



Note: *The draft you are looking for begins on the next page.*

Caution: DRAFT—NOT FOR FILING

This is an early release draft of an IRS tax form, instructions, or publication, which the IRS is providing for your information. **Do not file draft forms.** We incorporate all significant changes to forms posted with this coversheet. However, unexpected issues occasionally arise, or legislation is passed—in this case, we will post a new draft of the form to alert users that changes were made to the previously posted draft. Thus, there are never any changes to the last posted draft of a form and the final revision of the form. Forms and instructions are subject to OMB approval before they can be officially released, so we post drafts of them until they are approved. Drafts of instructions and pubs usually have some additional changes before their final release. Early release drafts are at [IRS.gov/DraftForms](https://www.irs.gov/DraftForms) and remain there after the final release is posted at [IRS.gov/LatestForms](https://www.irs.gov/LatestForms). Also see [IRS.gov/Forms](https://www.irs.gov/Forms).

Most forms and publications have a page on IRS.gov: [IRS.gov/Form1040](https://www.irs.gov/Form1040) for Form 1040; [IRS.gov/Pub501](https://www.irs.gov/Pub501) for Pub. 501; [IRS.gov/W4](https://www.irs.gov/W4) for Form W-4; and [IRS.gov/ScheduleA](https://www.irs.gov/ScheduleA) for Schedule A (Form 1040), for example, and similarly for other forms, pubs, and schedules for Form 1040. When typing in a link, type it into the address bar of your browser, not a Search box on IRS.gov.

If you wish, you can submit comments to the IRS about draft or final forms, instructions, or pubs at [IRS.gov/FormsComments](https://www.irs.gov/FormsComments). Include “NTF” followed by the form or pub number (for example, “NTF1040”, “NTFW4”, “NTF501”, etc.) in the body of the message to route your message properly. We cannot respond to all comments due to the high volume we receive and may not be able to consider many suggestions until the subsequent revision of the product, but we will review each “NTF” message. If you have comments on reducing paperwork and respondent (filer) burden, with respect to draft or final forms, please respond to the relevant information collection through the Federal Register process; for more info, click [here](#).

2025



Instructions for Form 1040-SS

U.S. Self-Employment Tax Return

(Including the Additional Child Tax Credit for Bona Fide Residents of Puerto Rico)

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future Developments

For the latest information about developments related to Form 1040-SS and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to [IRS.gov/Form1040SS](https://www.irs.gov/Form1040SS).

What's New

Changes to the *Qualifying Children* section. The *Qualifying Children* section now has numbered rows.

Write-in information. We expanded line 6 so that all tax write-ins now have a dedicated entry space.

Social Security Number required to claim the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC). Beginning in tax year 2025 to claim the ACTC, you must have a valid SSN issued by the Social Security Administration. If filing jointly, only one spouse needs to have a valid SSN.

Death of a taxpayer. If you need to file a return for someone who died before filing a 2025 return, check the "Deceased" box at the top of Form 1040-SS and enter the date of death in the designated entry space. For more information, see *Death of Taxpayer*.

Electronic payments and direct deposit. If you have access to U.S. banking services or electronic payment systems, you should use direct deposit for any refunds. The IRS recommends paying electronically whenever possible. Options to pay electronically include using your bank account with [DirectPay](https://www.irs.gov/DirectPay), your debit or credit card, your digital wallet, or your online account. Go to [IRS.gov/Payments](https://www.irs.gov/Payments) to see all your payment options. Also, see [IRS.gov/ModernPayments](https://www.irs.gov/ModernPayments).

Maximum income subject to social security tax for 2025. For 2025, the maximum amount of self-employment income subject to social security tax is \$176,100.

Maximum income subject to social security tax for 2026. For 2026, the maximum amount of self-employment income subject to social security tax is \$184,500.

Optional methods to figure net earnings. For 2025, the maximum income for using the optional methods is \$7,240.

New option for scheduled appointments at Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs). Beginning in 2025, taxpayers with scheduled appointments at TACs may

choose to receive appointment confirmations, reminders, and cancellation notices directly via text message on their mobile devices.

Reminders

Additional child tax credit. For tax year 2025:

- The maximum additional child tax credit (ACTC) amount is \$1,700 for each qualifying child.
- A child must be under age 17 at the end of 2025 to be a qualifying child.

Due date of return. File Form 1040-SS by April 15, 2026.

Estimated tax payments. If you and your spouse expect to owe self-employment (SE) tax of \$1,000 or more for 2026, you may need to make estimated tax payments. Use Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals, to figure your required payments and for the vouchers to send with your payments.

Disaster tax relief. To find information on the most recent tax relief provisions for taxpayers affected by disaster situations, go to [IRS.gov/Disaster](https://www.irs.gov/Disaster). See Pub. 547, Casualties, Disasters, and Thefts, for discussions on the special rules that apply to federally declared disaster areas.

ACTC and bona fide residents of Puerto Rico. Bona fide residents of Puerto Rico are no longer required to have three or more qualifying children to be eligible to claim the ACTC. Bona fide residents of Puerto Rico may be eligible to claim the ACTC if they have one or more qualifying children.

Qualifying child required to have an SSN. If you have a qualifying child who does not have the required SSN, you can't use the child to claim the ACTC on either your original or an amended 2025 return.

The required SSN is one that is valid for employment and that is issued by the Social Security Administration before the due date of your 2025 return (including extensions).

For information on how to obtain an SSN, go to [Social Security number and card](https://www.irs.gov/SocialSecurityNumberandCard).

If you are not eligible for an SSN, you must apply for an ITIN. For more information on ITINs, go to [IRS.gov/ITIN](https://www.irs.gov/ITIN). Also, see Form W-7 and its instructions.

Refunds for returns that claim the ACTC. Refunds for returns claiming the ACTC can't be issued before mid-February 2026. For more information, see [IRS.gov/Individuals/RefundTiming](https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/RefundTiming). This applies to the entire

refund, not just the portion associated with the ACTC. For more information on the status of your refund, see [IRS.gov/Refunds](https://www.irs.gov/Refunds).

Electronic filing. You can *e-file* Form 1040-SS. For general information about electronic filing, visit [IRS.gov/Efile](https://www.irs.gov/Efile).

Farmers and ranchers affected by drought may be eligible for extension of tax relief. Farmers and ranchers forced to sell certain livestock because of drought conditions may have more time to replace their livestock and defer tax on any gains from the forced sales. See [IRS extends relief to farmers and ranchers affected by drought in 49 states, other regions](#).

Form 1040-SS redesign. Form 1040-PR has been discontinued. For 2023 and later years, you will file Form 1040-SS.

Refer to [Form 1040-SS Helpful Hints](#), later, for a comprehensive discussion, including references to the Instructions for Schedule C (Form 1040), Profit or Loss From Business; Schedule F (Form 1040), Profit or Loss From Farming; and Schedule SE (Form 1040), Self-Employment Tax.

General Instructions

Purpose of Form

This form is for residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Puerto Rico who are not required to file a U.S. income tax return but who have self-employment income or are eligible to claim certain credits.

Use this form to report net earnings from self-employment (SE) to the United States and, if

necessary, pay SE tax on that income. The Social Security Administration (SSA) uses this information to figure your benefits under the social security program. SE tax applies no matter how old you are and even if you are already receiving social security or Medicare benefits.

Bona fide residents of Puerto Rico can also use this form to claim the ACTC, even if the bona fide resident of Puerto Rico does not have to pay SE tax.

See [Who Must File](#), later, for additional uses of this form.

You may also be required to file an income tax return with the government of Guam, American Samoa, the USVI, the CNMI, or Puerto Rico. See Pub. 570, Tax Guide for Individuals With Income From U.S. Territories, and contact your local territory tax office for more information.

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, see [How To Get Tax Help](#) at the end of the instructions. You can find additional resources to help you right away at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

Who Must File

You must file Form 1040-SS if you meet all three requirements below.

1. You (or your spouse if filing a joint tax return) had net earnings from self-employment of \$400 or more (or you had church employee income of \$108.28 or more—see [Employees of Churches and Church Organizations](#), later). However, see [Exceptions](#), later.
2. You do not have to file Form 1040 with the United States.

Form 1040-SS Helpful Hints

Use Schedule C (Form 1040), Profit or Loss From Business; Schedule F (Form 1040), Profit or Loss From Farming; or Schedule SE (Form 1040), Self-Employment Tax, to complete your return.

You may only need to file Form 1040-SS and none of the schedules. However, if your return is more complicated (for example, you claim certain deductions or credits or owe additional taxes), you will need to complete one or more of the schedules. Below is a general guide to which schedule(s) you will need to file based on your circumstances. See the instructions for the schedules for more information. If you *e-file* your return, the software you use will generally determine which schedules you need.

You will need the Instructions for Schedules C, F, and SE. Throughout these instructions, you are directed to go to the Instructions for Schedule C (Form 1040), Schedule F (Form 1040), or Schedule SE (Form 1040) for details on how to complete a line. But, in most instances, you will need to look at whether you must take exceptions into consideration when applying those instructions.

IF YOU . . .	THEN USE . . .
Are a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico and have one or more qualifying children.	Form 1040-SS, Part II
Have profit (loss) from a business you operated or a profession you practiced as a sole proprietor.	Schedule C (Form 1040)
Have (a) wages and expenses as a statutory employee; (b) income and deductions of certain qualified joint ventures; and (c) certain amounts shown on Form 1099, such as Form 1099-MISC, Form 1099-NEC, and Form 1099-K.	Schedule C (Form 1040) Note. See the instructions on your Form 1099 for more information about what to report on Schedule C (Form 1040).
Have farm income and expenses.	Schedule F (Form 1040)
Have net earnings from self-employment.	Schedule SE (Form 1040)

3. You are a bona fide resident of:

- a. Guam,
- b. American Samoa,
- c. The USVI,
- d. The CNMI, or
- e. Puerto Rico.



Even if you have a loss or little income from self-employment, it may benefit you to file Form 1040-SS and use either optional method on Schedule SE (Form 1040). See Schedule SE (Form 1040), Part II—Optional Methods To Figure Net Earnings.

Exceptions. If (2) and (3) under [Who Must File](#), earlier, apply, but (1) does not apply, you must file Form 1040-SS to:

- Report and pay household employment taxes;
- Report and pay employee social security and Medicare tax on (a) unreported or uncollected tips, (b) wages from an employer with no social security or Medicare tax withheld, and (c) uncollected social security and Medicare tax on tips or group-term life insurance (see Part I, [line 6a](#), [line 6b](#), [line 6c](#), and [line 6d](#), later);
- Report and pay the Additional Medicare Tax (Part I, [Line 5](#), later);
- Claim excess social security tax withheld; and
- Claim the ACTC.

Who Must Pay SE Tax

Self-Employed Persons

You must pay SE tax if you had net earnings of \$400 or more as a self-employed person. If you are in business (nonfarm or farm) for yourself, you are self-employed.

You must also pay SE tax on your share of certain partnership income and your guaranteed payments. See *Partnership Income or Loss* under the Instructions for Schedule SE (Form 1040), Part I.

Employees of Churches and Church Organizations

If you had church employee income of \$108.28 or more, you must pay SE tax on that income. Church employee income is wages you received as an employee (other than as a minister or member of a religious order) of a church or qualified church-controlled organization that has a certificate in effect electing exemption from employer social security and Medicare taxes.

If your only income subject to SE tax is church employee income, skip lines 1a through 4b on Schedule SE (Form 1040), Part I. Enter zero on line 4c and go to line 5a.

Ministers, Members of Religious Orders, and Christian Science Practitioners

In most cases, you must pay self-employment (SE) tax on salaries and other income for services you performed as a minister, a member of a religious order who has not taken a vow of poverty, or a Christian Science practitioner. But, if

you filed Form 4361, Application for Exemption From Self-Employment Tax for Use by Ministers, Members of Religious Orders and Christian Science Practitioners, and received IRS approval, you will be exempt from paying SE tax on those net earnings. If you had no other income subject to SE tax and do not owe any of the taxes listed earlier under [Who Must File](#), you aren't required to file Form 1040-SS. However, if you had other earnings of \$400 or more subject to SE tax, see Schedule SE (Form 1040), Part I, lines 4a through 4c.



If you have ever filed Form 2031 to elect social security coverage on your earnings as a minister, you cannot revoke that election.

If you must pay SE tax on certain income, include this income on Schedule C (Form 1040), line 1. But do not report it on Schedule SE (Form 1040), Part I, line 5a; it isn't considered church employee income.

Also include on Schedule C (Form 1040), line 1:

- The rental value of a home or allowance for a home furnished to you (including payments for utilities); and
- The value of meals and lodging provided to you, your spouse, and your dependents for your employer's convenience.

However, do not include on Schedule C (Form 1040), line 1:

- Retirement benefits you received from a church plan after retirement, or
- The rental value of or allowance for a home furnished to you (including payments for utilities) after retirement.

If you were an ordained minister, a member of a religious order who has not taken a vow of poverty, or a Christian Science practitioner, and were employed by a church (congregation) for a salary, do not include that income in Schedule C (Form 1040). Instead, figure your SE tax by completing Schedule SE (Form 1040), Part I, including this income and any rental (parsonage) allowance or the value of meals and lodging provided to you on line 2. On the same line, subtract the allowable amount of any unreimbursed business expenses you incurred as a church employee. Attach an explanation. For details, see Pub. 517, Social Security and Other Information for Members of the Clergy and Religious Workers.

Members of Certain Religious Sects

If you have conscientious objections to social security insurance because of your membership in and belief in the teachings of a religious sect recognized as being in existence at all times since December 31, 1950, and which has provided a reasonable level of living for its dependent members, you can request exemption from SE tax by filing Form 4029, Application for Exemption From Social Security and Medicare Taxes and Waiver of Benefits. If you filed Form 4029 and have received IRS approval, don't file Form 1040-SS. See Pub. 517 for details.

U. S. Citizen Employed by Foreign Governments or International Organizations

You must pay SE tax on income you earned as a U.S. citizen or a resident of Puerto Rico employed by a foreign government (or, in certain cases, by a wholly owned instrumentality of a foreign government or an international organization under the International Organizations Immunities Act) for services performed in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the USVI, or the CNMI. Report income from this employment on Schedule C (Form 1040), line 1. Enter the net amount from Schedule C (Form 1040), Part II, line 31, on Schedule SE (Form 1040), Part I, line 2. If you performed services elsewhere as an employee of a foreign government or an international organization, those earnings are exempt from SE tax.

Commonwealth or Territory Residents Living Abroad

In most cases, if you are a bona fide resident of Guam, American Samoa, the USVI, the CNMI, or Puerto Rico living outside the territories or United States, you must still pay any applicable SE tax.

Exception. The United States has social security agreements with many countries to eliminate dual taxes under two social security systems. Under these agreements, in most cases, you must pay social security and Medicare taxes or foreign health insurance only to the country you live in.



If you have questions about international social security agreements, visit the SSA International Programs website at [SSA.gov/international](https://ssa.gov/international) for more information.



Even if you don't have to pay SE tax because of a social security agreement, you may still have to file a tax return with the IRS.

Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Cases

While you are a debtor in a chapter 11 bankruptcy case, your net profit or loss from self-employment will be included on the income tax return (Form 1041) of the bankruptcy estate. However, you (not the bankruptcy estate) are responsible for paying SE tax on your net earnings from self-employment.

On the dotted line next to Schedule SE (Form 1040), Part I, line 3, enter "Chap. 11 bankruptcy income" and the amount of your net profit or (loss). Combine that amount with the total of lines 1a, 1b, and 2 (if any) and enter the result on line 3.

For other reporting requirements, see *Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Cases* in the Instructions for Form 1040.

More Than One Business

If you were a farmer and had at least one other business or you had two or more nonfarm businesses, your net earnings from self-employment are the combined net earnings from all of your businesses. If you had a loss in one business, it reduces the income from another. Complete and file only one Form 1040-SS for any 1 year. Attach a separate Schedule C (Form 1040) or Schedule F

(Form 1040) for each trade or business, and combine the net earnings on a single Schedule SE (Form 1040).

Joint returns. If both you and your spouse have self-employment income from separate nonfarm or farm businesses, each of you must complete and file a separate Schedule C (Form 1040) or Schedule F (Form 1040). Be sure to enter at the top of each Schedule C (Form 1040) or Schedule F (Form 1040) the name and SSN of the spouse who owns the business. Each of you must also complete a separate Schedule SE (Form 1040). Attach these pages to a single Form 1040-SS.

Business Owned and Operated by Spouses

If you and your spouse jointly own and operate an unincorporated business (nonfarm or farm) and share in the profits and losses, you are partners in a partnership, whether or not you have a formal partnership agreement. Do not use Schedule C (Form 1040) or Schedule F (Form 1040). Instead, file the appropriate partnership return.

Exception—Qualified joint venture (QJV). If you and your spouse materially participate (see *Material participation* in the Instructions for Schedule C (Form 1040)) as the only members of a jointly owned and operated business, and you file a joint Form 1040-SS for the tax year, you can make a joint election to be taxed as a QJV instead of a partnership.

To make this election, you must divide all items of income, gain, loss, deduction, and credit attributable to the business between you and your spouse in accordance with your respective interests in the venture. Each of you must file a separate Schedule C (Form 1040) or Schedule F (Form 1040), as well as a separate Schedule SE (Form 1040). On each line of your separate Schedule C (Form 1040) or Schedule F (Form 1040), you must enter your share of the applicable income, deductions, and losses. For more information on this election, see the Instructions for Schedule E (Form 1040).

For more information on QJVs, go to [IRS.gov/QJV](https://irs.gov/QJV).

Rental real estate business. If you and your spouse make the QJV election for your rental real estate business, in most cases, the income isn't subject to SE tax (for an exception, see item 3 under *Other Income and Losses Included in Net Earnings From Self-Employment* in the Instructions for Schedule SE (Form 1040)).

If the QJV election is made for a farm rental business that isn't included in self-employment, the income isn't subject to SE tax. Don't include the income on Form 1040-SS. Depending on the source of the income (territory, U.S. source, or other foreign source), you may need to file other tax forms. See Pub. 570 and Form 4835, *Farm Rental Income and Expenses*, for more information.

Community income. If you and your spouse wholly own an unincorporated business as community property under the community property laws of a state, foreign country, or U.S. territory, the income and deductions are reported based on the following.

- If only one spouse participates in the business, all of the income from that business is the self-employment earnings of the spouse who carried on the business.

- If both spouses participate, the income and deductions are allocated to the spouses based on their distributive shares.
- If either or both you and your spouse are partners in a partnership, see *Partnership Income or Loss* in the Instructions for Schedule SE (Form 1040).
- If you and your spouse elected to treat the business as a QJV, see [Exception—Qualified joint venture \(QJV\)](#), earlier.

Where To File

If you're enclosing a payment, send your Form 1040-SS to:

Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 1303
Charlotte, NC 28201-1303

If you're not enclosing a payment, send your Form 1040-SS to:

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Austin, TX 73301-0215

Private Delivery Services

If you choose to mail your return, you can use certain private delivery services designated by the IRS to meet the "timely mailing treated as timely filing/paying" rule for tax returns and payments. These private delivery services include only the following.

- DHL Express 9:00, DHL Express 10:30, DHL Express 12:00, DHL Express Worldwide, DHL Express Envelope, DHL Import Express 10:30, DHL Import Express 12:00, and DHL Import Express Worldwide.
- UPS Next Day Air Early A.M., UPS Next Day Air, UPS Next Day Air Saver, UPS 2nd Day Air, UPS 2nd Day Air A.M., UPS Worldwide Express Plus, and UPS Worldwide Express.
- FedEx First Overnight, FedEx Priority Overnight, FedEx Standard Overnight, FedEx 2 Day, FedEx International Next Flight Out, FedEx International Priority, FedEx International First, and FedEx International Economy.

To check for any updates to the list of designated private delivery services, go to [IRS.gov/PDS](https://www.irs.gov/PDS). For the IRS mailing address to use if you're using a private delivery service, go to [IRS.gov/PDS/StreetAddresses](https://www.irs.gov/PDS/StreetAddresses).

The private delivery service can tell you how to get written proof of the mailing date.



Only the U.S. Postal Service can deliver to P.O. boxes. You can't use a private delivery service to make tax payments required to be sent to a P.O. box.

When To File

If you file on a calendar-year basis, file by April 15, 2026. If you file after this date, you may have to pay interest and penalties. See [Interest and Penalties](#), later.

If you file on a fiscal year basis, file by the 15th day of the 4th month after the close of your fiscal year.

Extension of Time To File

If you can't file Form 1040-SS by the due date, you can get an extension of time to file the form. In some cases, you can get an extension of time to file and pay any tax due.

Bona fide residents of Puerto Rico. You can apply for an automatic 6-month extension of time to file Form 1040-SS (until October 15, 2026, for calendar year taxpayers). To get this automatic extension, you must file Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, by the regular due date of your return (April 15, 2026, for calendar year taxpayers). You can file Form 4868 either by paper or electronically through IRS e-file. For details, see the Form 4868 instructions.



An automatic 6-month extension to file does *not* extend the time to pay your tax. Any interest due on unpaid taxes is calculated from the original due date of the return.

Bona fide residents of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, or the USVI. You can apply for the automatic 6-month extension described earlier, or you can receive an automatic 2-month extension and then apply for an additional 4-month extension if you still need more time.

Automatic 2-month extension. You are allowed an automatic 2-month extension to file your return and pay your tax if you are outside the United States and Puerto Rico on the day Form 1040-SS is due (April 15, 2026, for calendar year taxpayers). Although you have an extension of time to pay your tax, interest on any unpaid tax will be charged from the original due date of the tax return.

To get this automatic extension, you must file Form 1040-SS by the extended due date (June 15, 2026, for calendar year taxpayers) and attach a statement explaining that on the regular due date of your tax return you were a bona fide resident of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, or the USVI.

Additional 4-month extension. If you can't file your tax return within the automatic 2-month extension period, in most cases, you can get an additional 4 months to file your tax return, for a total of 6 months. File Form 4868 by the extended due date allowed by the 2-month extension (June 15, 2026, for calendar year taxpayers). Follow the instructions for completing Form 4868, and be sure to check the box on line 8.

Unlike the original 2-month extension, the additional 4 months of time to file is **not** an extension of time to pay. You must make an accurate estimate of your tax based on the information available to you. If you find you can't pay the full amount due with Form 4868, you can still get the extension. You will owe interest on the unpaid amount from the original due date of the tax return.

Where to file extension. If you're enclosing a payment, send Form 4868 with your payment to:

Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 1303
Charlotte, NC 28201-1303

If you're not enclosing a payment, send Form 4868 to:

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Austin, TX 73301-0215

Automatic 60-day extension for taxpayers affected by federally declared disasters. Certain taxpayers affected by federally declared disasters may be eligible for an automatic 60-day extension for filing tax returns, paying taxes, and performing other tasks required by the IRS. For more information, see Pub. 547.

Specific Instructions

Fiscal Year Filers

If you are a fiscal year filer using a tax year other than January 1 through December 31, 2025, enter the beginning and ending months of your fiscal year in the entry space provided at the top of page 1 of Form 1040-SS. Use the tax rate and annual earnings limit that apply at the time the fiscal year begins. Don't prorate the tax or annual earnings limit for a fiscal year that overlaps the date of a change in the tax or annual earnings limit.

Name and SSN

To ensure proper credit to your social security account, enter your name and SSN, and your spouse's if filing a joint tax return, exactly as shown on your social security card. If you do not have an SSN, you should get one. For information on how to obtain an SSN, go to [SSA.gov/ssnumber](https://ssa.gov/ssnumber).

If you are not eligible for an SSN, you must apply for an ITIN. For more information on ITINs, go to [IRS.gov/ITIN](https://irs.gov/ITIN). Also, see Form W-7 and its instructions.

Name Change

If you changed your name because of marriage, divorce, etc., be sure to report the change to the Social Security Administration (SSA) before filing your return. This prevents delays in processing your return and issuing refunds. It also safeguards your future social security benefits.

Address Change

If you plan to move after filing your return, use Form 8822, Change of Address, to notify the IRS of your new address.

P. O. Box

Enter your box number only if your U. S. Postal Service, post office doesn't deliver mail to your home.

Foreign Address

If you have a foreign address, enter the city name on the appropriate line. Don't enter any other information on that line but do complete the spaces below that line (Foreign country name, Foreign province/state/country, and Foreign postal code).

Don't abbreviate the country name.

Digital Assets

Digital assets are any digital representations of value that are recorded on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or any similar technology. For example, digital

assets include non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and virtual currencies, such as cryptocurrencies and stablecoins. If a particular asset has the characteristics of a digital asset, it will be treated as a digital asset for federal income tax purposes.

Check the "Yes" box next to the question on digital assets on page 1 of Form 1040-SS, if at any time during 2025, you (a) received (as a reward, award, or payment for property or services); or (b) sold, exchanged, or otherwise disposed of a digital asset (or any financial interest in any digital asset).

For example, check "Yes" if at any time during 2025 you:

- Received digital assets as payment for property or services provided;
- Received digital assets as a result of a reward or award;
- Received new digital assets as a result of mining, staking, and similar activities;
- Received digital assets as a result of a hard fork;
- Disposed of digital assets in exchange for property or services;
- Disposed of a digital asset in exchange or trade for another digital asset;
- Sold a digital asset; or
- Otherwise disposed of any other financial interest in a digital asset.

You have a financial interest in a digital asset if you are the owner of record of a digital asset, or have an ownership stake in an account that holds one or more digital assets, including the rights and obligations to acquire a financial interest, or you own a wallet that holds digital assets.

The following actions or transactions in 2025, alone, generally don't require you to check "Yes":

- Holding a digital asset in a wallet or account;
- Transferring a digital asset from one wallet or account you own or control to another wallet or account that you own or control; or
- Purchasing digital assets using U.S. or other real currency, including through the use of electronic platforms such as PayPal and Venmo.

If you used a broker to effect the sale of a digital asset, your broker should send you Form 1099-DA. Even if you receive a Form 1099-DA, you must still answer the digital assets question on page 1 of Form 1040-SS.



Do not leave the question unanswered. You must answer "Yes" or "No" by checking the appropriate box. For more information, go to [IRS.gov/VirtualCurrencyFAQs](https://irs.gov/VirtualCurrencyFAQs).

How To Report Digital Asset Transactions

If, in 2025, you disposed of any digital asset, which you held as a capital asset through a sale, trade, exchange, payment, or other transfer, check "Yes" and see Pub. 570 for details on whether you have to file Form 1040 with the United States to report your capital gains or losses. If you have to file Form 1040 with the United States, you cannot file this form. If you have questions about how to report a digital asset transaction on your territory income tax

return, contact your local territory tax office for more information.

If you received any digital assets as compensation for services, or disposed of any digital asset that you held for sale to customers in a trade or business, you must report the income on Schedule C (Form 1040) and/or Schedule F (Form 1040).

If you disposed of any digital asset by gift, you may be required to file Form 709, United States Gift (and Generation-Skipping Transfer) Tax Return. See *Who Must File and Transfers Subject to the Gift Tax* in the Instructions for Form 709 for more information.

Part I—Total Tax and Credits

Line 1

Check the filing status that applies to you.



More than one filing status can apply to you. Taxpayers who aren't married will pay the same tax under all filing statuses for which they qualify (single, head of household, and qualifying surviving spouse). However, married taxpayers who owe additional Medicare tax on line 5 may pay less tax if they qualify for and choose the head of household filing status instead of married filing separately. You can choose the one for which you qualify that will give you the lowest tax.

Single

You can check the "Single" box if, at the end of 2025, you were unmarried or legally separated from your spouse according to your state law under a divorce or separate maintenance decree.

Married Filing Jointly

You can choose this filing status if you were married at the end of 2025 and both you and your spouse agree to file a joint tax return, even if you didn't live with your spouse at the end of 2025. You can also choose this filing status if your spouse died in 2025 and you didn't remarry in 2025.

If you choose to file a joint tax return, check the box for married filing jointly and include your spouse's name and SSN on the lines provided below your name and SSN. If your spouse also had self-employment income, complete and attach a separate Schedule SE (Form 1040), Part I, and, if applicable, Part II. If necessary, attach a separate Schedule C (Form 1040) and/or Schedule F (Form 1040) for your spouse's nonfarm or farm business.

Joint and several tax liability. If you file a joint tax return, both you and your spouse are generally responsible for the tax and any interest or penalties due on the tax return. This means that if one spouse doesn't pay the tax due, the other may have to. Or, if one spouse doesn't report the correct tax, both spouses may be responsible for any additional taxes assessed by the IRS.

However, you may qualify for innocent spouse relief from an existing tax liability on your joint tax return if:

- There is an understatement of the amount of tax because your spouse omitted income or claimed false deductions or credits;

- You are divorced, separated, or no longer living with your spouse; or
- Given all the facts and circumstances, it wouldn't be fair to hold you liable for the tax.

File Form 8857 to request innocent spouse relief. Some requests for innocent spouse relief may need to be filed within 2 years of the date on which the IRS first attempted to collect the tax from you. Don't file Form 8857 with your Form 1040-SS. For more information, go to [IRS.gov/InnocentSpouse](https://www.irs.gov/InnocentSpouse).

Nonresident aliens and dual-status aliens.

Generally, a married couple can't file a joint return if either spouse is a nonresident alien at any time during the year. However, you and your spouse can choose to be treated as U.S. residents for the entire year and file a joint return if one spouse was a nonresident alien at the end of the taxable year (the nonresident spouse) and the other was a U.S. citizen or resident at the end of the taxable year. This choice remains in effect in subsequent years until terminated. You and your spouse can also choose to file as U.S. residents for the entire year if both of you are U.S. citizens or residents at the end of the year and either (or both) of you were a nonresident at the beginning of the year (the dual-status spouse(s)). You can only make this choice for 1 year, and it does not apply to any future years.

If you and your spouse are making either of these choices to be treated as U.S. residents for 2025, check the box in Part I, Line 1 under Filing Status section and enter the name of the nonresident spouse or dual-status spouse(s) (whichever applies to you) in the entry space. Also check the box and enter their name if you and your nonresident spouse made the choice to be treated as residents in a prior year and the choice remains in effect.



To make either choice for 2025, you and your spouse must file a joint return and attach a statement, signed by both spouses, to your return. To find out what information must be included in the statement, as well as more information on these choices, see Nonresident Spouse Treated as a Resident for nonresident aliens and Choosing Resident Alien Status for dual-status aliens in Pub. 519.

Married Filing Separately

Check the "Married filing separately" box if at the end of 2025 you were married, and file a separate tax return. Enter your spouse's name in the entry space below the filing status checkboxes. Be sure to enter your spouse's SSN or ITIN in the space for spouse's SSN. If your spouse doesn't have and isn't required to have an SSN or ITIN, enter "NRA" next to their name in the entry space below the filing status checkboxes.

For electronic filing, enter the spouse's name or "NRA" if the spouse doesn't have an SSN or ITIN in the entry space below the filing status checkboxes.

If you are married and file a separate tax return, generally, you are responsible only for the tax on your own income. However, you will usually pay more tax than if you use another filing status for which you qualify.



TIP You may be able to file as head of household if you had a child living with you and you lived apart from your spouse during the last 6 months of 2025.

Head of Household

A head of household is someone who is unmarried (or is considered unmarried) and provides a home for certain other persons.



TIP If you owe Additional Medicare Tax on line 5, were married at the end of 2025, but lived apart from your spouse for the last 6 months of 2025 and do not claim a qualifying child for the ACTC, see Head of Household in Pub. 501, Dependent, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information, for additional rules for this filing status.

You can check the "Head of household" box if, at the end of 2025, you are unmarried (or are considered unmarried), claim a qualifying child for the ACTC, and paid over half the costs of keeping up a home in which you lived with your qualifying child.

You are considered unmarried for this purpose if any of the following applies.

- You were legally separated according to your state law under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance at the end of 2025. But if, at the end of 2025, your divorce wasn't final (an interlocutory decree), you are considered married.
- You are married but lived apart from your spouse for the last 6 months of 2025 and you meet the other rules under [Married persons who live apart](#), later.
- You are married and your spouse was a nonresident alien at any time during the year and the election to treat the alien spouse as a resident alien is not made.

Qualifying child. A child you claim for the ACTC is a qualifying child for this filing status. Your adopted child is always treated as your own child. See [Qualifying child](#), later. However, don't include as your qualifying child for this filing status any child you claim for the ACTC because of the rule for *Children of divorced or separated parents (or parents who live apart)* in Pub. 501 or under a multiple support agreement. See *Qualifying Child of More Than One Person* in Pub. 501.



TIP The qualifying children you claim for the ACTC are those you list by name and SSN in the qualifying children section on Part I, line 2, of Form 1040-SS.

Keeping up a home. To find out what is included in the cost of keeping up a home, see *Keeping up a home* in Pub. 501.

Married persons who live apart. Even if you weren't divorced or legally separated at the end of 2025, you are considered unmarried if all of the following apply.

- You lived apart from your spouse for the last 6 months of 2025. Temporary absences for special circumstances, such as for business, medical care, school, or military service, count as time lived in the home.

- You file a separate tax return from your spouse.
- You paid over half the cost of keeping up your home for 2025.
- Your home was the main home of your child, stepchild, or foster child for more than half of 2025. If the child didn't live with you for the required time, see *Temporary absences* in Pub. 501.
- You can claim this child as your dependent or could claim the child except that the child's other parent can claim the child under the rule for *Children of divorced or separated parents (or parents who live apart)* in Pub. 501.

Foster child. A foster child is any child placed with you by an authorized placement agency or by judgment, decree, or other order of any court of competent jurisdiction.

Qualifying Surviving Spouse

You can check the "Qualifying surviving spouse" box if all of the following apply.

1. Your spouse died in 2023 or 2024 and you didn't remarry before the end of 2025.
2. You have a child or stepchild (not a foster child) whom you can claim as a dependent or could claim as a dependent except that, for 2025:
 - a. The child had gross income of \$5,200 or more,
 - b. The child filed a joint tax return, or
 - c. You could be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return.

If the child isn't claimed as your dependent, enter the child's name in the entry space below the filing status checkboxes. If you don't enter the name, it will take us longer to process your tax return.
3. This child lived in your home for all of 2025. If the child didn't live with you for the required time, see *Temporary absences* in Pub. 501.
4. You paid over half the cost of keeping up your home.
5. You could have filed a joint tax return with your spouse the year your spouse died, even if you didn't actually do so.

If your spouse died in 2025, you can't file as qualifying surviving spouse. Instead, see [Married Filing Jointly](#), earlier.

Qualifying child. A child or stepchild (not a foster child) you claim for the ACTC is a qualifying child for this filing status. Your adopted child is always treated as your own child. See [Qualifying child](#), later. However, don't include as your qualifying child for this filing status any child you claim for the ACTC because of the rule for *Children of divorced or separated parents (or parents who live apart)* in Pub. 501 or under a multiple support agreement. See *Qualifying Child of More Than One Person* in Pub. 501.



TIP The qualifying children you claim for the ACTC are those you list by name and SSN in the qualifying children section on Part I, line 2, of Form 1040-SS.

Dependent. To find out if someone is your dependent, see *Dependents* in Pub. 501.

Keeping up a home. To find out what is included in the cost of keeping up a home, see *Keeping up a home* in Pub. 501.

Line 2

Enter the name and SSN for each qualifying child for which you are claiming the ACTC. See [Qualifying for the Credit](#) under *Part II—Bona Fide Residents of Puerto Rico Claiming Additional Child Tax Credit*, later, to find if your child is a qualifying child.



You cannot take the credit for other dependents (ODC) on Form 1040-SS. Do not enter a person who is a qualifying person for purposes of the credit for other dependents (ODC) on Part I, line 2. Instead, see the instructions for Part II, [Line 8](#), later, for more information.

Line 3

Complete line 3 **only** if you (or your spouse if filing a joint tax return) had net earnings from self-employment of \$400 or more (or church employee income of \$108.28 or more).

Enter the amount from Schedule SE (Form 1040), Part I, line 12, and attach Schedule SE (Form 1040) to your return. If applicable, also attach Schedule C (Form 1040) for nonfarm business and Schedule F (Form 1040) for farm business. See [Who Must Pay SE Tax](#), earlier.

Line 4

If either of the following applies, see Schedule H (Form 1040) and its instructions to find out if you owe household employment taxes.

- You paid any one household employee cash wages of \$2,800 or more in 2025.
- You paid total cash wages of \$1,000 or more in any calendar quarter of 2024 or 2025 to all household employees.

Line 5

Enter the total Additional Medicare Tax from Form 8959, Part IV, line 18, and attach Form 8959 to your return. See Form 8959 and its instructions for more information.

Line 6a Through 6d

Line 6a

Employee social security and Medicare tax on tips not reported to employer. Complete Form 4137 if you received cash and charge tips of \$20 or more in a calendar month and didn't report all of those tips to your employer. On Part I, line 6a, enter the amount of tax due (from Form 4137, line 13). Attach a completed Form 4137 to your return.

Line 6b

Uncollected employee social security and Medicare tax on tips. If you didn't have enough wages to cover the social security and Medicare tax due on tips you reported to your employer, the amount of tax due should be

identified with codes A and B in box 12 of your Form W-2AS, W-2CM, W-2GU, or W-2VI; or entered in boxes 25 and 26 of your Form 499R-2/W-2PR. On Part I, line 6b, enter the amount of this tax.

Line 6c

Uncollected employee social security and Medicare tax on wages. If you're an employee who received wages from an employer who didn't withhold social security and Medicare tax from your wages, complete Form 8919 to figure your share of the unreported tax. On Part I, line 6c, enter the amount of tax due (from Form 8919, line 13). Attach the completed Form 8919 to your return.

Line 6d

Uncollected employee social security and Medicare tax on group-term life insurance. If you had group-term life insurance through a former employer, you may have to pay social security and Medicare tax on part of the cost of the life insurance. The amount of tax due should be identified with codes M and N in box 12 of your Form W-2AS, W-2CM, W-2GU, or W-2VI. If you are a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico, contact your employer for this amount. On Part I, line 6d, enter the amount of this tax.

Line 8

Enter any estimated federal income tax payments you made for 2025, including any overpayment from your 2024 tax return that you applied to your 2025 estimated tax.

If you or your spouse made separate estimated tax payments but are now filing a joint return, add the amounts you each paid and enter the total on line 8. If you and your spouse made joint estimated tax payments but are now filing separate tax returns, you can divide the amount paid in any way you choose as long as you both agree. If you can't agree, you must divide the payments in proportion to each spouse's individual tax, as shown on your separate tax return for 2025. For an example of how to do this, see Pub. 505, *Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax*. Show both SSNs in the space provided on the separate returns.

Divorced taxpayers. If you got divorced in 2025 and you made joint estimated tax payments with your former spouse, enter your former spouse's SSN in the space provided on line 8. If you were divorced and remarried in 2025, enter your present spouse's SSN in the space provided on the front of Form 1040-SS.

Name change. If you changed your name and you made estimated tax payments using your former name, attach a statement to the front of Form 1040-SS that explains all the payments you and your spouse made in 2025 and the name(s) and SSN(s) under which you made them.

Line 9

If you got an automatic extension of time to file Form 1040-SS by filing Form 4868 or by making a payment, enter the amount of the payment or any amount you paid with Form 4868. If you paid by credit or debit card, don't include the convenience fee you were charged.

Line 10

Use Part II and its instructions for information on figuring and claiming any additional child tax credit (ACTC) that you may qualify to claim.

Enter the amount from Part II, line 19.

Line 11a

If you had Additional Medicare Tax withheld by your employer in 2025, enter the amount shown on Form 8959, line 24. Attach Form 8959 to your return. See Form 8959 and its instructions for more information.

Line 11b

If you (or your spouse if filing a joint tax return) had more than one employer for 2025, and total wages of more than \$176,100, too much social security tax may have been withheld. You can take a credit on this line for the amount withheld in excess of \$10,918.20. But if any one employer withheld more than \$10,918.20, you must ask that employer to refund the excess to you. You can't claim it on Form 1040-SS. Figure this amount separately for you and your spouse. You must attach Form W-2AS, W-2CM, W-2GU, W-2VI, or 499R-2/W-2PR to your return. See Pub. 505 for more information.

Line 13**Amount Overpaid**

If line 13 is under \$1, we will send a refund only on written request.

Refund Offset

If you owe past-due federal tax, state income tax, state unemployment compensation debts, child support, spousal support, or certain federal nontax debts, such as student loans, all or part of the overpayment on line 13 may be used (offset) to pay the past-due amount. Offsets for federal taxes are made by the IRS. All other offsets are made by the Treasury Department's Bureau of the Fiscal Service. For federal tax offsets, you will receive a notice from the IRS. For all other offsets, you will receive a notice from the Fiscal Service. To find out if you may have an offset or if you have any questions about it, contact the agency to which you owe the debt.

Deposit Refund into Multiple Accounts

If you want your refund to be split and direct deposited into more than one account, file Form 8888, Allocation of Refund. Use Form 8888 to direct deposit your refund (or part of it) to one or more accounts in your name at a bank or other financial institution (such as a mutual fund, brokerage firm, or credit union) in the United States.

Injured Spouse

If you file a joint tax return and your spouse hasn't paid past-due federal tax, state income tax, state unemployment compensation debts, child support, spousal support, or a federal nontax debt, such as a student loan, part or all of the overpayment on line 13 may

be used (offset) to pay the past-due amount. But your part of the overpayment may be refunded to you if certain conditions apply and you complete Form 8379, Injured Spouse Allocation. For details, use [Tax Topic 203](#) or see Form 8379.

Lines 14a Through 14d**Amount Refunded to You**

If you want to check the status of your refund, just use the IRS2Go app or go to [IRS.gov/Refunds](https://www.irs.gov/Refunds). Information about your refund will generally be available within 24 hours after the IRS receives your e-filed return, or 4 weeks after you mail your paper return. If you filed Form 8379 with your return, wait 14 weeks (11 weeks if you filed electronically). Have your 2025 tax return handy so you can enter your social security number, your filing status, and the exact whole dollar amount of your refund.

[Where's My Refund](#) will provide a personalized refund date as soon as the IRS processes your tax return and approves your refund.

Effect of refund on benefits. Any refund you receive can't be counted as income when determining if you or anyone else is eligible for benefits or assistance, or how much you or anyone else can receive, under any federal program or under any state or local program financed in whole or in part with federal funds. These programs include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps). In addition, when determining eligibility, the refund can't be counted as a resource for at least 12 months after you receive it. Check with your local benefit coordinator to find out if your refund will affect your benefits.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Simple. Safe. Secure.

Have your refund deposited automatically to your checking or savings account, including an individual retirement arrangement (IRA).

Starting in October 2025, the IRS will generally stop issuing paper checks for federal disbursements, including tax refunds, unless an exception applies. For more information, go to [IRS.gov/ModernPayments](https://www.irs.gov/ModernPayments).

To directly deposit the amount shown on line 14a to your checking or savings account at a U.S. bank or other U.S. financial institution (such as a mutual fund, brokerage firm, or credit union):

- Complete lines 14b through 14d if you want your refund deposited to only one account, or
- Check the box on line 14a and attach Form 8888 if you want to split the direct deposit of your refund into more than one account.

Account must be in your name. Don't request a deposit of your refund to an account that isn't in your name, such as your tax preparer's own account. Although you may owe your tax return preparer a fee for preparing your return, don't have any part of your refund deposited into the preparer's account to pay the fee.

The number of refunds that can be directly deposited to a single account or prepaid debit card is limited to three a year. Learn more at [IRS.gov/DepositLimit](https://www.irs.gov/DepositLimit).

Benefits of direct deposit

- You get your refund faster by direct deposit than you do by check.
- Payment is more secure. There is no check that can get lost or stolen.
- It is more convenient. You don't have to make a trip to the bank to deposit your check.
- It saves tax dollars. It costs the government less to refund by direct deposit.
- It's proven itself. Nearly 98% of social security and veterans' benefits are sent electronically using direct deposit.

Form 8888. You can have your refund directly deposited into more than one account. See the instructions for Form 8888 for more details.



Your refund can be split and directly deposited into up to three different accounts in your name on Form 8888.

You can't have your refund deposited into more than one account if you file Form 8379, Injured Spouse Allocation.

Line 14b

The routing number for your financial institution must be nine digits. The first two digits must be 01 through 12 or 21 through 32.

Ask your financial institution for the correct routing number to enter on line 14b if:

- The routing number on a deposit slip is different from the routing number on your checks,
- Your deposit is to a savings account that doesn't allow you to write checks, or
- Your checks state they are payable through a financial institution different from the one at which you have your checking account.

Line 14c

Check the appropriate box for the type of account. Don't check more than one box. You must check the correct box to ensure your deposit is accepted.

Line 14d

The account number can be up to 17 characters (both numbers and letters). Include hyphens but omit spaces and special symbols. Enter the number from left to right and leave any unused boxes blank. Don't include the check number.

If the direct deposit to your account(s) is different from the amount you expected, you will receive an explanation in the mail about 2 weeks after your refund is deposited.

Reasons Your Direct Deposit Will Be Rejected

If any of the following apply, your direct deposit request will be rejected and your refund may be delayed.

- You are asking to have a joint refund deposited to an individual account, and your financial institution(s)

won't allow this. The IRS isn't responsible if a financial institution rejects a direct deposit.

- The name on your account doesn't match the name on the refund, and your financial institution(s) won't allow a refund to be deposited unless the name on the refund matches the name on the account.
- Three direct deposits of tax refunds already have been made to the same account or prepaid debit card.
- You haven't given a valid account number.
- Any numbers or letters on lines 14b through 14d are crossed out or whited out.



The IRS isn't responsible for a lost refund if you enter the wrong account information. Check with your financial institution to get the correct routing and account numbers to make sure your direct deposit will be accepted.

Line 15

Applied to Your 2026 Estimated Tax

Enter on line 15 the amount, if any, of the overpayment on line 13 you want applied to your 2026 estimated tax.



The election to apply part or all of the overpaid amount to your 2026 estimated tax can't be changed later.

Line 16

Amount You Owe



To avoid interest and penalties, pay your taxes in full by April 15, 2026. You don't have to pay if line 16 is under \$1.

Don't include any estimated tax payment for 2025 in this payment. Instead, make the estimated tax payment separately.

The IRS offers several payment options. Go to [IRS.gov/ModernPayments](https://www.irs.gov/ModernPayments) to see your options. Also, see [How To Get Tax Help](#), later.

Pay Online

Paying online is convenient and secure and helps make sure we get your payments on time. To pay your taxes online or for more information, go to [IRS.gov/ModernPayments](https://www.irs.gov/ModernPayments). You can pay using any of the following methods.

- **Your Online Account.** You can now make tax payments through your online account, including balance payments, estimated tax payments, or other types of payments. You can also see your payment history and other tax records there. Go to [IRS.gov/Account](https://www.irs.gov/Account).
- **IRS Direct Pay.** For online transfers directly from your checking or savings account at no cost to you.
- **Pay by Card or Digital Wallet.** To pay by debit or credit card, or digital wallet, go to [IRS.gov/Payments](https://www.irs.gov/Payments). A fee is charged by these service providers. You can also pay by phone with a debit or credit card. See *Debit or credit card under Pay by Phone*, later.

- **Electronic Funds Withdrawal (EFW)** is an integrated e-file/e-pay option offered when filing your federal taxes electronically using tax return preparation software or through a tax professional or the IRS at [IRS.gov/Payments](https://www.irs.gov/Payments).
- **Online Payment Agreement.** If you can't pay in full by the due date of your tax return, you can apply for an online monthly installment agreement at [IRS.gov/OPA](https://www.irs.gov/OPA). Once you complete the online process, you will receive immediate notification of whether your agreement has been approved. A user fee is charged.
- **Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS).** Allows you to pay your taxes online or by phone directly from your checking or savings account. There is no fee for this service. You must be enrolled either online or have an enrollment form mailed to you. See EFTPS under *Pay by Phone*, later.

Pay by Phone

Paying by phone is another safe and secure method of paying electronically. Use one of the following methods: (1) call one of the debit or credit card service providers, or (2) use the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) to pay directly from your checking or savings account.

Debit or credit card. To make a payment by phone, call one of our service providers. Each charges a fee that varies by provider, card type, and payment amount.

Link2Gov Corporation
888-PAY-1040™
(888-729-1040)
www.PAY1040.com

ACI Payments, Inc.
888-UPAY-TAX™
(888-872-9829)
fed.acipayonline.com

EFTPS. To get more information about EFTPS or to enroll in EFTPS, visit [EFTPS.gov](https://www.EFTPS.gov) or call 800-555-4477. To contact EFTPS using Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS) for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, dial 711 and then provide the TRS assistant the 800-555-4477 number above or 800-733-4829. Additional information about EFTPS is also available in Pub. 966.

Pay by Mobile Device

To pay through your mobile device, download the IRS2Go app.

Pay by Cash

You can pay your taxes in cash. To find out about the different cash payment methods, go to [IRS.gov/PayCash](https://www.irs.gov/PayCash). Don't send cash payments through the mail.

Pay by Check or Money Order

Before submitting a payment through the mail, please consider alternative methods. One of our safe, quick, and

easy electronic payment options might be right for you. If you choose to mail a tax payment, attach Form 1040-V. For the most up-to-date information on Form 1040-V, go to [IRS.gov/Form1040V](https://www.irs.gov/Form1040V).

Extension of time to pay due to an undue hardship. If paying the tax when it is due would cause you an undue hardship, you can ask for an extension of time to pay by filing Form 1127, Application for Extension of Time for Payment of Tax Due to Undue Hardship, by April 15, 2026. In most cases, an extension won't be granted for more than 6 months. You will be charged interest on the tax not paid by April 15, 2026. You must pay the tax before the extension runs out. If you do not pay the tax by the extended due date, penalties and interest will be imposed until taxes are paid in full. For the most up-to-date information on Form 1127, go to [IRS.gov/Form1127](https://www.irs.gov/Form1127).

Third Party Designee

If you want to allow your preparer, a friend, a family member, or any other person you choose to discuss your 2025 tax return with the IRS, check the "Yes" box in the "Third Party Designee" area on page 2 of your return. Also, enter the designee's name, phone number, and any five digits the designee chooses as their personal identification number (PIN).

If you check the "Yes" box, you (and your spouse if filing a joint tax return) are authorizing the IRS to call the designee to answer any questions that may arise during the processing of your return. You are also authorizing the designee to:

- Give the IRS any information that is missing from your return;
- Call the IRS for information about the processing of your return or the status of your refund or payment(s);
- Receive copies of notices or transcripts related to your return, upon request; and
- Respond to certain IRS notices about math errors, offsets, and return preparation.

You aren't authorizing the designee to receive any refund check, bind you to anything (including any additional tax liability), or otherwise represent you before the IRS. If you want to expand the designee's authorization, see Pub. 947, Practice Before the IRS and Power of Attorney.

The authorization will automatically end no later than the due date (without regard to extensions) for filing your 2026 tax return. This is April 15, 2027, for most people.

Sign Your Return

Form 1040-SS isn't considered a valid return unless you sign it in accordance with the requirements in these instructions. If you are filing a joint return, your spouse must also sign. If your spouse can't sign the return, see Pub. 501. Be sure to date your return. If you have someone prepare your return, you are still responsible for the correctness of the return. If your return is signed by a representative for you, you must have a power of attorney attached that specifically authorizes the representative to sign your return. To do this, you can use Form 2848, Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative. If you are filing a joint return with your spouse who died in 2025, see [Death of a Taxpayer](#), later.

Requirements for a Paper Return

You must handwrite your signature on your return if you file it on paper. Digital, electronic, or typed-font signatures are not valid signatures for Form 1040-SS filed on paper.

Requirements for an Electronic Return

To file your return electronically, you must sign the return electronically using a personal identification number (PIN) and provide the information described below. If you are filing online using software, you must use a Self-Select PIN. If you are filing electronically using a tax practitioner, you can use a Self-Select PIN or a Practitioner PIN.

If we issued you an identity protection personal identification number (IP PIN) (as described in more detail below), all six digits of your IP PIN must appear in the IP PIN spaces provided for your electronic signature to be complete. Failure to include an issued IP PIN on the electronic return will result in an invalid signature and a rejected return. If you are filing a joint return and both taxpayers were issued IP PINs, enter both IP PINs in the spaces provided.

Self-Select PIN. The Self-Select PIN method allows you to create your own PIN. If you are married filing jointly, you and your spouse will each need to create a PIN and enter these PINs as your electronic signatures.

A PIN is any combination of five digits you choose except five zeros. If you use a PIN, there is nothing to sign and nothing to mail—not even your Forms W-2.

Your electronic return signed with a Self-Select PIN is considered a validly signed return only when it includes your PIN, last name, date of birth, IP PIN, if applicable, and your adjusted gross income (AGI) from your originally filed 2024 federal income tax return, if applicable. If you're filing jointly, your electronic return must also include your spouse's PIN; last name; date of birth; IP PIN, if applicable, and AGI, if applicable, in order to be considered validly signed. Don't use your AGI from an amended return (Form 1040-X) or a math error correction made by the IRS.

AGI is the amount shown on your 2024 Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return or 1040-SR, U.S. Income Tax Return for Seniors, line 11. If you don't have your 2024 income tax return, you can access your transcript through your online account at [IRS.gov/Account](https://www.irs.gov/Account). You can also visit [IRS.gov/Transcript](https://www.irs.gov/Transcript) or call the IRS at 800-908-9946 to get a free transcript of your return. If you didn't file a 2024 Form 1040 or 1040-SR, enter zero. You, and your spouse if filing jointly, may each use your own prior-year PIN to verify your identity if you filed electronically last year. If you use your prior-year PIN or enter your IP PIN, you are not required to enter your prior-year AGI. The prior-year PIN is the five-digit PIN you used to electronically sign your 2024 return.



You can't use the Self-Select PIN method if you are a first-time filer under age 16 at the end of 2025.

Practitioner PIN. The Practitioner PIN method allows you to authorize your tax practitioner to enter or generate your PIN. Your electronic return is considered a validly signed return only when it includes your PIN; last name;

date of birth; and IP PIN, if applicable. If you're filing jointly, your electronic return must also include your spouse's PIN; last name; date of birth; and IP PIN, if applicable, in order to be considered validly signed. The practitioner can provide you with details.

Daytime Phone Number

Providing your daytime phone number can help speed the processing of your return. If we have questions about items on your return and you can answer our questions over the phone, we may be able to continue processing your return without mailing you a letter. If you are filing a joint return, you can enter either your or your spouse's daytime phone number.

Identity Protection PIN

All taxpayers are now eligible for an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN). For more information, see Pub. 5477. To apply for an IP PIN, go to [IRS.gov/IPPIN](https://www.irs.gov/IPPIN) and use the Get an IP PIN tool.

If you received an IP PIN from the IRS, enter it in the IP PIN spaces provided next to your daytime phone number. You must correctly enter all six numbers of your IP PIN. If you didn't receive an IP PIN, leave these spaces blank.



New IP PINs are generated every year. They will generally be sent out by mid-January 2026. Use this IP PIN on your 2025 return as well as any prior-year returns you file in 2026.

If you are filing a joint return and both taxpayers receive IP PINs, enter both IP PINs in the spaces provided.

If you need more information, including how to retrieve your IP PIN online, go to [IRS.gov/IPPIN](https://www.irs.gov/IPPIN). If you're unable to retrieve your IP PIN online, call 800-908-4490.

Understanding identity theft. Go to [IRS.gov/Identity-Theft-Central](https://www.irs.gov/Identity-Theft-Central) for information and videos.

Paid Preparer Must Sign Your Return

Generally, anyone you pay to prepare your return must sign it and include their Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) in the space provided. The preparer must give you a copy of the return for your records. Someone who prepares your return but doesn't charge you shouldn't sign your return.

If your paid preparer is self-employed, then the paid preparer should check the "self-employed" checkbox.

Part II—Bona Fide Residents of Puerto Rico Claiming Additional Child Tax Credit

To claim the additional child tax credit, you, or your spouse if filing a joint return, must have a valid SSN issued before the due date of your 2025 return (including extensions).

The additional child tax credit (ACTC) is available to bona fide residents of Puerto Rico with one or more qualifying children.

Generally, you were a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico if, during 2025, you:

- Met the presence test,
- Did not have a tax home outside of Puerto Rico, and
- Did not have a closer connection to the United States or to a foreign country than you have to Puerto Rico.

For more information on bona fide resident status, see Pub. 570.

To figure the amount of your ACTC, regardless of the number of children you have, list each qualifying child (defined later) in Part I, line 2 and complete Part II.



Not a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico in 2025. An individual who was not a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico in 2025 may have to file tax returns with both Puerto Rico and the United States. For more information, see Not a Bona Fide Resident of Puerto Rico in Pub. 570. You will figure the credit on Schedule 8812 (Form 1040) and claim the credit by filing Form 1040 or 1040-SR **instead** of Form 1040-SS.



Bona fide residents of American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, or the USVI may be able to claim the ACTC on their territory income tax return. Contact your territory tax agency for details. For more information, see Pub. 570.

Improper claims. If you erroneously claim the ACTC and it's later determined that your error was due to reckless or intentional disregard of the ACTC rules, you will not be allowed to claim the child tax credit (CTC), the credit for other dependents (ODC), or the ACTC for 2 years even if you are otherwise eligible to do so.

If it's determined that your error was due to fraud, you will not be allowed to claim the CTC, the ODC, or the ACTC for 10 years. You may also have to pay penalties.

Form 8862 may be required. If your CTC (refundable or nonrefundable, depending on the tax year) or ACTC for any year after 2015 was denied or reduced for any reason other than a math or clerical error, you must attach Form 8862 to your tax return to claim the ACTC, unless an exception applies. See Form 8862, Information To Claim Certain Credits After Disallowance, and its instructions for more information including whether an exception applies.



Refunds for returns claiming the ACTC can't be issued before mid-February 2026. This delay applies to the entire refund, not just the portion associated with the ACTC.

Qualifying for the Credit

You may be able to claim the ACTC for 2025 if all of the following apply.

- You were a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico (see Pub. 570).
- Social security and Medicare taxes were withheld from your wages or you paid SE tax.
- You can't be claimed as a dependent on someone else's U.S. income tax return.
- You had one or more qualifying children (defined under *Qualifying child* next).

Qualifying child. Each qualifying child you use for the ACTC must have the required SSN. If you have a

qualifying child who does not have the required SSN, you cannot use the child to claim the ACTC on either your original or an amended 2025 tax return. The required SSN is one that is valid for employment and is issued before the due date of your 2025 tax return (including extensions).



If your qualifying child was born and died in 2025 and you do not have an SSN for the child, enter "Died" on row (c) of Part I, line 2, and include a copy of the child's birth certificate, death certificate, or hospital records. The document must show the child was born alive.

A qualifying child for purposes of the ACTC is a child who meets all of the following requirements.

1. Is your son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half sister, or a descendant of any of them (for example, your grandchild, niece, or nephew). A foster child is any child placed with you by an authorized placement agency or by a judgment, decree, or other order of any court of competent jurisdiction.
2. Was under age 17 at the end of 2025.
3. Was younger than you (or your spouse, if filing jointly) or was permanently and totally disabled (see *Age Test* in Pub. 501).
4. Didn't provide over half of their own support for 2025.
5. Lived with you for more than half of 2025. If the child didn't live with you for the required time, see *Residency Test* in Pub. 501.
6. Isn't filing a joint tax return for 2025 or is filing a joint tax return for 2025 only to claim a refund of estimated or withheld taxes. See the examples under *Joint Return Test (To Be a Qualifying Child)* in Pub. 501.
7. Was a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or a U.S. resident alien.

Note. If you are a U.S. citizen or U.S. national and your adopted child lived with you all year as a member of your household, that child meets an exception and may be a qualifying child although the child is a nonresident alien. See Pub. 570 for more information.

Line 2

Enter the number of qualifying children from Part I, line 2 and multiply by \$1,700.

Line 3

For purposes of figuring the ACTC, you must report all of your income, including income derived from sources within Puerto Rico that is excluded from U.S. tax because you were a bona fide resident of Puerto Rico.

Your modified adjusted gross income (AGI) includes items such as wages, interest, dividends, unemployment compensation, alimony received (see *Caution*, below), and taxable pensions and annuities. Include any profit or

(loss) from Schedule C (Form 1040), line 31, and/or Schedule F (Form 1040), line 34. Also, include your taxable social security benefits. Use Worksheet 1 in Pub. 915, Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits, to see if any of your benefits are taxable.

For more information on these and other types of income to include on line 3, see the Instructions for Form 1040. Also, see Pub. 570 for the rules to use in determining your Puerto Rico source income.



Only include amounts received as alimony or separate maintenance pursuant to a divorce or separation agreement entered into on or before December 31, 2018, unless that agreement was changed after December 31, 2018, to expressly provide that alimony received isn't included in your income. For more details, see Pub. 504, Divorced or Separated Individuals.

Line 4

The ACTC may be limited if your income derived from sources within Puerto Rico exceeds the amounts shown on line 4. Calculate the CTC on line 7 and the ODC on line 8 as part of figuring the limitation, if any, of your ACTC even though you **cannot** take the CTC or ODC on Form 1040-SS.

Line 5

If you checked "No" leave line 5 blank, enter the amount from line 2 on line 11, and go to lines 12a, 12b, and 12c.

If you checked "Yes" subtract line 4 from line 3 (enter the amount in multiples of \$1,000), and go to line 6. For example, if your result is \$425, increase it to \$1,000. If your result is \$1,025, increase it to \$2,000.

Line 7

Multiply the number of qualifying children entered on line 2 by \$2,200.

If you have a child who is age 17 or older that was not reported on line 2, you may be able to include that child in the calculation of line 8.

Line 8

Enter the number of other dependents who meet additional criteria (defined next), including children who are 17 or older, and multiply by \$500.

If you include dependents on line 8, you must attach a statement to your Form 1040-SS, which provides the following information for each person included on line 8 who is a qualifying person for purposes of the credit for other dependents.

- First and last name.
- Tax identification number (SSN, ITIN, or adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN)).
- Relationship to the person(s) filing Form 1040-SS.

Qualifying person for the credit for other dependents. A qualifying person for purposes of the credit for other dependents is a person who:

1. Qualifies as a dependent for purposes of being claimed as a dependent on a U.S. federal tax return.

See Pub. 501 for more information about claiming someone as a dependent.

2. Cannot be reported on Part I, line 2, and Part II, lines 2 and 7, of Form 1040-SS.
3. Was a U.S. citizen, U.S. national, or U.S. resident alien. For more information, see Pub. 519, U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens. If the person is your adopted child, see *Adopted child* next.

Adopted child. Your adopted child is always treated as your own child. An adopted child includes a child lawfully placed with you for legal adoption. If you are a U.S. citizen or U.S. national and your adopted child lived with you all year as a member of your household in 2025, that child meets requirement 3, above.

Taxpayer identification number requirements for the credit for other dependents. In addition to being a qualifying person for the credit for other dependents, the person must have an SSN, ITIN, or ATIN issued on or before the due date of your 2025 Form 1040-SS (including extensions). If the person has not been issued an SSN, ITIN, or ATIN by that date, do not include the person on line 8.

If the person applies for an ITIN or ATIN on or before the due date of your 2025 return (including extensions) and the IRS issues the person an ITIN or ATIN as a result of the application, the IRS will consider the ITIN or ATIN as issued on or before the due date of your return.

Additional Information

Corrected Returns

File a new Form 1040-SS to change a Form 1040-SS you already filed. If you filed Form 1040-SS but should have filed Form 1040, file a corrected return on Form 1040. In either case, at the top of page 1 of the corrected return, enter "CORRECTED" in dark bold letters followed by the date. In most cases, an amended Form 1040-SS (or Form 1040, if applicable) must be filed within 3 years after the date on which the original return was filed or within 2 years after the tax was paid, whichever is later.

Can I File My Corrected Return Electronically?

1. If you need to correct your 2023-2025 Form 1040-SS, you can now file electronically using available tax software products.
2. If correcting a prior-year return, and the original return for that year was filed on paper during the current processing year, then the corrected return must be filed on paper.

How Do I File My Corrected Return Electronically?

You should contact your preferred tax software provider to verify their participation and for specific instructions needed to submit your corrected return and to answer any questions.

How Many Corrected Returns Can Be Filed Electronically?

You are allowed to electronically file up to three “accepted” corrected returns. After the third accepted corrected return, you must file the corrected return on paper.

Will Filing My Corrected Return Be Processed Faster When Filed Electronically?

Currently, the normal processing time of up to 16 weeks also applies to electronically filed corrected returns.

When Is a New Form 8879 Required?

A new Form 8879, IRS *e-file* Signature Authorization, is required each time a corrected Form 1040-SS is electronically filed using a tax practitioner.

Electronically filing corrected Form 1040-SS, frequently asked questions. Go to [IRS.gov/filing/amended-return-frequently-asked-questions](https://irs.gov/filing/amended-return-frequently-asked-questions) for answers to your questions.

Death of a Taxpayer

If a taxpayer died before filing a return for 2025, the taxpayer’s spouse or personal representative may have to file and sign a return for that taxpayer. A personal representative can be an executor, administrator, or anyone who is in charge of the deceased taxpayer’s property. If the deceased taxpayer didn’t have to file a return but had tax withheld, a return must be filed to get a refund. The person who files the return must check the “Deceased” box at the top of page 1 of Form 1040-SS. They must also enter the date of death in the entry spaces. If a return is being filed for both spouses who died in 2025, the person who files the return must check the “Deceased” box and enter the date of death for both the primary taxpayer and the spouse.

If your spouse died in 2025 and you didn’t remarry in 2025, or if your spouse died in 2026 before filing a return for 2025, you can file a joint return. A joint return should show your spouse’s 2025 income before death and your income for all of 2025. Check the “Deceased” box at the top of page 1 of Form 1040-SS and enter the date your spouse died in the entry spaces after “Spouse”. (Enter “Filing as surviving spouse” in the area where you sign the return.) If someone other than you is the personal representative, they must also sign the return.

Failure to complete this section may delay the processing of the return.

The surviving spouse or personal representative should promptly notify all payers of income, including financial institutions, of the taxpayer’s death. This will ensure the proper reporting of income earned by the taxpayer’s estate or heirs. A deceased taxpayer’s SSN should **not** be used for tax years after the year of death, except for estate tax return purposes.

Claiming a Refund for a Deceased Taxpayer

If you are filing a joint return with your deceased spouse, you only need to file the tax return to claim the refund. If

you are a court-appointed representative, file the return and include a copy of the certificate that shows your appointment. All other filers requesting the deceased taxpayer’s refund must file the return and attach Form 1310, Statement of Person Claiming Refund Due a Deceased Taxpayer.

For more details, use [Tax Topic 356](#) or see Pub. 559, Survivors, Executors, and Administrators.

Interest and Penalties

You don’t have to figure the amount of any interest or penalties you may owe. The IRS will send you a bill for any amount due.

Interest

The IRS will charge you interest on taxes not paid by their due date, even if an extension of time to file is granted. The IRS will also charge you interest on penalties imposed for failure to file, negligence, fraud, substantial or gross valuation misstatements, substantial understatements of tax, and reportable transaction understatements. Interest is charged on the penalty from the due date of the return (including extensions).

Penalties

Late filing. If you don’t file your return by the due date (including extensions), the penalty is usually 5% of the amount due for each month or part of a month your return is late, unless you have a reasonable explanation. If you have a reasonable explanation for filing late, include it with your return. The penalty can be as much as 25% of the tax due. The penalty is 15% per month, up to a maximum of 75%, if the failure to file is fraudulent. If your return is more than 60 days late, the minimum penalty will be \$525 or the amount of any tax you owe, whichever is smaller.

Late payment of tax. If you pay your taxes late, the penalty is usually 1/2 of 1% of the unpaid amount for each month or part of a month the tax isn’t paid. The penalty can be as much as 25% of the unpaid amount. It applies to any unpaid tax on the return. This penalty is in addition to interest charges on late payments.

Frivolous return. In addition to any other penalties, the law imposes a penalty of \$5,000 for filing a frivolous return. A frivolous return is one that doesn’t contain information needed to figure the correct tax or shows a substantially incorrect tax because you take a frivolous position or desire to delay or interfere with the tax laws. This includes altering or striking out the preprinted language above the space where you sign. For a list of positions identified as frivolous, see Notice 2010-33, 2010-17 I.R.B. 609, available at [IRS.gov/irb/2010-17_IRB#NOT-2010-33](https://irs.gov/irb/2010-17_IRB#NOT-2010-33).

Other. Other penalties can be imposed for, among other things, negligence, substantial understatement of tax, reportable transaction understatements, filing an erroneous refund claim, and fraud. Criminal penalties may be imposed for willful failure to file, tax evasion, making a false statement, or identity theft. See Pub. 17, Your

Federal Income Tax (For Individuals) for details on some of these penalties.

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.

Tax reform. Tax reform legislation impacting federal taxes, credits, and deductions was enacted in P.L. 119-21, commonly known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act on July 4, 2025. Go to [IRS.gov/OBBB](https://www.irs.gov/OBBB) for more information and updates on how this legislation affects your taxes.

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.

- **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 \(MilitaryOneSource.mil/MilTax\)](https://www.militaryonesource.com/MilTax).

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.

- The [Earned Income Tax Credit Assistant \(IRS.gov/EITCAssistant\)](https://www.irs.gov/EITCAssistant) determines if you're eligible for the earned income credit (EITC).
- The [Online EIN Application \(IRS.gov/EIN\)](https://www.irs.gov/EIN) helps you get an employer identification number (EIN) at no cost.
- The [Tax Withholding Estimator \(IRS.gov/W4app\)](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 [Sales Tax Deduction Calculator \(IRS.gov/SalesTax\)](https://www.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](https://www.irs.gov/Help): A variety of tools to help you get answers to some of the most common tax questions.
- [IRS.gov/ITA](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.irs.gov) on IRS.gov.

Employers can register to use Business Services Online. The Social Security Administration (SSA) offers online service at [SSA.gov/employer](https://www.ssa.gov/employer) for fast, free, and secure online 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, an S corporation, a C corporation, or a single-member limited liability company (LLC), 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://www.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/irsvideosmultilingua](https://www.youtube.com/irsvideosmultilingua).
- [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.

Over-the-Phone Interpreter (OPI) Service. The IRS offers the OPI service to taxpayers needing language interpretation. The OPI Service is available at Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs), most IRS offices, and every VITA/TCE tax return site. This service is available in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian, and Haitian Creole.

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-ready, 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.

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 additional child tax credit (ACTC). This applies to the entire refund, not just the portion associated with the credit.

Making a tax payment. The IRS recommends paying electronically whenever possible. Options to pay electronically are included in the list below. Payment of U.S. tax must be remitted to the IRS in U.S. dollars. [Digital assets](https://www.irs.gov/digitalassets) 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 taxes from your bank account. It's free and secure, and no sign-in is required. You can change or cancel within two days of scheduled payment.
- **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:** 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 and easy.

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

- Apply for an [online payment agreement \(IRS.gov/OPA\)](https://www.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](https://www.irs.gov/offer) 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](https://www.irs.gov/OIC).

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

IRS Document Upload Tool. You may be able to 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://www.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/TAC](https://www.irs.gov/TAC) 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.

Territory Resources

Addresses of walk-in sites in each territory and other ways to get forms and publications are listed below.

American Samoa

American Samoa Government
Tax Office
Executive Office Building
Pago Pago, AS 96799



You can order forms and publications by calling 684-633-4181.



You can download forms by going to americansamoa.gov/tax-office.

CNMI

CNMI
Division of Revenue and Taxation
P.O. Box 5234 CHRB
Dandan Commercial Center
Saipan, MP 96950



You can order forms and publications by calling 670-664-1040.



You can download forms by going to Finance.guam.mp/forms.php.

Guam

Department of Revenue and Taxation
Taxpayer Services Division
P.O. Box 23607
Barrigada, Guam 96921



For a list of services, go to MyGuamtax.com.



You can order forms and publications by calling 671-635-1840 or 671-635-1841.

Puerto Rico

U.S. Internal Revenue Service
48 Carr 165 km.1.2
City View Plaza II Bldg.
Guaynabo, PR 00968-8000



To pay, call 787-620-2323, option 3.



Departamento de Hacienda
Negociado de Asistencia Contributiva
P.O. Box 9024140
San Juan, PR 00902-4140



For a list of services, go to Hacienda.pr.gov.

USVI

USVI Bureau of Internal Revenue (STT)
6115 Estate Smith Bay
Suite 225
St. Thomas, VI 00802

USVI Bureau of Internal Revenue (STJ)
P.O. Box 8305
St. John, VI 00831

USVI Bureau of Internal Revenue (STX)
4008 Estate Diamond, Plot 7B
Christiansted, VI 00820-4421



You can order forms and publications by calling 340-715-1040 (STT), 340-777-1446 (STJ), and 340-773-1040 (STX).



You can get forms and publications at the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue at bir.vi.gov/form.

Note. The addresses and phone numbers indicated above for the territories are subject to change.

Disclosure, Privacy Act, and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.

The IRS Restructuring and Reform Act of 1998, the Privacy Act of 1974, and the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 require that when we ask you for information, we must first tell you our legal right to ask for the information, why we are asking for it, and how it will be used. We must also tell you what could happen if we do not receive it and whether your response is voluntary, required to obtain a benefit, or mandatory under the law.

This notice applies to all records and other material (in paper or electronic format) you file with us, including this tax return. It also applies to any questions we need to ask you so we can complete, correct, or process your return; figure your tax; and collect tax, interest, or penalties.

Our legal right to ask for information is Internal Revenue Code sections 6001, 6011, and 6012(a), and their regulations. They say that you must file a return or statement with the IRS and pay to the United States Treasury any tax for which you are liable. Your response is mandatory under these sections. Section 6109 requires you to provide your identifying number on the return. This is so we know who you are, and can process your return and other papers. You must fill in all parts of the tax form that apply to you.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law.

We ask for return information to carry out the tax laws of the United States. We need it to figure and collect the right amount of tax.

If you do not file a return, do not provide the information we ask for, or provide fraudulent information, you may be charged penalties and be subject to criminal prosecution. We may also have to disallow any exclusions, credits, deductions, or adjustments shown on the tax return. This could make the tax higher or delay any refund, and the calculation of your social security benefits may be affected. Interest may also be charged.

Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as stated in section 6103. However, section 6103 allows or requires the IRS to disclose or give the information shown on your tax return to others as described in the Code. For example, we may disclose your tax information to the SSA for use in calculating your social security benefits; to the Department of Justice to enforce the tax laws, both civil and criminal; and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths or territories to carry out their tax laws.

We may disclose your tax information to other persons as necessary to obtain information needed to determine the amount of or to collect the tax you owe. We may disclose your tax information to the Comptroller General of the United States to permit the Comptroller General to

review the Internal Revenue Service. We may disclose your tax information to Committees of Congress; federal, state, and local child support agencies; and to other federal agencies for the purposes of determining entitlement for benefits or the eligibility for and the repayment of loans. We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, or to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

Keep this notice with your records. It may help you if we ask you for other information. If you have questions about the rules for filing and giving information, call or visit any IRS office.

Estimates of taxpayer burden. The table below shows burden estimates as of October 1, 2025, for taxpayers filing a 2025 Form 1040-SS tax return.

Form	Average Time Burden (Hours)	Average Cost*
1040-SS	7	\$40
* Dollars rounded to the nearest \$10.		

Reported time and cost burdens are national averages and do not necessarily reflect a “typical” case. Most taxpayers experience lower than average burden, with taxpayer burden varying considerably by taxpayer type. The estimated average time burden for all taxpayers filing a Form 1040-SS is 7 hours, with an average cost of \$40 per return. This average includes all related forms and schedules, across all preparation methods and taxpayer activities. Within these estimates there is significant variation in taxpayer activity.

Out-of-pocket costs include any expenses incurred by taxpayers to prepare and submit their tax returns. Examples include tax return preparation and submission fees, postage and photocopying costs, and tax preparation software costs. Tax preparation fees vary widely depending on the tax situation of the taxpayer, the type of professional preparer, and the geographic area.

We try to create forms and instructions that can be easily understood. Often this is difficult to do because our tax laws are very complex. For some people with income mostly from wages, filling in the forms is easy. For others who have businesses, pensions, stocks, rental income, or other investments, it is more difficult.

If you have suggestions for making these forms simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can send us comments through [IRS.gov/FormComments](https://www.irs.gov/FormComments). Or you can send your comments to Internal Revenue Service, Tax Forms and Publications Division, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6526, Washington, DC 20224. Don't send your return to this address. Instead, see [Where To File](#), earlier.

Although we can't respond individually to each comment received, we do appreciate your feedback and will consider your comments as we revise our tax forms and instructions.

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