

# Pointers for Direct Deposit of Refunds

- Using a check or documentation from the financial institution as proof of account, verify:
  - Routing Transit Number (RTN). The RTN must contain 9 digits and begin with 01 through 12 or 21 through 32.
  - Depositor Account Number (DAN). The DAN can be up to 17 characters. Include hyphens but omit spaces and special symbols. Don't include the check number or the dollar amount on canceled checks. On the sample check below, the account number is 20202086.
- Don't use a deposit slip for proof of RTN as this may not be the same RTN used for direct deposit. For direct deposit into a savings account, the taxpayer should obtain a statement from the financial institution to verify the routing and account number for direct deposit. For direct deposit into a checking account, if the taxpayer doesn't have a cancelled check, the taxpayer should also contact their financial institution.
- Entering the incorrect RTN and/or DAN will result in a 4–6 week delay of the refund, or it may go into some else's account. If the direct deposit is voided, a paper check will automatically be mailed to the address on the electronic tax form.
- Double-check the RTN of the financial institution if:
  - You are unfamiliar with the financial institution. (Some types of accounts that exist through brokerage firms can't accept direct deposits.)
  - The RTN is for a credit union, which is payable through another financial institution. The taxpayer should contact his or her credit union for the correct RTN.
- Savings Bonds - Taxpayers can buy U.S. savings bonds with their federal tax refund. Even if the taxpayer doesn't have a bank account or a Treasury account they can elect this option. Taxpayers can make bond purchases for themselves, add beneficiaries or co-owners, and make bond purchases for someone other than themselves. Refer to Form 8888 or [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov) for more details.
- Remember the split refund option: If a taxpayer chooses to direct deposit his or her refund into two or three accounts, you will need to complete Form 8888, *Allocation of Refund (Including Savings Bond Purchases)*.



**Caution:** Financial institutions generally don't allow a joint refund to be deposited into an individual account. The IRS isn't responsible if a financial institution refuses a direct deposit.



**Caution:** Direct deposit of a taxpayer's refund is to be made to an account (or accounts) only in the taxpayer's name. Advise taxpayers their refund may only be deposited directly into his/her own account(s).

Taxpayer's federal and state refunds can't be deposited into VITA/TCE Volunteer or any associated partners' personal or business bank/debit card accounts.

TONY MAPLE  
JENNIFER MAPLE  
123 Pear Lane  
Anyplace, GA 00000

PAY TO THE ORDER OF \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ANYPLACE BANK  
Anyplace, GA 00000

Routing number (line 74b)    Account number (line 74d)

Do not include the check number.

**Note:** Don't use deposit slip as proof of account because the routing number may be different than on a check.

**Note:** To combat fraud and identity theft, IRS permits a maximum of three refunds to be electronically deposited into a single financial account. The fourth and subsequent refunds automatically will convert to a paper refund check and be mailed to the taxpayer.