

# Line Instructions for Forms 1040 and 1040-SR



Also see the instructions for Schedule 1 through Schedule 3 that follow the Form 1040 and 1040-SR instructions.

**What form to file.** Everyone can file Form 1040. Form 1040-SR is available to you if you were born before January 2, 1960.

**Fiscal year filers.** If you are a fiscal year filer using a tax year other than January 1 through December 31, 2024, enter the beginning and ending months of your fiscal year in the entry space provided at the top of page 1 of Form 1040 or 1040-SR.

**Write-in information.** If you need to write a word, code, and/or dollar amount on Form 1040 or 1040-SR to explain an item of income or deduction, but don't have enough space to enter the word, code, and/or dollar amount, you can put an asterisk next to the applicable line number and put a footnote at the bottom of page 2 of your tax return indicating the line number and the word, code, and/or dollar amount you need to enter.

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code.

## Name and Address

Print or type the information in the spaces provided. If you are married filing a separate return, enter your spouse's name in the entry space below the filing status checkboxes instead of below your name. If you are currently incarcerated, enter your inmate identifying number near your last name.



*If you filed a joint return for 2023 and you are filing a joint return for 2024 with the same spouse, be sure to enter your names and SSNs in the same order as on your 2023 return.*

## Name Change

If you changed your name because of marriage, divorce, etc., be sure to report the change to the Social Security Administration (SSA) before filing your return. This prevents delays in processing your return and issuing refunds. It also safeguards your future social security benefits.

## Address Change

If you plan to move after filing your return, use Form 8822 to notify the IRS of your new address.

## P.O. Box

Enter your box number only if your post office doesn't deliver mail to your home.

## Foreign Address

If you have a foreign address, enter the city name on the appropriate line. Don't

enter any other information on that line, but also complete the spaces below that line. Don't abbreviate the country name. Follow the country's practice for entering the postal code and the name of the province, county, or state.

## Death of a Taxpayer

If a taxpayer died before filing a return for 2024, the taxpayer's spouse or personal representative may have to file and sign a return for that taxpayer. A personal representative can be an executor, administrator, or anyone who is in charge of the deceased taxpayer's property. If the deceased taxpayer didn't have to file a return but had tax withheld, a return must be filed to get a refund. The person who files the return must enter "Deceased," the deceased taxpayer's name, and the date of death across the top of the return. If this information isn't provided, it may delay the processing of the return.

If your spouse died in 2024 and you didn't remarry in 2024, or if your spouse died in 2025 before filing a return for 2024, you can file a joint return. A joint return should show your spouse's 2024 income before death and your income for all of 2024. Enter "Filing as surviving spouse" in the area where you sign the return. If someone else is the personal representative, they must also sign.

All payers of income, including financial institutions, should be promptly notified of the taxpayer's death. This will ensure the proper reporting of income earned by the taxpayer's estate or heirs. A deceased taxpayer's social security number shouldn't be used for tax

years after the year of death, except for estate tax return purposes.

## Social Security Number (SSN)

An incorrect or missing SSN can increase your tax, reduce your refund, or delay your refund. To apply for an SSN, fill in Form SS-5 and return it, along with the appropriate evidence documents, to the Social Security Administration (SSA). You can get Form SS-5 online at [SSA.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf](https://ssa.gov/forms/ss-5.pdf), from your local SSA office, or by calling the SSA at 800-772-1213. It usually takes about 2 weeks to get an SSN once the SSA has all the evidence and information it needs.

Check that both the name and SSN on your Forms 1040 or 1040-SR, W-2, and 1099 agree with your social security card. If they don't, certain deductions and credits on Form 1040 or 1040-SR may be reduced or disallowed and you may not receive credit for your social security earnings. If your Form W-2 shows an incorrect SSN or name, notify your employer or the form-issuing agent as soon as possible to make sure your earnings are credited to your social security record. If the name or SSN on your social security card is incorrect, call the SSA.

Once you are issued an SSN, use it to file your tax return. Use your SSN to file your tax return even if your SSN does not authorize employment or if you have been issued an SSN that authorizes em-