CPA

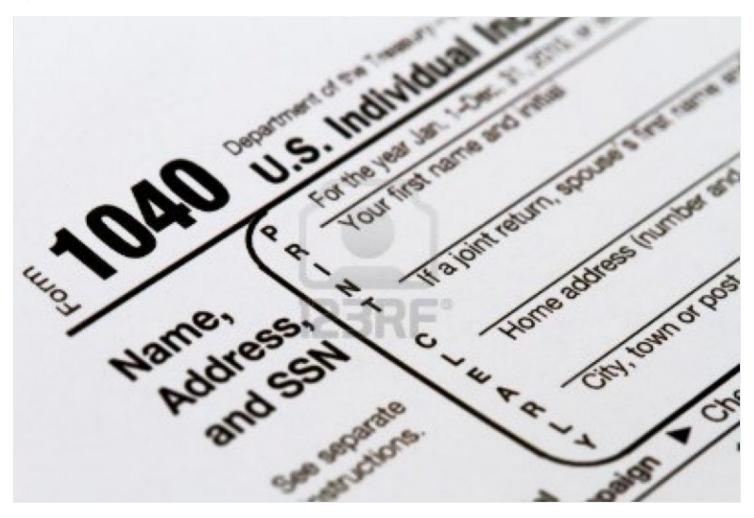
Practice **Advisor**

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minute income tax filers.

Apr. 06, 2015



April 15 is only nine days away, but even though millions of Americans have already filed their annual income tax returns, the Internal Revenue Service says about 40 percent of taxpayers have yet to file.

For these procrastinators, the rush is on. The IRS is offering reminders for these last-minute income tax filers.

1. File electronically. Filing electronically, whether through e-file or IRS Free File,

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return, including Social Security numbers, take the time to be sure it is correct and easy to read. Also, check only one filing status and the appropriate exemption boxes.

- 5. **Review all figures.** While software catches and prevents many errors on e-file returns, math errors remain common on paper returns.
- 6. **Get the right routing and account numbers.** Requesting direct deposit of a federal refund into one, two or even three accounts is convenient and allows the taxpayer access to his or her money faster. Make sure the financial institution routing and account numbers entered on the return are accurate. Incorrect numbers can cause a refund to be delayed or deposited into the wrong account.
- 7. **Sign and date the return.** If filing a joint return, both spouses must sign and date the return. E-filers can sign using a self-selected personal identification number (PIN).
- 8. Attach all required forms. Paper filers need to attach W-2s and other forms that reflect tax withholding, to the front of their returns. If requesting a payment agreement with the IRS, also attach Form 9465 to the front of the return. Attach all other necessary schedules and forms in the sequence number order shown in the upper right-hand corner.
- 9. **Keep a copy of the return.** Once ready to be filed, taxpayers should make a copy of their signed return and all schedules for their records.
- O. **Request a Filing Extension.** For taxpayers who cannot meet the April 15 deadline, requesting a filing extension is easy and will prevent late filing penalties. Either use Free File or Form 4868. But keep in mind that while an extension grants additional time to file, tax payments are still due April 15.
- 11. Owe tax? If so, a number of e-payment options are available. Or send a check or money order payable to the "United States Treasury."

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