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☐ Married (date: _____) ☐ Divorced (date: _____)

TAXPAYER

In year 2013 only:

Name

2013 INCOME TAX RETURN

Filing Status: O Single O Married Filing Joint O Qualifying Widow(er)¹ O Head of Household² O Married Filing Separate

Name

☐ Death—Taxpayer/Spouse (date: ___

SPOUSE

Occupation		Occupation				
SSN	Date of Birth		Date of Birth			
Home Phone	Disabled \square	Home Phone	Disabled \square			
Work Phone	Blind 🗖	Work Phone	Blind			
Cell Phone	Best Time to Call	Cell Phone	Best Time to Call			
Email	Fax	Email	Fax			
Address			County			
City		State	Zip Code			
Address on Last Year's	Tax Return (if different)	[Date Address Changed			
 All of the following must apply: your spouse died in 2011 or 2012; in that year you qualified to file jointly; you did not remarry before January 1, 2014 and you paid over half the cost of maintaining your home, which was your dependent child's (or stepchild's) main home for the entire year. Must be unmarried (or considered unmarried) at the end of the tax year, and maintain a home that for more than half of the tax year is the principal home of a qualifying person (generally your child or relative). You may be considered unmarried if your spouse did not live in your home during the last six months of the tax year. If you are maintaining the household of a parent, the parent does not need to live with you to qualify. 						
Persona	al Income Tax Orga					
✓ CHECKLIST	1099-B for sale of securities, 1099-R for annuities, pensions, IRA or other retirement plan withdray					
Documents needed in addition		pies of Schedules K-1 for partnerships, S corporations, estates or trusts. (Note: You do not need se documents to make your tax appointment. You can provide them at a later date.)				
to your completed organizer:	☐ 3) If you sold real estate, stock or	ck or mutual fund shares during the year, see STEP 4.				
_	4) If you acquired, sold or refinan statement.	ced a home or other prope	erty in 2013, provide a copy of the closing			
	☐ 5) If you are a new client, provide	copies of tax returns for 20	010, 2011 and 2012.			
Note: When completing	g your organizer, round all amounts to th	ne nearest dollar.				
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STEP	The following items may affect your tax return. Please answer carefully.			
These question your spouse.	ons pertain to calendar year 2013 unless otherwise noted. If married filing jointly, questions apply to you and			
1) Y O N O	Did you pay or receive alimony (Tax Tip 1)? Do not include child support. (Select one.) Pay O Receive O			
	To/From: Name Social Security Number Amount \$			
2) Y O N O	Do you own any securities or hold any debts that became worthless during the year?			
,	If yes, provide details:			
3) Y O N O	Did you move because of a job change?			
,	Distance from old house to old job: Distance from old house to new job:			
4) Y O N O	Did you (or do you plan to before April 15, 2014) contribute to a traditional IRA or Roth IRA for 2013? (Tax Tip 2)			
	Self: Traditional IRA \$ Roth IRA \$ Spouse: Traditional IRA \$ Roth IRA \$			
5) Y O N O	Did you convert a traditional IRA or roll a qualified plan distribution to a Roth IRA in 2013?			
	If yes, amount converted/rolled over: \$			
6) YO NO	Did you (or do you plan to before April 15, 2014) contribute to a health savings account (HSA) for 2013? (Tax Tip 3)			
	Amount of contribution: (Do not list employer contributions, including amounts you elected to contribute under a cafeteria plan, shown on your Form W-2.) Self: \$ Spouse: \$ Type of health plan coverage: Self-only O Family O			
7) Y O N O	Did you receive any distributions from your health savings account (HSA)?			
.,	Amount of distributions: \$ Amount of unreimbursed qualified medical expenses (attach list): \$			
8) Y O N O	Are you a grade K–12 teacher?			
, , , , , , ,	If yes, enter amount of out-of-pocket classroom costs you paid or incurred incurred (Tax Tip 4): \$			
9) Y O N O	Did you pay child care costs for a dependent child under age 13, or costs of caring for a disabled dependent or spouse, so you could work, attend school or look for a job?			
	If yes, provide the amounts paid for each individual and the names, addresses and taxpayer identification numbers of the care providers. Amount, if any, that was reimbursed by an employer dependent care plan (Tax Tip 5): \$			
10) Y O N O	Did you pay expenses related to adopting a child?			
,	If yes, provide details of any expenses incurred:			
11) Y O N O	Did you pay any individual \$1,800 or more to perform household services during the year, such as a babysitter, caretaker, housekeeper, cook or gardener?			
12) Y O N O	Did you have any debts cancelled or reduced (including credit cards), property repossessed or foreclosed upon, or did you file for bankruptcy? (Tax Tip 6)			
13) Y O N O	Did you have a financial interest in, or signature authority over, a financial account (such as a bank or securities account) located in a foreign country at any time during 2013? A financial account is located in a foreign country if it is physically located outside of the U.S., including an account maintained with a branch of a U.S. bank that is physically located outside of the U.S.			
	YONO If yes, did the aggregate value of all accounts located in a foreign country (other than accounts maintained on a U.S. military installation) exceed \$10,000 at any time during the year?			
14) Y O N O	Did you receive a distribution from, or were you the grantor of, or a transferor to, a foreign trust?			
15) YO NO	Do you have financial accounts maintained by a foreign (non-U.S.) bank or financial institution that totaled more than \$50,000 on the last day of the year or more than \$75,000 at any time during the year (\$100,000 and \$150,000, respectively, if married filing a joint return)?			
16) Y O N O	Did you own any other foreign financial assets (such as stock in a foreign corporation or an interest in a foreign partnership) that are not held in a financial account?			
17) Y O N O	Did you have any children under age 19 (or age 19–23 and full-time students) who had unearned income over \$1,000 for 2013?			
18) TO SO	Do you (or your spouse) want to designate \$3 to the Presidential Election Campaign Fund? (Does not change amount due or refund.) Leave blank if neither wishes to designate \$3.			
19) Y O N O	Do you want to allow your preparer or another individual to discuss your federal return with the IRS? Provide name, phone number and personal identification number of individual if not preparer.			
	Name: Phone Number: Identification Number:			
20) Y O N O	Did you make gifts totaling more than \$14,000 to any individual during the year? If so, provide recipient's name, address, relationship to you and the amount of the gift.			

STEP 1 (Continued) Check any of	of the boxes bel	ow that apply	to you for 20	13:		
 □ Were granted stock options by your employer and/or exercised employer stock options. □ Contributed to or received distributions from an Archer Medical Savings Account (MSA). □ Purchased a qualified fuel cell vehicle. □ Purchased a four-wheeled, plug-in electric drive motor vehicle or a 2 or 3-wheeled electric vehicle. □ Traveled more than 100 miles to perform duties as a National Guard member or reservist. □ Performed services in the performing arts for at least two employers. □ Lived and worked in a foreign country. □ Were issued an Identity Protection PIN by the IRS: □ Were divorced or separated from spouse. □ Were in the military. □ Received any notice from the IRS or a state taxing authority. 						
Please provide any other inform	lation related to you	r 2013 taxes not rep	ortea eisewnere	on this organiz	er:	
STEP 2 Dependents	(Tax Tip 7) (atta	ch additional sheet	, if necessary)			
Children age 18 or younger (age 19–23 if a						
than half the year and who did not provide	more than half of their	own support (or a p	ermanently and tot	ally disabled ch	ild).	
☐ Check if it is possible that a different tax			<u>-</u>			
1)		thdate				
2)		thdate				
3)		thdate				
4)		thdate	SSN SSN			
5)	BII	indate				
Other Dependents (relatives and/or members of household)	Relationship	Social Security #	Is 2013 Gross Income less than \$3,900? (Yes or No)	# Months Resided in Your Home in 2013	% Support Received From You	
_						
☐ Check if you are divorced and either sig	ned or received Form	8332 (release of exc	emption for child). (Provide Form 8	332.)	
0T-0.0						
STEP 3 Income						
Wage	s—Provide ALL	Copies of Fo	ms W-2			
Number of employers (during the year):	Self	Spouse				
Dividend and Interest Income						
Provide all Forms 1099-INT, 1099-DIV and 1099-OID. List interest and dividends not reported on Form 1099 on a separate sheet, but do not duplicate what's reported on the 1099s. Also, list any penalty on early withdrawal from savings.						
Ins	stallment Sale F	Payments Rece	eived			
Total Payments \$	Is payer	a relative or related	party? Yes O	No O		
Interest \$	If payer	uses property as a p	rincipal residence,	provide payer's	s:	
Principal \$	Name _					
Did sale occur in 2013? Yes O No O	Address	S				
If ves. complete STEP 4.		Social Security Number				

	(Continued) Retirement Plan and Social Security Income
1)	Did you receive distributions from IRAs, SEPs, pensions, 401(k)s or other retirement plans (including
,	amounts rolled over and in-plan Roth rollovers)? YO NO
	If yes, provide all Forms 1099-R received. Enter amounts received but not reported on a Form 1099-R here
2)	Amount of distribution rolled over to qualified plan or traditional IRA (Tax Tip 8)
3)	Amount of distribution rolled over to a Roth IRA
4)	Amount of distribution rolled over to a Designated Roth Account
	Amount of distribution made directly to a qualified charity
	If you were under age 59½ when the distribution was received, do you qualify for an exception to the 10% penalty on early distributions? (Tax Tip 9) YO NO Explain:
7)	If you have reached age 70% , have you taken the 2013 required minimum distributions from your IRAs and qualified retirement plans? YO NO
8)	Did you receive Social Security or railroad retirement benefits? YO NO If yes, provide all Forms SSA-1099 or RRB-1099 received
	Partnerships, Estates, Trusts and S Corporations
Ind no	ovide a list of all the partnerships and S corporations in which you own an interest and all trusts of which you are a beneficiary dicate on the list whether you materially participated in that entity's trade or business in 2013 (Tax Tip 10). Write "N/A" if the entity is tengaged in a trade or business (for example, an entity whose only activity is ownership of rental real estate or investment assets ch as stocks and bonds). Provide all Schedules K-1 received for the tax year.
	Other Income—Provide Forms 1098 and 1099
Ва	rtering Income\$
Вс	nuses and Prizes not reported on Form W-2 (Explain)
Ca	nncellation of Debt (Form 1099-A or 1099-C) (Tax Tip 6)
Co	ommissions and Fees (Not reported in STEP 5)
Dis	sability Income not included on Form W-2 (taxable)
Ed	lucation Savings Account or Qualified Tuition (529) Plan Withdrawals (Form 1099-Q)
Ga	ambling/Lottery Winnings
Ju	ry Duty—Election Board Fees
Sc	holarships (Form 1098-T)
Sta	ate Income Tax Refund (Form 1099-G)
Tip	os and Gratuities not reported on Form W-2 (Tax Tip 11)
Ur	nemployment Compensation (Form 1099-G)
Ve	terans' Pension and Disability
W	orkers' Compensation
Ot	her (attach separate sheets if necessary)
	STEP 4 Sales and Exchanges
su	ovide information about sales of stock, real estate or other property along with Forms 1099-B, 1099-S, closing statement or othe pporting information. Attach separate sheet if necessary. If all transactions, including basis, are reported on Forms 1099-B you ovide, there is no need to complete the following. If your principal residence was sold, see STEP 13.
•	Asset #1 Asset #2 Asset #3
De	escription of Property
	ate Acquired
	ate Sold
	lles Price
	sis (Tax Tips 12 and 13)
	penses of Sale

STEP 5	Self-Employment Income (See a If more than one farm activity or busines			arately for eac	:h.
Business Activity/Produc	t:	<u> </u>			
Did you begin or end the	business in 2013? Begin O End O				
Gross Receipts (provide	all Forms 1099-MISC and 1099-K)			\$	
Inventory—Beginning of	Year			\$	
	(less Product for Personal Use)				
	er Costs of Inventory				
Inventory—End of Year					0
Did you make any payme	ents requiring Forms 1099 be filed?¹			Yes O	No O
	1099?				No O
	ver \$600 made to noncorporate entities in tage for non-employee compensation and rent.	he course of a	a trade or busines	ss must be rep	orted. Common
STEP 6	Rental and Royalty Income				
Physical Addre	ss (Street, City, State, Zip Code)	Type ¹	Rent/Royalty Received	Fair Rental Days	Personal Use Days
			\$	Juyo	- Coo Dayo
Did you make any payme	ents requiring Forms 1099 be filed?²			Yes O No	0
If Yes, did you file Forms	1099?			Yes O No	0
	ence; 2—Multi-family residence; 3—Vacation	on/short-term	rental; 4—Comm	ercial; 5—Lan	d; 6—Royalties;
7—Self-rental; 8—Othe	er (describe). ver \$600 made to noncorporate entities in t	be source of	a trada ar businas	a must be rem	norted Common
	s for non-employee compensation and rent.	ille course or	a trade or busines	ss must be rep	Jortea. Common
STEP 7	Travel, Meals and Entertainme	ent Expens	ses		
	ductible if you traveled away from home over				
	ductible (subject to limits), provided you have enses are not deductible if employee could h				ent and business
purpose. Employee expe	. · ·				
Tanada	Use Correct Column F	Employ	ee Self-En	nployed F	Rental Activity
Travel:	uto Pontol	\$	•	•	
	uto Rental Self-Employed Tax Tip C on Page 6)		\$	_⊅ -	
	nnection				
Baggage and Shipping					
Other:				_	
Meals and Entertainme	nt Not Associated With Travel				
	Reimburse	ments			
Were you reimbursed for	any of the above expenses? Yes O No	O If yes, pro	vide details, includ	ling how report	ed on Form W-2.

STEP 8 Self-Employment and Rental Expenses

Do you qualify for business use of home deductions? Yes O No O

(See Employee/Self-Employed Tax Tip B below.)

If yes, attach list of expenses related to home. Do not duplicate be	elow.
Business sq. ft	
Total sq. ft	
Part of home used for business:	0%

	T dit of Home docum		
Use C	Correct Column 🐨	Self-Employed ¹	Rental ¹
Advertising		\$	\$
Cleaning and Maintenance			
Commissions and Fees Paid			
Contract Labor			
Employee Benefit Programs (include health insurance for employee	oyees)		
Insurance (not including health)			
Interest • Mortgage (Form 1098)			
Other Interest	1		
Legal and Professional Fees			
Licenses			
Management Fees			
Office Expenses			
Pension/Profit-Sharing Plan Contributions Made for Employees			
Rent Paid • Vehicles, Machinery and Equipment			
Other Business Property			
Repairs and Maintenance			
Supplies			
Taxes			
Utilities			
Wages Paid			
Other Expenses (provide list)			

¹ If more than one business or rental property, provide information separately for each.

Business or rental asset purchases or sales. Provide a separate schedule listing dates of purchase or sale, purchase/sales price and property description. Include copies of sales receipts or contracts if available.

STEP 9 Health Insurance and Retirement Plans for the Self-Employed

Insurance premiums paid: Health \$

Long-Term Care \$

Include Medicare premiums. Do not include any premiums for months self-employed person is eligible to participate under any employer's plan. Report in STEP 12 instead. See Employee/Self-Employed Tax Tip D below.

Contributions made to your SEP, SIMPLE or qualified retirement plan for 2013. See *Employee/Self-Employed Tax Tip E* below.

\$_____

Employee/Self-Employed Tax Tips

- A) **First-Year Expensing Election.** Up to \$500,000 of qualifying business assets purchased and placed in service in 2013 may be expensed currently. (Separate limits apply to business vehicles.)
- B) **Business Use of Home Deduction.** If an area of the home is used regularly and exclusively for business, a deduction for a portion of mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, other operating costs and depreciation may be allowed. Special rules apply for inventory storage and daycare. Ask for details.
- C) Per Diem Meal Rates. In lieu of using actual expenses incurred for meals and incidental expenses while travelling, self-employed individuals and employees may deduct IRS-approved per diem amounts. The amounts depend on location. Provide detailed list of dates and locations of business travel.
- D) **Self-Employed Health Insurance Deduction.** Premiums paid are for the self-employed individual, spouse, dependents and children under age 27. This rule is applied separately for policies that include long-term care.
- E) **Self-Employed Retirement Plans.** Many retirement plans (funded with pre-tax dollars) are available to self-employed business owners. The deadlines for establishing and contributing to a retirement plan vary. If you have employees, matching contributions may be required.
- F) **Small Employer Health Insurance Credit.** A credit is available to qualified small employers that pay health insurance premiums for employees. Premiums paid for the business owner and his family members don't qualify. Ask us for details.

STEP 10 Vehicle Expense

- Commuting between your home and regular work location is not deductible.
- · Commuting expenses for going between your home and a temporary work location outside the metropolitan area where you live and normally work are deductible. Travel expenses between your home and a temporary work location within your metropolitan area are not deductible unless either of the following tests are met:
 - 1) You have one or more regular work locations away from your home or

ness use. Daily records provide the best protection in case of an audit.

- 2) Your home is your principal place of business.
- A work location is considered temporary if employment is expected to last and actually does last for one year or less.
- There are two methods to determine the deduction for vehicles used for business: (1) actual expenses or (2) standard mileage rate (for 2013, 56½¢ per mile).
- For each vehicle used for business, complete lines 1–6. If you know that you use standard mileage allowance, ignore lines 7–13. If you purchased a vehicle this year and do not use standard mileage allowance, provide a copy of the sales invoice.

	Vehicle			#1		#2		#3	
1)	Total miles driven this year:	Business							
		Commuting							
		Other Personal							
2)	Vehicle Description								
3)	Date Vehicle Was First Used	for Business							
4)	Cost (cash paid, net of any tra	ade allowance)	\$		\$		\$		
	Was a car traded in?		Yes O	No O	Yes O	No O	Yes O	No O	
	or Lease Payments (for the	/ear)							
5)	Interest Paid on Vehicle Loan	(Self-Employed Only)							
6)	Parking and Tolls								
7)	Gasoline, Oil, Lubrication								
8)	Repairs, Maintenance, Car W	ashes							
9)	Tires and Supplies								
10)	Insurance								
11)	Tags and Licenses								
,	•								
13)	Other:								
14)	Sold in 2013? If yes, date sol	d:	Yes O	No O	Yes O	No O	Yes O	No O	
15)	If yes, provide sales price and	d any trade information							
Que	estions for All Taxpayers Cla	iming Vehicle Expenses:							
1)	Do you have evidence to sup	port business use?					Yes O	No O	
2)	If yes, is the evidence written	?					Yes O	No O	
3)	Do you (or your spouse) have	another vehicle available for perso	nal use?				Yes O	No O	
4)	Do you have an employer-pro	ovided vehicle that is available for pe	ersonal use	?			Yes O	Νο Ο	
5)	Were you reimbursed for any	of above auto expenses?					Yes O	No O	
6)	If yes, is the reimbursement in	ncluded in your Form W-2?					Yes O	No O	
Rec	ordkeeping: Your vehicle exp	enses will not be allowed by the IRS	S without ac	lequate re	cords or su	fficient evi	dence verify	ing busi-	

STEP 11 Education Expens	es (Attach F	orms 1098	s-E, 1098-T an	d 1099-Q)		
Include information about education ex	penses incurr	ed for you,	your spouse o	r your depe	endents.	
1) Student's Name						
2) If in college, was student enrolled at least half-time fo at least one academic period beginning in 2013?		No O	Yes O	No O	Yes O	No O
3) Felony Conviction? ¹	. Yes O	No O	Yes O	No O	Yes O	No O
4) Educational Purpose (degree seeking, job related)					100	
5) Name of Institution						
6) Type of Expense (See Tax Tip 14)						
7) Amount Paid	. \$		\$		\$	
8) Paid By Whom?						
9) Student's Grade or Year in College						
¹ Indicate whether or not student was convicted before 12	/31/2013 of a	felony for po	ossession or di	stribution o	of a controlled s	substance.
STEP 12 Itemized Deductions						
Note: Complete this step only if you think your total ite	mized deduct	ions might	exceed the IR	S standard	d deduction fo	r your filing
status (see below).	Standard I	Doduotia	.			
2013 8	Standard I		Standard		Add for B	lind
Filing Status			Deduction		and/or Ove	
Married Filing Jointly or Qualifying Widow(er)		\$	12,200	+	\$ 1,20	00
Single			6,100	•	1,50	00
Head of Household	Head of Household				1,500	
Married Filing Separately				1,200		
Deductible only if net expense reached age 65 by 12/3	31/2013) of A	0% (7.5% i djusted Gr	oss Income (A	AGI)		
Note: Do <i>not</i> include amounts paid for or reimbursed by	insurance or	health insur		<u> </u>	n pre-tax incon	ne.
Did you pay medical expenses for a person you cannot o			es O No C) If yes	, ask your tax	preparer.
Health Insurance Premiums ¹ (Include premiums for visio but not for disability or loss of income policies)				\$_		
Medicare Insurance Premiums¹ (Form SSA-1099)				_		
Long-Term Care Insurance Premiums¹ (Tax Tip 15)				_		
Prescribed Drugs and Insulin						
Doctors and Clinics						
Dentists and Orthodontists						
Glasses, Contact Lenses, Eye Exams, Laser Eye Surger	-			8 –		
Hospitals, Nurses, Ambulance				4		
Nursing or Long-Term Care Facility				_ je _		
Other (please detail):				See Note		
				. % -		
				- -		
Medical Miles Driven in 2013						
Parking Fees						
Lodging While Obtaining Medical Treatment Limited to \$		per person.		_		
¹ Do not include any premiums included in STEP 9 (if se	If amplayed)					

STEP 12 (continued)

Casualty Loss

Auto Accident, Fire, Theft, Storm, etc. Provide details. (Tax Tip 22)

Auto Accident, Fire, Friet, Cterri, Cte. Frevide details. (Tax Fip 22)				
Interest Paid (Provide Forms 1098)	Primary Residence	Second Home (Tax Tip 23)		
Home Mortgage (If seller-financed, provide seller's name/address/SSN)	\$	\$		
Home Equity Loan				
Loan Points not Reported on Form 1099-INT (Tax Tip 24)				
Mortgage Insurance Premiums Paid on Policies Issued After 2006				
Investment Interest Paid\$				

ST	ΓΕΡ 13	Principal Residence (attach any 2013 closing statements)			
Yes O	Νο Ο	Did you sell your principal residence? If yes: (Tax Tip 25)			
		Yes O No O • Did you own and use it as a principal residence for at least two of five years before the sale?			
		Yes O No O • Did you sell a previous residence within two years before the sale date and exclude any gain?			
Yes O	No O	Did you purchase a residence?			
Yes O	№ О	Did you refinance your mortgage or take out a home equity loan in 2013? Amount of proceeds used for something other than acquiring or improving your home: \$			
Yes O	No O	Did you purchase any energy-efficient improvements such as solar water heaters, generators or fuel cells, or energy efficient exterior doors, windows, insulation, heat pumps, furnaces, central air conditioners or water heaters? If yes, attach a list showing description of improvement, date placed-in-service and cost.			
Yes O	No O	Do either of the following apply: (1) you received a first-time homebuyer credit in a prior year and in 2013, sold the residence or stopped using it as a main home or (2) you received a first-time homebuyer credit for a home purchased in 2008?			

STEP 14	2013 Estimated Tax Payments ¹				
		Federal	Date Paid	State	Date Paid
Amount applied from 2012 overpayment, if any:		\$		\$	
First Quarter Payment Made					
Second Quarter Payment Made					
Third Quarter Payment Made					
Fourth Quarter Payment Made					
¹ Do not include withhold	ing from Forms W-2 or	1099 in estimated tax	r navments listed her	Δ	

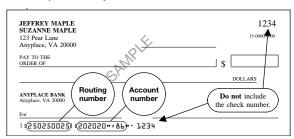
STEP 15 Tax Refund—Direct Deposit Information

If you are expecting a 2013 federal tax refund, the refund can be routed to up to three of your checking or savings accounts. If you prefer a direct deposit, please complete the following information. Otherwise a refund check will be mailed to you at the address on your tax return. (Tax refunds may also be directly deposited to your IRA, Health Savings Account, Archer MSA or Education Savings Account or to a Treasury Direct online account.)

Type of Account (Checking, Savings, IRA, etc.)	Routing Number (Nine digits)	Account Number	Percent of Refund

Sample check:

Note: The routing and account numbers may be in different places on your check.



Privacy Policy:

We collect nonpublic information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on applications, tax organizers, worksheets and other forms,
- 2) Information about your transactions with us, our affiliates or others and
- 3) Information we receive from a consumer reporting agency.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our customers or former customers to anyone, except as required by law.

We restrict access to nonpublic personal information about you to those members of our firm who need to know that information in order to provide services to you. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal regulations to guard your nonpublic personal information.

Tax Tips

- 1) Payments that meet specific requirements are treated as alimony for tax, regardless of how they are described in a divorce decree. One of the requirements is that the payments end upon the recipient's death. So, payments for maintenance or spousal support may be considered alimony for tax. Ask us for details.
- IRA contributions are limited to the lesser of \$5,500 (\$6,500 if age 50 or older at year-end) or compensation. If you (and your spouse) are not covered by an employer retirement plan, traditional IRA contributions (up to the limit) are fully deductible. If you or your spouse are covered by an employer retirement plan, the deduction is phased out at higher income levels. Roth IRA contributions are not deductible. Also, regardless of whether you are covered by an employer retirement plan, the Roth IRA contribution limit is phased out at certain income levels. If only one spouse has compensation, a spousal IRA can be set up for the nonworking spouse. Each spouse (working and nonworking) can contribute up to \$5,500 (\$6,500 if age 50 or older) provided the working spouse's compensation is at least equal to the IRA contribu-
- 3) Individuals covered only by a high deductible health plan (deductible of at least \$1,250 for individual coverage and \$2,500 for family coverage) can make deductible (subject to limits) HSA contributions.
- 4) Grade K-12 teachers can deduct amounts paid for books, supplies (other than nonathletic supplies for health and PE courses), computer software and other equipment and materials.
- 5) If married, the child and dependent care credit is generally available only if both spouses have earned income. Exceptions apply if spouse is full-time student or disabled.
- 6) Cancellation of debt (COD) generally results in taxable income. However, exceptions are available for bankrupt and insolvent taxpayers as well as for cancellations or reductions of student loans, farm-related loans, mortgages on principal residences and loans related to business real property.
- 7) A person who files a joint return (other than a return filed solely to claim a refund) cannot be claimed as a dependent. Also, special rules apply to children of divorced parents.
- 8) To be tax free, IRA and qualified plan distributions must be rolled over to another traditional IRA or qualified plan within 60 days. Also, for IRAs, there is a one-year waiting period between tax-free rollovers.
- 9) IRA (but not qualified plan) withdrawals before age 59½ are not subject to the 10% penalty if the funds are used for (a) medical expenses that are deductible as an itemized deduction (b) certain higher educational expenses (c) a first-time home purchase for distributions up to \$10,000 or (d) medical insurance by individuals who are unemployed for at least 12 weeks. Other exceptions may apply to IRA and qualified plan withdrawals.
- 10) Material participation in a trade or business generally means the taxpayer spends more than 500 hours participating in the activity during the year. However, the test can also be met in other situations, such as when the taxpayer is the only one who substantially participates in the activity or spends more than 100 hours participating and no one else spends more time.
- 11) If "allocated tips" are listed on year-end Form W-2, the amount will be subject to both Social Security and income tax unless records (tip log) verify that a lesser amount was actually received.

- 12) Improvement costs may reduce taxable gain upon sale of property. Keep records of improvement costs made to all real property at least four years after the property is sold.
- 13) If stock or mutual fund dividends are automatically reinvested instead of received in cash, these reinvestments increase cost basis, and reduce gain or increase loss upon sale.
- 14) Benefits such as a credit, deduction or income exclusion for interest on certain U.S. savings bonds issued after 1989 may be available for certain education expenses. Benefits may be phased out at certain income levels. List the following expenses: (a) tuition and required fees, (b) books, supplies and equipment required for attendance, (c) room and board (if at least half-time attendance) and (d) student loan interest.
- 15) Qualified long-term care insurance premiums are deductible subject to age and annual dollar limits.
- 16) Charitable contributions of \$250 or more in any one day to any one organization must have written acknowledgment from the organization. The acknowledgment must state whether or not any goods or services were received in exchange for the donation.
- 17) When making contributions of used furniture, appliances and clothing to nonprofit organizations, attach a record of the items donated to the receipt for proof of this deductible contribution. Contributions must be in good or better condition to be deductible.
- 18) Expenses incurred for education for improving your skills for your present job or maintaining your job may be deducted. Seminars, tuition, books and some travel expenses can be deducted.
- 19) Job-seeking costs in the same field of employment are deductible. Successful job placement is not necessary.
- 20) Part of a legal fee incurred in a divorce or an estate plan may be deductible if it is for advice on the tax consequences. Have your attorney clearly indicate how much of the fee is for tax advice.
- 21) Expenses incurred for attending conventions, seminars or other meetings that give investment advice to taxpayers are not deductible.
- 22) Generally, a net loss due to a casualty (such as flood, fire, theft, etc.) is deductible to the extent it exceeds 10% of your AGI. Special rules apply to federally declared disasters. Ask us for details.
- 23) A home can be a house, condominium, cooperative, mobile home, boat or similar property. It must provide basic living accommodations including sleeping space, toilet, and cooking facilities.
- 24) Loan origination fees (points) paid on a loan to buy or build a principal residence are generally deductible as interest in the year paid. Points paid on refinancing an existing mortgage or on a loan to purchase or improve a second home must be deducted (amortized) over the life of the loan. Exception: If part of the proceeds were used to improve your main home, points related to the improvements may be deducted in the year paid.
- 25) You can exclude up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 if married and filing jointly or certain surviving spouses) of the gain on a sale of a principal residence if you owned and occupied the residence for two out of the five years before the date of sale. If the home was used other than as your principal residence any time after 2008, some of the gain may be taxable.
- 26) Keep receipts supporting tax deductions at least four years.