuals
  - 1040X Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return **Employee Business Expenses**
- 2106 Unreimbursed Employee Business 2106-EZ Expenses

#### Form Number and Title

- 2210 Underpayment of Estimated Tax by
- Individuals, Estates, and Trusts 2441
- Child and Dependent Care Expenses 2848 Power of Attorney and Declaration of
- Representativé 3903 Moving Expenses
- Depreciation and Amortization 4562
- Application for Automatic Extension of Time 4868 To File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
- 4952 Investment Interest Expense Deduction
- 5329 Additional Taxes on Qualified Plans (Including IRAs) and Other Tax-Favored Accounts
- 6251 Alternative Minimum Tax—Individuals
- 8283 Noncash Charitable Contributions
- 8582 Passive Activity Loss Limitations
- 8606 Nondeductible IRAs
- 8812 Additional Child Tax Credit
- 8822 Change of Address
- 8829 Expenses for Business Use of Your Home
- 8863 Education Credits (American Opportunity. Hope, and Lifetime Learning Credits)
- 9465 Installment Agreement Request

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## **Frequent Taxpayer Inquiries**

Taxpayers normally ask questions during the interview process about the topics covered in this section. Visit www.irs.gov-keyword: 1040 Central or see Publication 17 for additional topics and information.

#### **Peel-Off Label**

Taxpayers who e-file their return are normally removed from the IRS tax return package mailing list. If the taxpayer did not receive a tax return package and a paper return is being filed, print or type their name and address in the space provided.

#### **Installment Payment**

Publication 594, The IRS Collection Process, explains taxpayers' rights and responsibilities regarding payment of federal taxes.

#### **Copies of Prior-Years' Returns**

Taxpayers should complete Form 4506, Request for Copy of Tax Return, and mail it, with the required fee, to the IRS campus where the return was filed.

A transcript of a prior-year return may be obtained, also using Form 4506-T. There is no charge for the transcript which shows most line items from the original return, including accompanying forms and schedules.

#### **Amended Returns**

Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return should be used by taxpayers to amend their return. Many mistakes are corrected in processing by the IRS and a letter of explanation is mailed at the time an error is identified or when a refund is issued. In these cases, taxpayers are not required to file an Amended Return as the corrections have already been made.

Preparation of amended returns has a narrow scope in the VITA/TCE program. Volunteers can assist taxpayers with an amended return if both of these statements are true.

- 1. The 1040X is for the current year.
- 2. The original return was prepared at that same site.

#### **Taxpayer Address Changes**

Taxpayers should use Form 8822, Change of Address, to notify the IRS of any change of address. If taxpayers move after filing the return and before a refund is received, they should notify their old post office and the IRS of their new address.

#### Recordkeeping

Taxpayers should keep their tax documents until the statute of limitations runs out for the return. Usually, this is three years from the date the return was due or filed, or two years from the date the tax was paid, whichever is later. Refer taxpayers to Publication 552, Recordkeeping for Individuals or at www.irs.gov – keyword: Recordkeeping.

#### **FREE Tax Preparation Locations**

Consult your Site Coordinator for information about the location of other VITA/TCE sites in your area. Taxpayers may call 1-800-829-1040 or visit AARP's website at

www.aarp.org/taxaide or call 1-888-227-7669 for this information.

#### **Problems Navigating the IRS**

Taxpayers may contact the Taxpayer Advocate if their attempts to deal with an IRS problem are unsuccessful.

Taxpayers can visit www.irs.gov/advocate or see Publication 1546, for details on what the Taxpayer Advocate Service provides. Also suggest Publication 910, Guide to Free Tax Services.

#### **Refund Information**

Taxpayers should be directed to www.irs.gov to obtain information about their refund. Specific information is available by clicking on "Where's My Refund?"

#### **Innocent Spouse Relief**

Taxpayers who file a joint tax return are jointly and individually responsible for the tax and any interest or penalty due on the joint return even if they later divorce. In some cases, a spouse (or former spouse) will be relieved of the tax, interest, and penalties on a joint tax return. Spousal relief is granted in certain situations when a taxpayer can prove he/she is not liable for amounts due in joint filing situations.

Taxpayers should see Publication 971, Innocent Spouse Relief which explains the types of relief, who may qualify for them, and how to get them. Married persons who did not file joint returns, but who live in community property states, may also qualify for relief.

#### **Injured Spouse Relief**

An injured spouse claim is different from an innocent spouse relief request. An injured spouse can request the division of tax overpayment attributed to each spouse. The injured spouse must file Form 8379, Injured Spouse Allocation, to request his or her portion of a joint refund.

#### **Married Filing Separately Advantages**

Unless required to file separately, married taxpayers may want their tax figured on a joint return and on separate returns, to make sure they are receiving the most advantageous filing status. Generally, however married taxpayers pay more combined tax on separate returns than they would on a joint return. See Publication 17, Filing Status for Special Rules.

#### What is ARRA?

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) changed many tax provisions. For more information on these changes go to irs.gov and search "ARRA".

# **NOTES**

# **NOTES**

# **NOTES**

# **Contact Information for Volunteers**

#### **TaxWise**

TaxWise Volunteer Support	1-800-411-6391 (do not give to the public)
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TaxWise Toll-Free Transmission 1-800-829-5945

TaxWise via E-Mail customer.support@taxwise.com

TaxWise Website www.taxwise.com

#### **Internal Revenue Service**

VITA/TCE Hotline (for volunteer use only)	1-800-829-8482 (800-TAX-VITA)
IRS e-file Help Desk	1-866-255-0654
Foreign Student/Scholar Issues	1-800-829-1040
or to e-mail a question	www.irs.gov/taxlaw - select Alien issues
IRS SPEC Territory Office	
Enterprise Service Desk (Help Desk)	1-866-7HELP4U (1-866-743-5748)

**Identity Theft** 1-800-908-4490

#### **State Department of Revenue**

State Volunteer Hotline	
State e-file Help Desk	
State General Information	
State Tax Forms Distribution Center	
State Website	
Partner Point of Contact	

## **Contact Information for Taxpayers**

IRS Tax-Help	1-800-829-1040
IRS Refund Hotline	1-800-829-1954
Where's My Refund Website	www.irs.gov
IRS Forms and Publications	1-800-829-3676
IRS Taxpayer Advocate	1-877-777-4778
IRS Tax-Help for Deaf (TDD)	1-800-829-4059
Social Security Administration	1-800-772-1213
Refund Offset Inquiry (Financial Management System)	1-800-304-3107



# 2011 IRS e-file Refund Cycle Chart

Transmitted and accepted (by 11:00 am) between	Direct Deposit Sent*	Paper Check Mailed*
Jan 14 and Jan 20, 2011	Jan 28, 2011	Feb 4, 2011
Jan 20 and Jan 27, 2011	Feb 4, 2011	Feb 11, 2011
Jan 27 and Feb 3, 2011	Feb 11, 2011	Feb 18, 2011
Feb 3 and Feb 10, 2011	Feb 18, 2011	Feb 25, 2011
Feb 10 and Feb 17, 2011	Feb 25, 2011	Mar 4, 2011
Feb 17 and Feb 24, 2011	Mar 4, 2011	Mar 11, 2011
Feb 24 and Mar 3, 2011	Mar 11, 2011	Mar 18, 2011
Mar 3 and Mar 10, 2011	Mar 18, 2011	Mar 25, 2011
Mar 10 and Mar 17, 2011	Mar 25, 2011	Apr 1, 2011
Mar 17 and Mar 24, 2011	Apr 1, 2011	Apr 8, 2011
Mar 24 and Mar 31, 2011	Apr 8, 2011	Apr 15, 2011
Mar 31 and Apr 7, 2011	Apr 15, 2011	Apr 22, 2011
Apr 7 and Apr 14, 2011	Apr 22, 2011	Apr 29, 2011
Apr 14 and Apr 21, 2011	Apr 29, 2011	May 6, 2011
Apr 21 and Apr 28, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 13, 2011
Apr 28 and May 5, 2011	May 13, 2011	May 20, 2011
May 5 and May 12, 2011	May 20, 2011	May 27, 2011
May 12 and May 19, 2011	May 27, 2011	May 27, 2011
May 19 and May 26, 2011	Jun 3, 2011	Jun 10, 2011
May 26 and Jun 2, 2011	Jun 10, 2011	Jun 17, 2011

Transmitted and accepted (by 11:00 am) between	Direct Deposit Sent*	Paper Check Mailed*
Jun 2 and Jun 9, 2011	Jun 17, 2011	Jun 24, 2011
Jun 9 and Jun 16, 2011	Jun 24, 2011	Jul 1, 2011
Jun 16 and Jun 23, 2011	Jul 1, 2011	Jul 8, 2011
Jun 23 and Jun 30, 2011	Jul 8, 2011	Jul 15, 2011
Jun 30 and Jul 7, 2011	Jul 15, 2011	Jul 22, 2011
Jul 7 and Jul 14, 2011	Jul 22, 2011	Jul 29, 2011
Jul 14 and Jul 21, 2011	Jul 29, 2011	Aug 5, 2011
Jul 21 and Jul 28, 2011	Aug 5, 2011	Aug 12, 2011
Jul 28 and Aug 4, 2011	Aug 12, 2011	Aug 19, 2011
Aug 4 and Aug 11, 2011	Aug 19, 2011	Aug 26, 2011
Aug 11 and Aug 18, 2011	Aug 26, 2011	Sep 2, 2011
Aug 18 and Aug 25, 2011	Sep 2, 2011	Sep 9, 2011
Aug 25 and Sep 1, 2011	Sep 9, 2011	Sep 16, 2011
Sep 1 and Sep 8, 2011	Sep 16, 2011	Sep 23, 2011
Sep 8 and Sep 15, 2011	Sep 23, 2011	Sep 30, 2011
Sep 15 and Sep 22, 2011	Sep 30, 2011	Oct 7, 2011
Sep 22 and Sep 29, 2011	Oct 7, 2011	Oct 14, 2011
Sep 29 and Oct 6, 2011	Oct 14, 2011	Oct 21, 2011
Oct 6 and Oct 13, 2011	Oct 21, 2011	Oct 28, 2011
Oct 13 and Oct 20, 2011	Oct 28, 2011	Nov 4, 2011

#### **Refund Inquiries**

Taxpayers who e-filed can generally get refund information 72 hours after the electronic return data is acknowledged as accepted by the IRS. To check the status of a refund go to <a href="https://www.irs.gov">www.irs.gov</a> and click on <a href="https://www.irs.gov">Where's My Refund?</a> Taxpayers without internet access can get refund information by calling 1-800-829-1954 or 1-800-829-4477.





<sup>\*</sup> The IRS does not guarantee a specific date that a refund will be deposited into a taxpayer's financial institution account or mailed.