

Publication 515

Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities

For use in preparing

2025 Returns

Volume 7 of 7



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A distribution by a QIE to a nonresident alien or foreign corporation that is treated as gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI by the shareholder is subject to withholding at 21%.

Certain exceptions apply to the look-through rule for distributions by QIEs. Any distribution by a QIE with respect to stock regularly traded on an established securities market in the United States is not treated as gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI if the shareholder did not own more than 5% of that stock (or more than 10% of that stock in the case of REITs) at any time during the 1-year period ending on the date of the distribution. A distribution by a REIT generally is not treated as gain from the sale or exchange of a USRPI if the shareholder is a qualified shareholder (as described in section 897(k)(3)). These distributions may be included in the shareholder's gross income as a dividend from the QIE, not as long-term capital gain.

Disposition of REIT stock. Disposition of stock in a REIT that is held directly (or indirectly through one or more partnerships) by a qualified shareholder may not be subject to withholding. See section 897(k)(2) for more information.

Domestically controlled QIE. The sale of an interest in a domestically controlled QIE is not the sale of a USRPI. The entity is domestically controlled if at all times during the testing period less than 50% in value of its stock was held, directly or indirectly, by foreign persons. The testing period is the shorter of (a) the 5-year period ending on the date of disposition, or (b) the period during which the entity was in existence.

For the purpose of determining whether a QIE is domestically controlled, the following rules apply.

1. A person holding less than 5% of any class of stock of a QIE that is regularly traded on an established securities

market in the United States at all times during the testing period will be treated as a U.S. person unless the QIE has actual knowledge that such person is not a U.S. person.

2. Any stock in a QIE that is held by another QIE will be treated as held by a foreign person if:
 - a. Any class of stock of such other QIE is regularly traded on an established securities market, or
 - b. Such other QIE is a RIC that issues certain redeemable securities.

Notwithstanding the above, the stock of the QIE will be treated as held by a U.S. person if such other QIE is domestically controlled.

3. Stock in a QIE that is held by any other QIE not described above will be treated as held by a U.S. person in proportion to the stock ownership of

such other QIE that is (or is treated as) held by a U.S. person.

If a foreign shareholder in a domestically controlled QIE disposes of an interest in the QIE in an applicable wash sale transaction, special rules apply. See section 897 for more information.

Retirement and pension funds. A qualified foreign pension fund or any entity wholly owned by such qualified foreign pension fund will not be treated as a foreign person for dispositions of USRPI or distributions received from a REIT or certain RICs described in section 897(h)(4)(A)(ii). Qualified foreign pension funds are described in section 897(l)(2).

Additional information. For additional information on the withholding rules that apply to corporations, trusts, estates, and qualified investment entities, see section 1445 and the related regulations.

For additional information on the withholding rules that apply to partnerships, see the previous discussion.

Exceptions. You do not have to withhold if any of the following apply.

1. You (the transferee) acquire the property for use as a residence and the amount realized (sales price) is not more than \$300,000. You or a member of your family must have definite plans to reside at the property for at least 50% of the number of days the property is used by any person during each of the first two 12-month periods following the date of transfer. When counting the number of days the property is used, do not count the days the property will be vacant. For this exception, the transferee must be an individual.

2. The property disposed of is an interest in a domestic corporation and any class of stock of the corporation is regularly traded on an established securities market. However, this exception does not apply to certain dispositions of substantial amounts of non-publicly traded interests in publicly traded corporations.
3. The disposition is of an interest in a domestic corporation and that corporation furnishes you a certification stating, under penalties of perjury, that the interest is not a USRPI. In most cases, the corporation can make this certification only if either of the following is true.
 - During the previous 5 years (or, if shorter, the period the interest was held by its present owner), the corporation was not a USRPHC.

- As of the date of disposition, the interest in the corporation is not a USRPI by reason of section 897(c)(1)(B). The certification must be dated not more than 30 days before the date of transfer.
4. The transferor gives you a certification stating, under penalties of perjury, that the transferor is not a foreign person and containing the transferor's name, U.S. TIN, and home address (or office address, in the case of an entity). A certificate of non-foreign status includes a Form W-9 and for qualified foreign pension funds, or entities wholly owned by qualified foreign pension funds, Form W-8EXP. The transferor can give the certification to a qualified substitute. The qualified substitute gives you a statement, under penalties of perjury, that the certification is in the possession of the qualified substitute.

For this purpose, a qualified substitute is (a) the person (including any attorney or title company) responsible for closing the transaction, other than the transferor's agent, and (b) the transferee's agent.

5. You receive a withholding certificate from the IRS that excuses withholding. See Withholding Certificates, later.
6. The transferor gives you written notice that no recognition of any gain or loss on the transfer is required because of a nonrecognition provision in the Internal Revenue Code or a provision in a U.S. tax treaty. You must file a copy of the notice by the 20th day after the date of transfer with:

Ogden Service Center
P.O. Box 409101
Ogden, UT 84409

1. The amount the transferor realizes on the transfer of a USRPI is zero.
2. The property is acquired by the United States, a U.S. state or territory, a political subdivision, or the District of Columbia.
3. The grantor realizes an amount on the grant or lapse of an option to acquire a USRPI. However, you must withhold on the sale, exchange, or exercise of that option.
4. The disposition is of an interest in a publicly traded partnership or trust. However, this exception does not apply to certain dispositions of substantial amounts of non-publicly traded interests in publicly traded partnerships or trusts.

Late filing of certifications or notices. If you become aware that you have failed to timely file certain certifications or notices, you still may be able to file them. See Revenue Procedure 2008-27, 2008-21 I.R.B. 1014 available at [IRS.gov/irb/2008-21_IRB#RP-2008-27](https://www.irs.gov/irb/2008-21_IRB#RP-2008-27).

Complete the required certification or notice and file it with the appropriate person or the IRS. Also include the following.

- A statement at the top of the document(s) that it is "FILED PURSUANT TO Revenue Procedure 2008-27."
- An explanation describing why the failure was due to reasonable cause. Within the explanation, provide that you filed with, or obtained from, an appropriate person the required certification or notice.



The completed certification or notice attached to the explanation must be sent to:

Ogden Service Center
P.O. Box 409101
Ogden, UT 84409

Certifications. The certifications in items (3) and (4) are not effective if you (or the qualified substitute) have actual knowledge, or receive a notice from an agent (or substitute), that they are false. This also applies to the qualified substitute's statement under item (4).

If you (or the substitute) are required by regulations to furnish a copy of the certification (or statement) to the IRS and you (or the substitute) fail to do so in the time and manner prescribed, the certification (or statement) is not effective.

Liability of agent or qualified substitute.

If you (or the substitute) receive a certification discussed in item (3) or (4) or a statement in item (4), and the agent, or substitute, has actual knowledge that the certification (or statement) is false, or in the case of (3), that the corporation is a foreign corporation, the agent (or substitute) must notify you, or the agent (or substitute) will be held liable for the tax. The agent's (or substitute's) liability is limited to the compensation the agent (or substitute) gets from the transaction.

An agent is any person who represents the transferor or transferee in any negotiation with another person (or another person's agent) relating to the transaction, or in settling the transaction. A person is not treated as an agent if the person only performs one or more of the following acts related to the transaction.

- Receipt and disbursement of any part of the consideration.
- Recording of any document.
- Typing, copying, and other clerical tasks.
- Obtaining title insurance reports and reports concerning the condition of the property.
- Transmitting documents between the parties.

Reporting and Paying the Tax

Transferees must use Forms 8288 and 8288-A to report and pay over any tax withheld on the acquisition of a USRPI. These forms must also be used by corporations, estates, and QIEs that must withhold tax on distributions and other transactions involving a USRPI. You must include the U.S. TIN of both the transferor and the transferee on the forms.

For partnerships disposing of a USRPI, the manner of reporting and paying over the tax withheld is the same as discussed earlier under Partnership Withholding on ECTI.

Publicly traded trusts must use Forms 1042 and 1042-S to report and pay over tax withheld on distributions from dispositions of a USRPI.

QIEs must use Forms 1042 and 1042-S for a distribution to a nonresident alien or foreign corporation that is treated as a dividend, as discussed earlier under Qualified investment entities (QIEs).

Form 8288. The tax withheld on the acquisition of a USRPI from a foreign person is reported and paid over using Form 8288. Form 8288 also serves as the transmittal form for copies A and B of Form 8288-A.



In most cases, you must file Form 8288 by the 20th day after the date of the transfer.

If an application for a withholding certificates (discussed later) is submitted to the IRS before or on the date of a transfer and the application is still pending with the IRS on the date of transfer, the correct withholding tax must be withheld, but does not have to be reported and paid over immediately. The amount withheld (or lesser amount, as determined by the IRS) must be reported and paid over within 20 days following the day on which a copy of the withholding certificate or notice of denial is mailed by the IRS.

If the principal purpose of applying for a withholding certificate is to delay paying over the withheld tax, the transferee will be subject to interest and penalties. The interest and penalties will be assessed for the period beginning on the 21st day after the date of transfer and ending on the day the payment is made.

Form 8288-A. The withholding agent must prepare a Form 8288-A for each person from whom tax has been withheld. Attach copies A and B of Form 8288-A to Form 8288. Keep copy C for your records.

The IRS will stamp copy B and send it to the person subject to withholding. That person must file a U.S. income tax return and attach the stamped Form 8288-A to receive credit for any tax withheld.



A stamped copy of Form 8288-A will not be provided to the transferor if the transferor's TIN is not included on that form. The IRS will send a letter to the transferor requesting the TIN and providing instructions for how to get a TIN. When the transferor provides the IRS with a TIN, the IRS will provide the transferor with a stamped copy B of Form 8288-A.

Form 1099-S. In most cases, the real estate broker or other person responsible for closing the transaction must report the sale of the

property to the IRS using Form 1099-S. For more information about Form 1099-S, see the [Instructions for Form 1099-S](#) and the [General Instructions for Certain Information Returns](#).

Withholding Certificates

The amount that must be withheld from the disposition of a USRPI can be adjusted by a withholding certificate issued by the IRS. The transferee, the transferee's agent, or the transferor may request a withholding certificate. The IRS will generally act on these requests within 90 days after receipt of a complete application including the TINs of all the parties to the transaction. A transferor that applies for a withholding certificate must notify the transferee, in writing, that the certificate has been applied for on the day of or the day before the transfer.

A withholding certificate may be issued due to:

1. A determination by the IRS that reduced withholding is appropriate because either:
 - a. The amount that must be withheld would be more than the transferor's maximum tax liability, or
 - b. Withholding of the reduced amount would not jeopardize collection of the tax;
2. The exemption from U.S. tax of all gain realized by the transferor; or
3. An agreement for the payment of tax providing security for the tax liability, entered into by the transferee or transferor.

Applications for withholding certificates are divided into six basic categories.

This categorizing provides for specific information that is needed to process the applications. The six categories are:

1. Applications based on a claim that the transferor is entitled to nonrecognition treatment or is exempt from tax,
2. Applications based solely on a calculation of the transferor's maximum tax liability,
3. Applications under special installment sales rules,
4. Applications based on an agreement for the payment of tax with conforming security,
5. Applications for blanket withholding certificates, and
6. Applications on any other basis.



The applicant must make available to the IRS, within the time prescribed, all information required to verify that representations relied upon in accepting the agreement are accurate, and that the obligations assumed by the applicant will be performed pursuant to the agreement. Failure to provide requested information promptly will usually result in rejection of the application, unless the IRS grants an extension of the target date.

Categories (1), (2), and (3). Use Form 8288-B to apply for a withholding certificate. Follow the instructions for the form.

Categories (4), (5), and (6). Do not use Form 8288-B for applications under categories (4), (5), and (6). For these categories, follow the instructions given here and under the specific category.

All applications for withholding certificates must use the following format.

The information must be provided in paragraphs labeled to correspond with the numbers and letters set forth below. If the information requested does not apply, place "N/A" in the relevant space.

1. Information on the application category:
 - a. State which category (4, 5, or 6) describes the application,
 - b. If a category (4) application:
 - i. State whether the proposed agreement secures (A) the transferor's maximum tax liability, or (B) the amount that would otherwise have to be withheld; and
 - ii. State whether the proposed agreement and security instrument conform to the standard formats.

2. Information on the transferee or transferor:
 - a. State the name, address, and TIN of the person applying for the withholding certificate (if this person does not have a TIN and is eligible for an ITIN, they can apply for the ITIN by attaching the application to a completed Form W-7 and forwarding the package to the address given in the Form W-7 instructions);
 - b. State whether that person is the transferee or transferor; and
 - c. State the name, address, and TIN of all other transferees and transferors of the USRPI for which the withholding certificate is sought.

3. Information on the USRPI for which the withholding certificate is sought. State the:
- a. Type of interest (such as interest in real property, in associated personal property, or in a domestic U.S. real property holding corporation);
 - b. Contract price;
 - c. Date of transfer;
 - d. Location and general description (if an interest in real property);
 - e. Class or type and amount of the interest in a U.S. real property holding corporation; and
 - f. Whether in the 3 preceding tax years (1) U.S. income tax returns were filed relating to the USRPI and, if so, when and where those returns were filed and, if not,

why returns were not filed, and
(2) U.S. income taxes were paid
relating to the USRPI and, if so,
the amount of tax paid.

4. Provide full information concerning the basis for the issuance of the withholding certificate. Although the information to be included in this section of the application will vary from case to case, the rules shown under the specific category provide general guidelines for the inclusion of appropriate information for that category.

The application must be signed by the individual, a responsible officer in the case of a corporation, a general partner in the case of a partnership, or a trustee, executor, or equivalent fiduciary in the case of a trust or estate, or a duly authorized agent (with a copy of the power of attorney, such as Form 2848, attached).

The person signing the application must verify under penalties of perjury that all representations are true, correct, and complete to that person's knowledge and belief. If the application is based in whole or in part on information provided by another party to the transaction, that information must be supported by a written verification signed under penalties of perjury by that party and attached to the application.

Send applications to the:



Ogden Service Center
P.O. Box 409101
Ogden, UT 84409

Category (4) applications. If the application is based on an agreement for the payment of tax, the application must include:

- Information establishing the transferor's maximum tax liability, or the amount that otherwise has to be withheld;

- A signed copy of the agreement proposed by the applicant; and
- A copy of the security instrument proposed by the applicant.

Either the transferee or the transferor may enter into an agreement for the payment of tax. The agreement is a contract between the IRS and any other person and consists of two necessary elements. Those elements are:

- A detailed description of the rights and obligations of each, and
- A security instrument or other form of security acceptable to the Commissioner or his delegate.

For more information on the agreement for the payment of tax, including a sample agreement, see section 5 of Revenue Procedure 2000-35, 2000-35 I.R.B. 211, available at [IRS.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb00-35.pdf](https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb00-35.pdf).

There are four major types of security acceptable to the IRS. They are:

- Bond with surety or guarantor,
- Bond with collateral,
- Letter of credit, and
- Guarantee (corporate transferors).

The IRS may, in unusual circumstances and at its discretion, accept any additional form of security that it finds to be adequate.

For more information on acceptable security instruments, including sample forms of these instruments, see section 6 of Revenue Procedure 2000-35.

Category (5) applications. A blanket withholding certificate may be issued if the transferor holding the USRPI provides an irrevocable letter of credit or a guarantee and enters into a tax payment and security agreement with the IRS.

A blanket withholding certificate excuses withholding concerning multiple dispositions of those property interests by the transferor or the transferor's legal representative during a period of no more than 12 months.

For more information, see section 9 of Revenue Procedure 2000-35.

Category (6) applications. These are nonstandard applications and may be of the following types.

Agreement for payment of tax with nonconforming security. An applicant seeking to enter into an agreement for the payment of tax but wanting to provide a nonconforming type of security must include the following in the application.

1. The information required for category (4) applications, discussed earlier.
2. A description of the nonconforming security proposed by the applicant.

3. A memorandum of law and facts establishing that the proposed security is valid and enforceable and that it adequately protects the government's interest.

Other nonstandard applications. An application for a withholding certificate not previously described must explain in detail the proposed basis for the issuance of the certificate and set forth the reasons justifying the issuance of a certificate on that basis.

Amendments to Applications

An applicant for a withholding certificate may amend an otherwise complete application by sending an amending statement to the address shown earlier in *Withholding Certificates*. There is no particular form required, but the amending statement must provide the following information.

- The name, address, and TIN of the person providing the amending statement

specifying whether that person is the transferee or transferor.

- The date of the original application for a withholding certificate that is being amended.
- A brief description of the real property interest for which the original application for a withholding certificate was provided.
- The basis for the amendment including any change in the facts supporting the original application for a withholding certificate and any change in the terms of the withholding certificate.

The statement must be signed and accompanied by a penalties of perjury statement.

If an amending statement is provided, the time in which the IRS must act upon the application is extended by 30 days. If the amending statement substantially changes the original application, the time for acting

upon the application is extended by 60 days. If an amending statement is received after the withholding certificate has been signed, but before it has been mailed to the applicant, the IRS will have a 90-day extension of time in which to act.

Definitions

Chapter 4 withholding rate pool. A

“chapter 4 withholding rate pool” means a pool of payees that are nonparticipating FFIs provided on a chapter 4 withholding statement (as described in Regulations section 1.1471-3(c)(3)(iii)(B)(3)) to which a withholdable payment is allocated. The term also means a pool of payees provided on an FFI withholding statement (as described in Regulations section 1.1471-3(c)(iii)(B)(2)) to which a withholdable payment is allocated to (a) a pool of payees consisting of each class of recalcitrant account holders described in Regulations section 1.1471-4(d)(6) (or with respect to an FFI that is a QI, a single pool of

recalcitrant account holders), including a separate pool of account holders to which the escrow procedures for dormant accounts apply; or (b) a pool of payees that are U.S. persons as described in Regulations section 1.1471-3(c)(3)(iii)(B) (2) (including such a pool allocated to a reportable amount on a withholding statement provided solely for chapter 3 purposes).

Deemed-compliant FFI. A “deemed-compliant FFI” means an FFI that is treated, pursuant to section 1471(b) (2) and Regulations section 1.1471-5(f), as meeting the requirements of section 1471(b). The term “deemed-compliant FFI” includes a nonreporting IGA FFI (as defined in Regulations section 1.1471-1(b)(83)).

Dividend equivalents. Generally, a “dividend equivalent” is any payment that references the payment of a dividend from an underlying security pursuant to a securities lending or sale-repurchase transaction, SNPC,

or specified ELI. This applies without regard to whether there is an actual distribution of cash or property.

Exempt beneficial owner. An “exempt beneficial owner” is any person described in Regulations sections 1.1471-6(b) through (g) and includes any person treated as an exempt beneficial owner under an applicable Model 1 IGA or Model 2 IGA.

Financial institution (FI). A “financial institution” (FI) is any institution that is a depository institution, custodial institution, investment entity, insurance company (or holding company of an insurance company) that issues cash value insurance or annuity contracts, or a holding company or treasury center that is part of an expanded affiliated group of certain FFIs, and includes a financial institution, as defined under an applicable Model 1 IGA or Model 2 IGA. See Regulations section 1.1471-5(e)(1).

Foreign financial institution (FFI). Except as otherwise provided for certain foreign branches of a U.S. financial institution or territory financial institutions, a “foreign financial institution” (FFI) means a financial institution that is a foreign entity.

The term “FFI” also includes a foreign branch of a U.S. financial institution with a QI agreement in effect.

Model 1 IGA. A “Model 1 IGA” means an agreement between the United States or the Treasury Department and a foreign government or one or more foreign agencies to implement FATCA through reporting by financial institutions to such foreign government or agency thereof, followed by automatic exchange of the reported information with the IRS. For a list of jurisdictions treated as having an IGA in effect, go to [Treasury.gov/Resource-Center/Tax-Policy/Treaties/Pages/FATCA.aspx](https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/tax-policy/treaties/Pages/FATCA.aspx).

Model 2 IGA. A “Model 2 IGA” means an agreement or arrangement between the United States or the Treasury Department and a foreign government or one or more foreign agencies to implement FATCA through reporting by financial institutions directly to the IRS in accordance with the requirements of the FFI agreement, as modified by an applicable Model 2 IGA, supplemented by the exchange of information between such foreign government or agency thereof and the IRS. For a list of jurisdictions treated as having an IGA in effect, go to [Treasury.gov/ Resource-Center/Tax-Policy/Treaties/Pages/FATCA.aspx](https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/tax-policy/treaties/Pages/FATCA.aspx).

Non-financial foreign entity (NFFE). A “non-financial foreign entity” (NFFE) is a foreign entity that is not a financial institution.

An NFFE includes a territory NFFE, as defined in Regulations section 1.1471-1(b)(132), and a foreign entity treated as an NFFE pursuant to a Model 1 IGA or Model 2 IGA.

Nonparticipating FFI. A “nonparticipating FFI” is an FFI other than a participating FFI, a deemed-compliant FFI, or an exempt beneficial owner.

Participating FFI. A “participating FFI” is an FFI that has agreed to comply with the requirements of an FFI agreement with respect to all branches of the FFI, other than a branch that is a reporting Model 1 FFI or a U.S. branch. The term “participating FFI” also includes a reporting Model 2 FFI and a QI branch of a U.S. financial institution, unless such branch is a reporting Model 1 FFI.

Passive NFFE. A “passive NFFE” is an NFFE that is not an excepted NFFE. With respect to a reporting Model 2 FFI filing a Form 8966 to report its accounts and payees, a passive

NFFE is an NFFE that is not an active NFFE (as described in the applicable IGA).

Qualified derivatives dealer (QDD). A “qualified derivatives dealer” (QDD) is a QI that is an eligible entity (as defined in Regulations section 1.1441-1(e)(6)(ii)) that agrees to meet the requirements of Regulations section 1.1441-1(e)(6)(i) and the QI agreement.

Recalcitrant account holder. A “recalcitrant account holder” is an account holder (other than an account holder that is an FFI or is presumed to be an FFI) of a participating FFI or registered deemed-compliant FFI that has failed to provide the FFI maintaining its account with the information required under Regulations section 1.1471-5(g).

Registered deemed-compliant FFI. A “registered deemed-compliant FFI” is an FFI described in Regulations section 1.1471-5(f)(1) and includes a reporting Model 1

FFI and a QI branch of a U.S. financial institution that is a reporting Model 1 FFI.

Reporting Model 1 FFI. A “reporting Model 1 FFI” is an FI, including a foreign branch of a U.S. financial institution, treated as a reporting financial institution under a Model 1 IGA.

Reporting Model 2 FFI. A “reporting Model 2 FFI” is an FFI described in a Model 2 IGA that has agreed to comply with the requirements of an FFI agreement with respect to a branch.

Territory financial institution. A “territory financial institution” is a financial institution that is incorporated or organized under the laws of any U.S. territory, excluding a territory entity that is a financial institution only because it is an investment entity, as defined in Regulations section 1.1471-5(e)(4).

Withholdable payment. A “withholdable payment” is a payment described in Regulations section 1.1473-1(a). See *Income Subject to Withholding*, earlier, for a discussion of which payments qualify as withholdable payments.

Tax Treaties

The United States has bilateral income tax treaties, also known as “conventions,” with a number of foreign countries under which residents (sometimes limited to citizens) of those countries are taxed at a reduced rate or are exempt from U.S. income taxes on certain income received from within the United States.

Withholding at source under the statutory rules discussed in this publication may not be required, or may be required at a reduced rate, for income that is subject to a reduced rate or exempt under a tax treaty, so long as the taxpayer claiming such exemption satisfies all of the relevant requirements,

including providing to its withholding agent any applicable withholding certificates (or documentary evidence, when permitted) supporting the treaty claim.

Obtaining treaty information. You can obtain the full text of these treaties, and accompanying technical explanations, at [IRS.gov/Businesses/International-Businesses/United-States-Income-Tax-Treaties-A-to-Z](https://www.irs.gov/Businesses/International-Businesses/United-States-Income-Tax-Treaties-A-to-Z).

Detailed information about treaty provisions can be found at [IRS.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/TaxTreaties](https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/TaxTreaties).

Tax treaty tables. The tax treaty tables previously contained in this publication have been updated and moved to [IRS.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/Tax-TreatyTables](https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/International-Taxpayers/Tax-TreatyTables).

How To Get Tax Help

If you have questions about a tax issue; need help preparing your tax return; or want to download free publications, forms, or instructions, go to [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) to find resources that can help you right away.

Preparing and filing your tax return.

After receiving all your wage and earnings statements (Forms W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-MISC, 1099-NEC, etc.); unemployment compensation statements (by mail or in a digital format) or other government payment statements (Form 1099-G); and interest, dividend, and retirement statements from banks and investment firms (Forms 1099), you have several options to choose from to prepare and file your tax return. You can prepare the tax return yourself, see if you qualify for free tax preparation, or hire a tax professional to prepare your return.

Free options for tax preparation. Your options for preparing and filing your return online or in your local community, if you qualify, include the following.

- **Direct File.** Direct File is a permanent option to file individual federal tax returns online—for free—directly and securely with the IRS. Direct File is an option for taxpayers in participating states who have relatively simple tax returns reporting certain types of income and claiming certain credits and deductions. While Direct File doesn't prepare state returns, if you live in a participating state, Direct File guides you to a state-supported tool you can use to prepare and file your state tax return for free. Go to [IRS.gov/DirectFile](https://www.irs.gov/DirectFile) for more information, program updates, and frequently asked questions.
- **Free File.** This program lets you prepare and file your federal individual income tax return for free using software or Free File

Fillable Forms. However, state tax preparation may not be available through Free File. Go to [IRS.gov/FreeFile](https://www.irs.gov/FreeFile) to see if you qualify for free online federal tax preparation, e-filing, and direct deposit or payment options.

- **VITA.** The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people with low-to-moderate incomes, persons with disabilities, and limited-English-speaking taxpayers who need help preparing their own tax returns. Go to [IRS.gov/ VITA](https://www.irs.gov/VITA), download the free IRS2Go app, or call 800-906-9887 for information on free tax return preparation.
- **TCE.** The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program offers free tax help for all taxpayers, particularly those who are 60 years of age and older. TCE volunteers specialize in answering questions about pensions and retirement-related issues

unique to seniors. Go to [IRS.gov/TCE](https://www.irs.gov/TCE) or download the free IRS2Go app for information on free tax return preparation.

- **MilTax.** Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and qualified veterans may use MilTax, a free tax service offered by the Department of Defense through Military OneSource. For more information, go to [MilitaryOneSource](https://www.militaryonesource.com) ([MilitaryOneSource.mil/MilTax](https://www.militaryonesource.com/mil/tax)).

Also, the IRS offers Free Fillable Forms, which can be completed online and then e-filed regardless of income.

Using online tools to help prepare your return. Go to [IRS.gov/Tools](https://www.irs.gov/Tools) for the following.

- [IRS.gov/DirectFile](https://www.irs.gov/directfile) offers an Eligibility Checker to help you determine if Direct File is the right choice for your tax filing needs.

- The [*Earned Income Tax Credit Assistant*](https://www.irs.gov/EITCAssistant) ([*IRS.gov/ EITCAssistant*](https://www.irs.gov/EITCAssistant)) determines if you're eligible for the earned income credit (EIC).
- The [*Online EIN Application*](https://www.irs.gov/EIN) ([*IRS.gov/EIN*](https://www.irs.gov/EIN)) helps you get an employer identification number (EIN) at no cost.
- The [*Tax Withholding Estimator*](https://www.irs.gov/W4App) ([*IRS.gov/W4App*](https://www.irs.gov/W4App)) makes it easier for you to estimate the federal income tax you want your employer to withhold from your paycheck. This is tax withholding. See how your withholding affects your refund, take-home pay, or tax due.
- The [*First-Time Homebuyer Credit Account Look-up*](https://www.irs.gov/HomeBuyer) ([*IRS.gov/HomeBuyer*](https://www.irs.gov/HomeBuyer)) tool provides information on your repayments and account balance.

- The [Sales Tax Deduction Calculator](#) ([IRS.gov/ SalesTax](#)) figures the amount you can claim if you itemize deductions on Schedule A (Form 1040).



Getting answers to your tax

questions. On IRS.gov, you can get up-to-date information on current events and changes in tax law.

- [IRS.gov/Help](#): A variety of tools to help you get answers to some of the most common tax questions.
- [IRS.gov/ITA](#): The Interactive Tax Assistant, a tool that will ask you questions and, based on your input, provide answers on a number of tax topics.
- [IRS.gov/Forms](#): Find forms, instructions, and publications. You will find details on the most recent tax changes and interactive links to help you find answers to your questions.

- You may also be able to access tax information in your e-filing software.

Need someone to prepare your tax

return? There are various types of tax return preparers, including enrolled agents, certified public accountants (CPAs), accountants, and many others who don't have professional credentials. If you choose to have someone prepare your tax return, choose that preparer wisely. A paid tax preparer is:

- Primarily responsible for the overall substantive accuracy of your return,
- Required to sign the return, and
- Required to include their preparer tax identification number (PTIN).



Although the tax preparer always signs the return, you're ultimately responsible for providing all the information required for the preparer to accurately prepare your return and for the accuracy of every item reported on the

return. Anyone paid to prepare tax returns for others should have a thorough understanding of tax matters. For more information on how to choose a tax preparer, go to [Tips for Choosing a Tax Preparer](#) on IRS.gov.

Employers can register to use Business Services Online. The Social Security Administration (SSA) offers online service at [SSA.gov/employer](https://ssa.gov/employer) for fast, free, and secure W-2 filing options to CPAs, accountants, enrolled agents, and individuals who process Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement; and Form W-2c, Corrected Wage and Tax Statement.

Business tax account. If you are a sole proprietor, a partnership, or an S corporation, you can view your tax information on record with the IRS and do more with a business tax account. Go to [IRS.gov/BusinessAccount](https://irs.gov/BusinessAccount) for more information.

IRS social media. Go to [IRS.gov/SocialMedia](https://www.irs.gov/SocialMedia) to see the various social media tools the IRS uses to share the latest information on tax changes, scam alerts, initiatives, products, and services. At the IRS, privacy and security are our highest priority. We use these tools to share public information with you. **Don't** post your social security number (SSN) or other confidential information on social media sites. Always protect your identity when using any social networking site.

The following IRS YouTube channels provide short, informative videos on various tax-related topics in English, Spanish, and ASL.

- [Youtube.com/irsvideos](https://www.youtube.com/irsvideos).
- [Youtube.com/irsvideomultilingua](https://www.youtube.com/irsvideomultilingua).
- [Youtube.com/irsvideosASL](https://www.youtube.com/irsvideosASL).

Online tax information in other languages. You can find information on [IRS.gov/MyLanguage](https://www.irs.gov/MyLanguage) if English isn't your native language.

Free Over-the-Phone Interpreter (OPI) Service. The IRS is committed to serving taxpayers with limited-English proficiency (LEP) by offering OPI services. The OPI Service is a federally funded program and is available at Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs), most IRS offices, and every VITA/TCE tax return site. The OPI Service is accessible in more than 350 languages.

Accessibility Helpline available for taxpayers with disabilities. Taxpayers who need information about accessibility services can call 833-690-0598. The Accessibility Helpline can answer questions related to current and future accessibility products and services available in alternative media formats (for example, braille, large print, audio, etc.).

The Accessibility Helpline does not have access to your IRS account. For help with tax law, refunds, or account-related issues, go to [IRS.gov/LetUsHelp](https://www.irs.gov/LetUsHelp).

Alternative media preference. Form 9000, Alternative Media Preference, or Form 9000(SP) allows you to elect to receive certain types of written correspondence in the following formats.

- Standard Print.
- Large Print.
- Braille.
- Audio (MP3).
- Plain Text File (TXT).
- Braille Ready File (BRF).

Disasters. Go to [IRS.gov/DisasterRelief](https://www.irs.gov/DisasterRelief) to review the available disaster tax relief.

Getting tax forms and publications. Go to [IRS.gov/ Forms](https://www.irs.gov/forms) to view, download, or print all the forms, instructions, and publications you may need. Or, you can go to [IRS.gov/OrderForms](https://www.irs.gov/OrderForms) to place an order.

Mobile-friendly forms. You'll need an IRS Online Account (OLA) to complete mobile-friendly forms that require signatures. You'll have the option to submit your form(s) online or download a copy for mailing. You'll need scans of your documents to support your submission. Go to [IRS.gov/MobileFriendlyForms](https://www.irs.gov/MobileFriendlyForms) for more information.

Getting tax publications and instructions in eBook format. Download and view most tax publications and instructions (including the Instructions for Form 1040) on mobile devices as eBooks at [IRS.gov/eBooks](https://www.irs.gov/eBooks).

IRS eBooks have been tested using Apple's iBooks for iPad. Our eBooks haven't been

tested on other dedicated eBook readers, and eBook functionality may not operate as intended.

Access your online account (individual taxpayers only). Go to [IRS.gov/Account](https://www.irs.gov/Account) to securely access information about your federal tax account.

- View the amount you owe and a breakdown by tax year.
- See payment plan details or apply for a new payment plan.
- Make a payment or view 5 years of payment history and any pending or scheduled payments.
- Access your tax records, including key data from your most recent tax return, and transcripts.
- View digital copies of select notices from the IRS.

- Approve or reject authorization requests from tax professionals.
- View your address on file or manage your communication preferences.

Get a transcript of your return. With an online account, you can access a variety of information to help you during the filing season. You can get a transcript, review your most recently filed tax return, and get your adjusted gross income. Create or access your online account at [IRS.gov/ Account](https://www.irs.gov/Account).

Tax Pro Account. This tool lets your tax professional submit an authorization request to access your individual taxpayer IRS OLA. For more information, go to [IRS.gov/ TaxProAccount](https://www.irs.gov/TaxProAccount).

Using direct deposit. The safest and easiest way to receive a tax refund is to e-file and choose direct deposit, which securely and electronically transfers your refund directly into your financial account.

Direct deposit also avoids the possibility that your check could be lost, stolen, destroyed, or returned undeliverable to the IRS. Eight in 10 taxpayers use direct deposit to receive their refunds. If you don't have a bank account, go to [IRS.gov/DirectDeposit](https://www.irs.gov/DirectDeposit) for more information on where to find a bank or credit union that can open an account online.

Reporting and resolving your tax-related identity theft issues.

- Tax-related identity theft happens when someone steals your personal information to commit tax fraud. Your taxes can be affected if your SSN is used to file a fraudulent return or to claim a refund or credit.
- The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages (including shortened links), telephone calls, or social media channels to request or verify personal or financial information.

This includes requests for personal identification numbers (PINs), passwords, or similar information for credit cards, banks, or other financial accounts.

- Go to [IRS.gov/IdentityTheft](https://www.irs.gov/IdentityTheft), the IRS Identity Theft Central webpage, for information on identity theft and data security protection for taxpayers, tax professionals, and businesses. If your SSN has been lost or stolen or you suspect you're a victim of tax-related identity theft, you can learn what steps you should take.
- Get an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN). IP PINs are six-digit numbers assigned to taxpayers to help prevent the misuse of their SSNs on fraudulent federal income tax returns. When you have an IP PIN, it prevents someone else from filing a tax return with your SSN. To learn more, go to [IRS.gov/IPPIN](https://www.irs.gov/IPPIN).

Ways to check on the status of your refund.

- Go to [IRS.gov/Refunds](https://www.irs.gov/Refunds).
- Download the official IRS2Go app to your mobile device to check your refund status.
- Call the automated refund hotline at 800-829-1954.



The IRS can't issue refunds before mid-February for returns that claimed the EIC or the additional child tax credit (ACTC). This applies to the entire refund, not just the portion associated with these credits.

Making a tax payment. Payments of U.S. tax must be remitted to the IRS in U.S. dollars. [Digital assets](#) are **not** accepted. Go to [IRS.gov/Payments](https://www.irs.gov/Payments) for information on how to make a payment using any of the following options.

- [IRS Direct Pay](#): Pay your individual tax bill or estimated tax payment directly from your checking or savings account at no cost to you.
- [Debit Card, Credit Card, or Digital Wallet](#): Choose an approved payment processor to pay online or by phone.
- [Electronic Funds Withdrawal](#): Schedule a payment when filing your federal taxes using tax return preparation software or through a tax professional.
- [Electronic Federal Tax Payment System](#): This is the best option for businesses. Enrollment is required.
- [Check or Money Order](#): Mail your payment to the address listed on the notice or instructions.
- [Cash](#): You may be able to pay your taxes with cash at a participating retail store.

- [Same-Day Wire](#): You may be able to do same-day wire from your financial institution. Contact your financial institution for availability, cost, and time frames.

Note. The IRS uses the latest encryption technology to ensure that the electronic payments you make online, by phone, or from a mobile device using the IRS2Go app are safe and secure. Paying electronically is quick, easy, and faster than mailing in a check or money order.

What if I can't pay now? Go to [IRS.gov/Payments](#) for more information about your options.

- Apply for an [online payment agreement](#) ([IRS.gov/ OPA](#)) to meet your tax obligation in monthly installments if you can't pay your taxes in full today. Once you complete the online process, you will receive immediate notification of whether your agreement has been approved.

- Use the [Offer in Compromise Pre-Qualifier](#) to see if you can settle your tax debt for less than the full amount you owe. For more information on the Offer in Compromise program, go to [IRS.gov/OIC](#).

Filing an amended return.

Go to [IRS.gov/Form1040X](#) for information and updates.

Checking the status of your amended return. Go to [IRS.gov/WMAR](#) to track the status of Form 1040-X amended returns.



It can take up to 3 weeks from the date you filed your amended return for it to show up in our system, and processing it can take up to 16 weeks.

Understanding an IRS notice or letter you've received. Go to [IRS.gov/Notices](#) to find additional information about responding to an IRS notice or letter.

IRS Document Upload Tool. You may be able use the Document Upload Tool to respond digitally to eligible IRS notices and letters by securely uploading required documents online through IRS.gov. For more information, go to [IRS.gov/DUT](https://irs.gov/DUT).

Schedule LEP. You can use Schedule LEP (Form 1040), Request for Change in Language Preference, to state a preference to receive notices, letters, or other written communications from the IRS in an alternative language. You may not immediately receive written communications in the requested language. The IRS's commitment to LEP taxpayers is part of a multi-year timeline that began providing translations in 2023. You will continue to receive communications, including notices and letters, in English until they are translated to your preferred language.

Contacting your local TAC. Keep in mind, many questions can be answered on IRS.gov without visiting a TAC. Go to [IRS.gov/LetUsHelp](https://www.irs.gov/LetUsHelp) for the topics people ask about most. If you still need help, TACs provide tax help when a tax issue can't be handled online or by phone. All TACs now provide service by appointment, so you'll know in advance that you can get the service you need without long wait times. Before you visit, go to [IRS.gov/TACLocator](https://www.irs.gov/TACLocator) to find the nearest TAC and to check hours, available services, and appointment options. Or, on the IRS2Go app, under the Stay Connected tab, choose the Contact Us option and click on "Local Offices."

Below is a message to you from the Taxpayer Advocate Service, an independent organization established by Congress.

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) Is Here To Help You

What Is the Taxpayer Advocate Service?

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is an independent organization within the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). TAS helps taxpayers resolve problems with the IRS, makes administrative and legislative recommendations to prevent or correct the problems, and protects taxpayer rights. We work to ensure that every taxpayer is treated fairly and that you know and understand your rights under the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. We are Your Voice at the IRS.

How Can TAS Help Me?

TAS can help you resolve problems that you haven't been able to resolve with the IRS on your own. Always try to resolve your problem with the IRS first, but if you can't, then come to TAS. Our services are free.

- TAS helps all taxpayers (and their representatives), including individuals, businesses, and exempt organizations. You may be eligible for TAS help if your IRS problem is causing financial difficulty, if you've tried and been unable to resolve your issue with the IRS, or if you believe an IRS system, process, or procedure just isn't working as it should.
- To get help any time with general tax topics, visit www.TaxpayerAdvocate.IRS.gov. The site can help you with common tax issues and situations, such as what to do if you make a mistake on your return or if you get a notice from the IRS.
- TAS works to resolve large-scale (systemic) problems that affect many taxpayers. You can report systemic issues at www.IRS.gov/SAMS. (Be sure not to include any personal identifiable information.)

How Do I Contact TAS?

TAS has offices in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. To find your local advocate's number:

- Go to www.TaxpayerAdvocate.IRS.gov/Contact-Us,
- Check your local directory, or
- Call TAS toll free at 877-777-4778.

What Are My Rights as a Taxpayer?

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights describes ten basic rights that all taxpayers have when dealing with the IRS. Go to www.TaxpayerAdvocate.IRS.gov/Taxpayer-Rights for more information about the rights, what they mean to you, and how they apply to specific situations you may encounter with the IRS. TAS strives to protect taxpayer rights and ensure the IRS is administering the tax law in a fair and equitable way.

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