



## **IRS Federal Income Tax Form for Tax Year 2011 (Jan. 1, 2011 - Dec. 31, 2011)**

You can prepare this tax form for Tax Year 2011 online and efile it from Jan. 17, 2012, until late October, 2012. After the IRS stops accepting tax returns via efile in October, you can still prepare tax forms for 2011 online with efile.com. After December 15, 2012, tax forms for 2011 must be prepared offline and mailed to the IRS.

If you need to prepare tax returns for previous tax years, you can [work with an efile.com Tax Professional](#).

Check the efile.com website for a wide range of current [IRS Tax Publications](#).  
View a complete list of [Federal Tax Forms](#) that can be prepared online and efiled together with [State Tax Forms](#).  
Estimate your federal income taxes for free with the efile.com [Federal Income Tax Calculator](#).

Download IRS Federal Tax Forms by Tax Year:

[IRS Tax Forms for Tax Year 2011](#)

[IRS Tax Forms for Tax Year 2010](#)

[IRS Tax Forms for Tax Year 2009](#)

[IRS Tax Forms for Tax Years 2004-2008](#)

Get online [answers to your tax questions](#).

If you have further questions, please [contact an efile.com support representative](#).

If you want to work with a tax professional to prepare your return, you can [contact an efile.com TaxPro](#).

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

▶ **Do not send to the IRS. This is not a tax return.**  
▶ **Keep this form for your records. See instructions.**

**2011**

Declaration Control Number (DCN) ▶

Taxpayer's name	Social security number
Spouse's name	Spouse's social security number

**Part I Tax Return Information—Tax Year Ending December 31, 2011 (Whole Dollars Only)**

<b>1</b> Adjusted gross income (Form 1040, line 38; Form 1040A, line 22; Form 1040EZ, line 4)	<b>1</b>	
<b>2</b> Total tax (Form 1040, line 61; Form 1040A, line 35; Form 1040EZ, line 10)	<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b> Federal income tax withheld (Form 1040, line 62; Form 1040A, line 36; Form 1040EZ, line 7)	<b>3</b>	
<b>4</b> Refund (Form 1040, line 74a; Form 1040A, line 43a; Form 1040EZ, line 11; Form 1040-SS, Part I, line 12a)	<b>4</b>	
<b>5</b> Amount you owe (Form 1040, line 76; Form 1040A, line 45; Form 1040EZ, line 12)	<b>5</b>	

**Part II Taxpayer Declaration and Signature Authorization (Be sure you get and keep a copy of your return)**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined a copy of my electronic individual income tax return and accompanying schedules and statements for the tax year ending December 31, 2011, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. I further declare that the amounts in Part I above are the amounts from my electronic income tax return. I consent to allow my intermediate service provider, transmitter, or electronic return originator (ERO) to send my return to the IRS and to receive from the IRS (a) an acknowledgement of receipt or reason for rejection of the transmission, (b) the reason for any delay in processing the return or refund, and (c) the date of any refund. If applicable, I authorize the U.S. Treasury and its designated Financial Agent to initiate an ACH electronic funds withdrawal (direct debit) entry to the financial institution account indicated in the tax preparation software for payment of my Federal taxes owed on this return and/or a payment of estimated tax, and the financial institution to debit the entry to this account. I further understand that this authorization may apply to future Federal tax payments that I direct to be debited through the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS). I authorize EFTPS to issue me a personal identification number (PIN) to access EFTPS. This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until I notify the U.S. Treasury Financial Agent to terminate the authorization. To request that my PIN be mailed to me, or to revoke (cancel) a payment, I must contact the U.S. Treasury Financial Agent at 1-888-353-4537. Payment cancellation requests must be received no later than 2 business days prior to the payment (settlement) date. I also authorize the financial institutions involved in the processing of the electronic payment of taxes to receive confidential information necessary to answer inquiries and resolve issues related to the payment. I further acknowledge that the personal identification number (PIN) below is my signature for my electronic income tax return and, if applicable, my Electronic Funds Withdrawal Consent.

**Taxpayer's PIN: check one box only**

- I authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to enter or generate my PIN \_\_\_\_\_ as my signature on my tax year 2011 electronically filed income tax return.
- I will enter my PIN as my signature on my tax year 2011 electronically filed income tax return. Check this box **only** if you are entering your own PIN **and** your return is filed using the Practitioner PIN method. The ERO must complete Part III below.

Five digit PIN input box

Enter five numbers, but do not enter all zeros

Your signature ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ Date ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's PIN: check one box only**

- I authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to enter or generate my PIN \_\_\_\_\_ as my signature on my tax year 2011 electronically filed income tax return.
- I will enter my PIN as my signature on my tax year 2011 electronically filed income tax return. Check this box **only** if you are entering your own PIN **and** your return is filed using the Practitioner PIN method. The ERO must complete Part III below.

Five digit PIN input box

Enter five numbers, but do not enter all zeros

Spouse's signature ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ Date ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

**Practitioner PIN Method Returns Only—continue below**

**Part III Certification and Authentication—Practitioner PIN Method Only**

**ERO's EFIN/PIN.** Enter your six-digit EFIN followed by your five-digit self-selected PIN.

Six digit EFIN and five digit PIN input box

do not enter all zeros

I certify that the above numeric entry is my PIN, which is my signature for the tax year 2011 electronically filed income tax return for the taxpayer(s) indicated above. I confirm that I am submitting this return in accordance with the requirements of the Practitioner PIN method and **Publication 1345**, Handbook for Authorized IRS e-file Providers of Individual Income Tax Returns.

ERO's signature ▶ \_\_\_\_\_ Date ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

**ERO Must Retain This Form — See Instructions**  
**Do Not Submit This Form to the IRS Unless Requested To Do So**

## Purpose of Form

Form 8879 is the declaration document and signature authorization for an e-filed return filed by an electronic return originator (ERO). Complete Form 8879 when the Practitioner PIN method is used or when the taxpayer authorizes the ERO to enter or generate the taxpayer's personal identification number (PIN) on his or her e-filed individual income tax return.



*Do not send this form to the IRS. The ERO must retain Form 8879.*

## When and How To Complete

Use this chart to determine when and how to complete Form 8879.

IF the ERO is . . .	THEN . . .
Not using the Practitioner PIN method and the taxpayer enters his or her own PIN	Do not complete Form 8879.
Using the Practitioner PIN method and is authorized to enter or generate the taxpayer's PIN	Complete Form 8879, Parts I, II, and III.
Using the Practitioner PIN method and the taxpayer enters his or her own PIN	Complete Form 8879, Parts I, II, and III.
Not using the Practitioner PIN method and is authorized to enter or generate the taxpayer's PIN	Complete Form 8879, Parts I and II.

## ERO Responsibilities

The ERO will do the following.

1. Enter the name(s) and social security number(s) of the taxpayer(s) at the top of the form.
2. Complete Part I using the amounts (zeros may be entered when appropriate) from the taxpayer's 2011 tax return. Form 1040-SS filers leave lines 1 through 3 and line 5 blank.
3. Enter or generate, if authorized by the taxpayer, the taxpayer's PIN and enter it in the boxes provided in Part II.
4. Enter on the authorization line in Part II the ERO firm name (not the name of the individual preparing the return) if the ERO is authorized to enter the taxpayer's PIN.

5. After completing items (1) through (4) above, give the taxpayer Form 8879 for completion and review. This can be done in person or by using the U.S. mail, a private delivery service, fax, email, or an Internet website.

6. Enter the 14-digit Declaration Control Number (DCN) assigned to the tax return, after the taxpayer completes Part II. See Part I of Pub. 1346, Electronic Return File Specifications for Individual Income Tax Returns. Pub. 1346 is available on IRS.gov.



*You must receive the completed and signed Form 8879 from the taxpayer before the electronic return is transmitted (or released for transmission).*

## Taxpayer Responsibilities

Taxpayers have the following responsibilities.

1. Verify the accuracy of the prepared income tax return, including direct deposit information.
  2. Check the appropriate box in Part II to authorize the ERO to enter or generate their PIN or to do it themselves.
  3. Indicate or verify their PIN when authorizing the ERO to enter or generate it (the PIN must be five numbers other than all zeros).
  4. Sign and date Form 8879.
  5. Return the completed Form 8879 to the ERO in person, or by U.S. mail, private delivery service, fax, email, or an Internet website.
- Your return will not be transmitted to the IRS until the ERO receives your signed Form 8879.

**Refund information.** You can check on the status of your 2011 refund if it has been at least 72 hours since IRS acknowledged receipt of your e-filed return. But if you filed Form 8379 with your return, allow 11 weeks. To check the status of your 2011 refund, do one of the following.

- Go to IRS.gov and click on "Where's My Refund."
- Call 1-800-829-4477 for automated refund information and follow the recorded instructions.
- Call 1-800-829-1954.

## Important Notes for EROs

- Do not send Form 8879 to the IRS unless requested to do so. Retain the completed Form 8879 for 3 years from the return due date or the date the IRS received the return, whichever is later. Form 8879 may be retained electronically in accordance with the recordkeeping guidelines in Rev. Proc. 97-22, which is on page 9 of Internal Revenue Bulletin 1997-13 at [www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb97-13.pdf](http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb97-13.pdf).
- You should confirm the identity of the taxpayer(s). For additional guidance, see Pub. 1345, Handbook for Authorized IRS e-file Providers of Individual Income Tax Returns.
- Complete Part III only if you are filing the return using the Practitioner PIN method. You are not required to enter the taxpayer's date of birth, prior year adjusted gross income, or PIN in the Authentication Record of the electronically filed return.
- If you are not using the Practitioner PIN method, enter the taxpayer(s) date of birth and either the adjusted gross income or the PIN, or both, from the taxpayer's prior year originally filed return in the Authentication Record of the taxpayer's electronically filed return. **Do not** use an amount from an amended return or a math error correction made by the IRS.
- Enter the taxpayer's PIN(s) on the input screen only if the taxpayer has authorized you to do so. If married filing jointly, it is acceptable for one spouse to authorize you to enter his or her PIN, and for the other spouse to enter his or her own PIN. It is not acceptable for a taxpayer to select or enter the PIN of an absent spouse.
- Taxpayers must use a PIN to sign their e-filed individual income tax return transmitted by an ERO.
- Provide the taxpayer with a copy of the signed Form 8879 for his or her records upon request.
- Provide the taxpayer with a corrected copy of Form 8879 if changes are made to the return (for example, based on taxpayer review).
- EROs can sign the form using a rubber stamp, mechanical device (such as a signature pen), or computer software program. See Notice 2007-79, 2007-42 I.R.B. 809, available at [www.irs.gov/irb/2007-42\\_IRB/ar10.html](http://www.irs.gov/irb/2007-42_IRB/ar10.html) for more information.
- For more information, see Pub. 1345. Also, go to [www.irs.gov/efile](http://www.irs.gov/efile).