



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

www.irs.ustreas.gov

Note: This booklet does not contain tax forms.

1998 1040

Instructions

Taxpayer News

**Explore
IRS e-file!**

IRS e-file

- Quickest way to file.
 - Fastest way to get your refund.
 - Best way to avoid errors and notices.
- See page 5.

Need Help?

Quick and easy access
to tax help and forms.
See page 6.

SSN Needed!

We heard you!

To protect your privacy,
we took your social
security number (SSN)
off the label. But we still

need your SSN. So be sure
to complete the SSN
area at the top
of Form 1040.
See page 12.

New Tax Benefits!

Child Tax Credits!

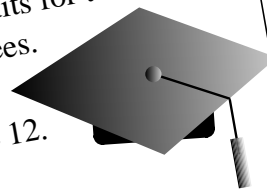
You may be able to claim
credits of up to \$400
for each child
under 17.
See page 12.



Benefits for College and Other Higher Education!

- Student loan interest deduction.
- Credits for tuition and fees.

See
page 12.



Filing Requirements

Note: These rules apply to all U.S. citizens, regardless of where they live, and resident aliens.

Do You Have To File?

Use **Chart A**, **B**, or **C** to see if you must file a return. U.S. citizens who lived in or had income from a U.S. possession should see **Pub. 570**. Residents of Puerto Rico can use TeleTax topic 901 (see page 9) to see if they must file.



Even if you do not otherwise have to file a return, you should file one to get a refund of any Federal income tax withheld. You should also file if you are eligible for the earned income credit or the additional child tax credit.

Exception for Children Under Age 14

If you are planning to file a return for your child who was under age 14 on January 1, 1999, and certain other conditions apply, you may elect to report your child's income on your return. But you must use **Form 8814** to do so. If you make this election, your child does not have to file a return. For details, use TeleTax topic 553 (see page 9) or see **Form 8814**.

Nonresident Aliens and Dual-Status Aliens

These rules also apply to nonresident aliens and dual-status aliens who were married to U.S. citizens or residents at the end of 1998 and who have elected to be taxed as resident aliens. Other nonresident aliens and dual-status aliens have different filing requirements. They may have to file **Form 1040NR** or **Form 1040NR-EZ**. Specific rules apply to determine if you are a resident or nonresident alien. See **Pub. 519** for details, including the rules for students and scholars who are aliens.

When Should You File?

Not later than **April 15, 1999**. If you file after this date, you may have to pay penalties and interest. See page 48.

Chart A—For Most People

IF your filing status is . . .	AND at the end of 1998 you were* . . .	THEN file a return if your gross income** was at least . . .
Single	under 65 65 or older	\$6,950 8,000
Married filing jointly***	under 65 (both spouses) 65 or older (one spouse) 65 or older (both spouses)	\$12,500 13,350 14,200
Married filing separately	any age	\$2,700
Head of household (see page 18)	under 65 65 or older	\$8,950 10,000
Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child (see page 18)	under 65 65 or older	\$9,800 10,650

* If you turned age 65 on January 1, 1999, you are considered to be age 65 at the end of 1998.

** **Gross income** means all income you received in the form of money, goods, property, and services that is not exempt from tax including any income from sources outside the United States (even if you may exclude part or all of it). **Do not** include social security benefits unless you are married filing a separate return and you lived with your spouse at any time in 1998.

*** If you did not live with your spouse at the end of 1998 (or on the date your spouse died) and your gross income was at least \$2,700, you must file a return regardless of your age.

What if You Cannot File on Time?

You can get an automatic 4-month extension by filing **Form 4868** with the IRS by April 15, 1999.

Caution: *Form 4868 does not extend the time to pay your income tax. See Form 4868.*

But if you are a U.S. citizen or resident, you may qualify for an automatic extension of time to file without filing **Form 4868**, if, on the due date of your return, you meet one of the following conditions:

- You live outside the United States and Puerto Rico, AND your main place of business or post of duty is outside the United States and Puerto Rico.
- You are in military or naval service on duty outside the United States and Puerto Rico.

This extension gives you an extra 2 months to file and pay the tax, but interest will be charged from the original due date of the return on any unpaid tax. You must attach a statement to your return showing that you meet the requirements.

Where Do You File?

See the back cover of this booklet for filing instructions and addresses. For details on using a private delivery service to mail your return or payment, see page 17.

Other Dependent Children

Include the total number of children who did not live with you for reasons other than divorce or separation on the line labeled "Dependents on 6c not entered above." Include dependent children who lived in Canada or Mexico during 1998.

Income

Foreign-Source Income

You must report unearned income, such as interest, dividends, and pensions, from sources outside the United States unless exempt by law or a tax treaty. You must also report earned income, such as wages and tips, from sources outside the United States.

If you worked abroad, you may be able to exclude part or all of your earned income. For details, see **Pub. 54** and **Form 2555** or **2555-EZ**.

Community Property States

Community property states are Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. If you and your spouse lived in a community property state, you must usually follow state law to determine what is community income and what is separate income. For details, see **Pub. 555**.

Rounding Off to Whole Dollars

To round off cents to the nearest whole dollar on your forms and schedules, drop amounts under 50 cents and increase amounts from 50 to 99 cents to the next dollar. If you do round off, do so for all amounts. But if you have to add two or more amounts to figure the amount to enter on a line, include cents when adding and only round off the total.

Line 7

Wages, Salaries, Tips, etc.

Enter the total of your wages, salaries, tips, etc. If a joint return, also include your spouse's income. For most people, the amount to enter on this line should be shown in box 1 of their **Forms W-2**. But the following types of income must also be included in the total on line 7.

- Wages received as a **household employee** for which you did not receive a W-2 form because your employer paid you less than \$1,100 in 1998.

- **Tip income** you did not report to your employer. Also include **allocated tips** shown on your W-2 form(s) unless you can prove that you received less. Allocated tips should be shown in box 8 of your W-2 form(s). They are not included as income in box 1. See **Pub. 531** for more details.

Caution: You may owe social security and Medicare tax on unreported or allocated tips. See the instructions for line 52 on page 35.

- **Dependent care benefits**, which should be shown in box 10 of your W-2 form(s). But first complete **Form 2441** to see if you may exclude part or all of the benefits.

- **Employer-provided adoption benefits**, which should be shown in box 13 of your W-2 form(s) with code T. But first complete **Form 8839** to see if you may exclude part or all of the benefits.

- **Scholarship and fellowship grants** not reported on a W-2 form. Also, enter "SCH" and the amount on the dotted line next to line 7. **Exception.** If you were a degree candidate, include on line 7 **only** the amounts you used for expenses other than tuition and course-related expenses. For example, amounts used for room, board, and travel must be reported on line 7.

- **Excess salary deferrals.** The amount deferred should be shown in box 13 of your W-2 form and the "Deferred compensation" box in box 15 should be checked. If the total amount you (or your spouse if filing jointly) deferred for 1998 under **all** plans was more than \$10,000, include the excess on line 7. But a different limit may apply if amounts were deferred under a tax-sheltered annuity plan or an eligible plan of a state or local government or tax-exempt organization. See **Pub. 575** for details.

Caution: You may **not** deduct the amount deferred. It is not included as income in box 1 of your W-2 form.

- **Disability pensions** shown on **Form 1099-R** if you have not reached the minimum retirement age set by your employer. Disability pensions received after you reach that age and other pensions shown on **Form 1099-R** (other than payments from an IRA*) are reported on lines 16a and 16b.

- **Corrective distributions** shown on **Form 1099-R** of (1) excess salary deferrals and (2) excess contributions to a retirement plan. But do not include distributions from an IRA* on line 7. Instead, report them on lines 15a and 15b.

*This includes a Roth, SEP, SIMPLE, or education IRA.

Were You a Statutory Employee?

If you were, the "statutory employee" box in box 15 of your W-2 form should be checked. Statutory employees include full-time life insurance salespeople, certain agent or commission drivers and traveling salespeople, and certain homeworkers. If you have related business expenses to deduct, report the amount shown in box 1 of your W-2 form on **Schedule C** or **C-EZ** along with your expenses.

Missing or Incorrect Form W-2?

If you do not get a W-2 form from your employer by February 1, 1999, use Tele-Tax topic 154 (see page 9) to find out what to do. Even if you do not get a W-2, you must still report your earnings on line 7. If you lose your Form W-2 or it is incorrect, ask your employer for a new one.

Line 8a

Taxable Interest

Each payer should send you a **Form 1099-INT** or **Form 1099-OID**. Report **all** of your taxable interest income on line 8a. But you must fill in and attach **Schedule B** if the total is over \$400 or any of the other conditions listed at the beginning of the Schedule B instructions (see page B-1) apply to you.

Interest credited in 1998 on deposits that you could not withdraw because of the bankruptcy or insolvency of the financial institution may not have to be included in your 1998 income. For details, see **Pub. 550**.



If you get a 1998 **Form 1099-INT** for U.S. savings bond interest that includes amounts you reported before 1998, see **Pub. 550**.

Line 8b

Tax-Exempt Interest

If you received any tax-exempt interest, such as from municipal bonds, report it on line 8b. Include any exempt-interest dividends from a mutual fund or other regulated investment company. **Do not** include interest earned on your IRA.

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