

Balance Due Returns

General Information

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

Payment Methods

1. Electronic Funds Withdrawal

E-filing allows taxpayers to file their return early and schedule their payment for withdrawal from their checking or savings account on a future date up to the April filing due date. Advise taxpayers that they should check their account to verify that the payment was made.

2. IRS Direct Pay

IRS direct pay on the IRS website is a free one-time payment from your checking account to the IRS. Use this secure service to pay your tax bill or make an estimated tax payment directly from your checking or savings account at no cost to you. You'll receive instant confirmation that your payment has been submitted. Just follow the easy steps below. Bank account information isn't retained in IRS systems after payments are made.

It takes just 5 easy steps to make a payment:

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
Provide your tax information	Verify your identity	Enter your payment information	Review and electronically sign the transaction	Print or record your online confirmation number

3. Check or money order payments

- Don't attach the payment to the return.
- Refer to instructions on Form 1040V, Payment Voucher.
- Submit the payment with a properly completed Form 1040V.
- Don't mail cash.

4. Credit card payments

- American Express, Discover, Mastercard, or Visa cards are accepted.
- A convenience fee will be charged by the service providers.
- For details, visit the IRS website, Keywords "Paying Your Taxes."

Note: See Form 1040 Instructions for additional information

Balance Due Returns (continued)

1. Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS)

Taxpayers can use EFTPS to pay their federal taxes, but they must enroll first. EFTPS is a fast, easy, convenient and secure service provided free by the Department of Treasury. For more information or to enroll visit the IRS website, Keywords "Paying Your Taxes." or call EFTPS Customer Service at 1-800-316-6541 (for individual payments). TTY/TDD help is available by calling 1-800-733-4829.

Note: You must have a valid Social Security Number (SSN) to use this application. This application cannot accommodate Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs)

2. Cash (at a retail partner)

Taxpayers can make a cash payment without the need of a bank account or credit card at more than 27,000 retail locations nationwide. To find a location near you, visit the IRS website, Keywords "Paying Your Taxes."

3. Pay by Mobile Device

To pay through a mobile device, taxpayers may download the IRS2Go app.

Installment Agreement

Because of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, user fees for low-income taxpayers setting up installment agreements (long-term payment plans) may be waived or reimbursed, under certain conditions.

Effective for installment agreements established on or after April 10, 2018:

- Taxpayers meeting the low-income threshold (at or below 250% of the federal poverty guidelines, as determined for the most recent year) who agree to establish a Direct Debit Installment Agreement, will not be charged a user fee.
- Taxpayers who are low income and unable to make electronic payments through a debit instrument by entering into a Direct Debit Installment Agreement will be reimbursed the user fee upon completion of the installment agreement.

Balance Due Returns (continued)

What if the taxpayer can't pay?

- Full pay within 120 days. If taxpayers can pay the full amount they owe within 120 days, go to the IRS website, keyword "installment agreement" to establish your request to pay in full. By doing this, taxpayers can avoid paying the fee to set up an installment agreement.
- Online Payment Agreement. If the taxpayer's balance due is \$50,000 or less, the taxpayer can apply online for a payment agreement instead of filing Form 9465, Installment Agreement Request. To do that, go to IRS.gov and enter "Online Payment Agreement" or "OPA" in the "Search" box. The origination fee is lower for online payment agreements than applying by phone, mail or in person.
- The taxpayer can request an extension of time to pay if paying the tax by the due date will be an undue hardship. For details see Form 1127, Application for Extension of Time for Payment of Tax Due to Undue Hardship. This form is Out of Scope.

Offer in Compromise

If the taxpayer can't pay through an installment agreement and/or by liquidating assets, they may be eligible for an Offer in Compromise (offer). An offer is an agreement between the taxpayer and the IRS that settles a tax debt for less than the full amount owed. The IRS may accept an offer if:

- The IRS agrees that the tax debt may not be accurate,
- The taxpayer has insufficient assets and income to pay the amount due in full, or
- The taxpayer has exceptional circumstances and paying the amount due would cause an economic hardship or would be unjust.

The taxpayer can use the Offer in Compromise Pre-Qualifier tool located at the IRS website, Keyword: "Offer" to determine if an offer is a realistic option to resolve their balance due. The questionnaire format assists in gathering the information needed and provides instant feedback as to eligibility. To apply for an offer, the taxpayer must read and complete the forms located in Form 656-B, Offer in Compromise.

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



Taxes withheld are based on filing status, dependents, and other adjustments on the return.

- If the taxpayer didn't have enough withheld from his/her paycheck, pension income or taxable social security benefits and there is an amount owed on the current return:
 - Advise the taxpayer to access the Tax Withholding Estimator on the IRS website
 - Advise the taxpayer to submit a revised Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Certificate, to the employer. For pension income, taxpayers should submit a revised Form W-4P, Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments, to the pension payer or contact the pension administrator to increase withholding.
 - Advise taxpayers who received taxable social security benefits or unemployment to submit Form W-4V, Voluntary Withholding Request, to request withholding from social security of certain other federal government payments.
- If the taxpayer had income that wasn't subject to withholding (such as self-employment, interest income, dividend income, or capital gain income):
 - Explain estimated taxes to the taxpayer. In TaxSlayer, add Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals, and complete it. Discuss with taxpayer(s) whether to use the minimum required amount or the total amount expected to be due.
- Advise the taxpayer to review Publication 505, Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax.

Forms or Publications can be obtained from the IRS website (irs.gov).

- If the taxpayer is receiving the advanced premium tax credit (APTC), they should notify the Marketplace when they have any significant change to geographic location, income, family size or a life event.

Note: This information only applies to federal balance due returns. For state information, consult the applicable state.