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.

You can start, prepare, and efile this form now.

After the IRS stops accepting tax returns via efile in October, you have the following options:

1. Download this form, complete it, and mail it to the address on the form.
2. Work with an efile.com Tax Professional (Accountant/CPA) live online.

If you need to prepare tax returns for tax years other than 2011, you can either download the tax forms by Tax Year below:

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

Or, 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.
- 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.

Form **8857**
(Rev. September 2010)
Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service (99)

Request for Innocent Spouse Relief

▶ **See separate instructions.**

OMB No. 1545-1596

Important things you should know

- **Do not file this form with your tax return.** See *Where To File* in the instructions.
- Answer all the questions on this form that apply, attach any necessary documentation, and sign on page 4. Do not delay filing this form because of missing documentation. See instructions.
- By law, the IRS must contact the person who was your spouse for the years you want relief. There are no exceptions, even for victims of spousal abuse or domestic violence. Your personal information (such as your current name, address, and employer) will be protected. However, if you petition the Tax Court, your personal information may be released, unless you ask the Tax Court to withhold it. See instructions for details.
- If you need help, see *How To Get Help* in the instructions.

Part I — Should you file this form? You **must** complete this part for each tax year.

		Line	Tax Year 1		Tax Year 2		Tax Year 3*	
1	**Enter each tax year you want relief.** It is important to enter the correct year. For example, if the IRS used your 2009 income tax refund to pay a 2007 tax amount you jointly owed, enter tax year 2007, not tax year 2009 . . . ▶	1						
	Caution. The IRS generally cannot collect the amount you owe until your request for each year is resolved. However, the time the IRS has to collect is extended. See *Collection Statute of Limitations* on page 3 of the instructions.							
2	**Check the box for each year you would like a refund if you qualify for relief.** You may be required to provide proof of payment. See instructions . . . ▶	2	☐		☐		☐	
			Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
3	**Did the IRS use your share of the joint refund to pay any of the following past-due debts of your spouse: federal tax, state income tax, child support, spousal support, or federal non-tax debt such as a student loan?** • If "Yes," **stop here;** do not file this form for that tax year. Instead, file Form 8379, Injured Spouse Allocation. See instructions. • If "No," go to line 4 . . . ▶	3	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4	**Was a return claiming married filing jointly status filed for the tax year listed on line 1? See instructions.** • If "Yes," skip line 5 and go to line 6. • If "No," go to line 5 . . . ▶	4	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5	**If a joint return for that tax year was not filed, were you a resident of Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington, or Wisconsin?** • If "Yes," see *Community Property Laws* on page 2 of the instructions. • If "No" on both lines 4 and 5, **stop here.** Do not file this form for that tax year . . . ▶	5	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

*If you want relief for more than 3 years, fill out an additional form.

Part II — Tell us about yourself

6	Your current name (see instructions)	**Your social security number**	
	Your current mailing address (number and street).	Apt. no.	**County**
	City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If a foreign address, see instructions.	Best daytime phone number	

Part III — Tell us about you and your spouse for the tax years you want relief

7 **Who was your spouse for the tax years you want relief?** File a separate Form 8857 for tax years involving different spouses or former spouses.

That person's current name	**Social security number** (if known)
Current home address (number and street) (if known). If a P.O. box, see instructions.	Apt. no.
City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If a foreign address, see instructions.	Best daytime phone number

Note. If you need more room to write your answer for any question, attach more pages. Be sure to write your name and social security number on the top of all pages you attach.

Part III (Continued)

8 What is the current marital status between you and the person on line 7?

☐ Married and still living together

☐ Married and living apart since ____________ (MM DD YYYY)

☐ Widowed since ____________ (MM DD YYYY) Attach a photocopy of the death certificate and will (if one exists).

☐ Legally separated since ____________ (MM DD YYYY) Attach a photocopy of your entire separation agreement.

☐ Divorced since ____________ (MM DD YYYY) Attach a photocopy of your entire divorce decree.

Note. A divorce decree stating that your former spouse must pay all taxes does not necessarily mean you qualify for relief.

9 What was the highest level of education you had completed when the return(s) were filed? If the answers are **not** the same for all tax years, explain.

☐ High school diploma, equivalent, or less

☐ Some college

☐ College degree or higher. List any degrees you have ▶ ____________

List any college-level business or tax-related courses you completed ▶ ____________

Explain ▶ ____________

10 Were you a victim of spousal abuse or domestic violence during any of the tax years you want relief? If the answers are **not** the same for all tax years, explain.

☐ Yes. **Attach a statement** to explain the situation and **when** it started. Provide photocopies of any documentation, such as police reports, a restraining order, a doctor's report or letter, or a notarized statement from someone who was aware of the situation.

☐ No.

11 Did you (or the person on line 7) incur any large expenses, such as trips, home improvements, or private schooling, or make any large purchases, such as automobiles, appliances, or jewelry, during any of the years you want relief or any later years?

☐ Yes. **Attach a statement** describing (a) the types and amounts of the expenses and purchases and (b) the years they were incurred or made.

☐ No.

12 Did you sign the return(s)? If the answers are **not** the same for all tax years, explain.

☐ Yes. If you were forced to sign under duress (threat of harm or other form of coercion), check here ▶ ☐ . See instructions.

☐ No. Your signature was forged. See instructions.

13 When any of the returns were signed, did you have a mental or physical health problem or do you have a mental or physical health problem now? If the answers are **not** the same for all tax years, explain.

☐ Yes. **Attach a statement** to explain the problem and **when** it started. Provide photocopies of any documentation, such as medical bills or a doctor's report or letter.

☐ No.

Part IV Tell us how you were involved with finances and preparing returns for those tax years

14 How were you involved with preparing the returns? Check all that apply and explain, if necessary. If the answers are **not** the same for all tax years, explain.

☐ You filled out or helped fill out the returns.

☐ You gathered receipts and cancelled checks.

☐ You gave tax documents (such as Forms W-2, 1099, etc.) to the person who prepared the returns.

☐ You reviewed the returns before they were signed.

☐ You did not review the returns before they were signed. Explain below.

☐ You were not involved in preparing the returns.

☐ Other ▶ ____________

Explain how you were involved ▶ ____________

Note. If you need more room to write your answer for any question, attach more pages. Be sure to write your name and social security number on the top of all pages you attach.

Part IV (Continued)

15 **When the returns were signed, what did you know about any incorrect or missing information?** Check all that apply and explain, if necessary. If the answers are **not** the same for all tax years, explain.

- ☐ You knew something was incorrect or missing, but you said nothing.
- ☐ You knew something was incorrect or missing and asked about it.
- ☐ You did not know anything was incorrect or missing.

Explain ▶

16 **When any of the returns were signed, what did you know about the income of the person on line 7?** Check all that apply and explain, if necessary. If the answers are **not** the same for all tax years, explain.

- ☐ You knew that person had income.

List each type of income on a separate line. (Examples are wages, social security, gambling winnings, or self-employment business income.) Enter each tax year and the amount of income for each type you listed. If you do not know any details, enter "I don't know."

Type of income	Who paid it to that person	Tax Year 1	Tax Year 2	Tax Year 3
		$	$	$
		$	$	$
		$	$	$

- ☐ You knew that person was self-employed and you helped with the books and records.
- ☐ You knew that person was self-employed and you did not help with the books and records.
- ☐ You knew that person had no income.
- ☐ You did not know if that person had income.

Explain ▶

17 **When the returns were signed, did you know any amount was owed to the IRS for those tax years?** If the answers are **not** the same for all tax years, explain.

- ☐ Yes. Explain when and how you thought the amount of tax reported on the return would be paid ▶
- ☐ No.

Explain ▶

18 **When any of the returns were signed, were you having financial problems** (for example, bankruptcy or bills you could not pay)? If the answers are **not** the same for all tax years, explain.

- ☐ Yes. Explain ▶
- ☐ No.
- ☐ Did not know.

Explain ▶

19 **For the years you want relief, how were you involved in the household finances?** Check all that apply. If the answers are **not** the same for all tax years, explain.

- ☐ You knew the person on line 7 had separate accounts.
- ☐ You had joint accounts but you had limited use of them or did not use them. Explain below.
- ☐ You used joint accounts. You made deposits, paid bills, balanced the checkbook, or reviewed the monthly bank statements.
- ☐ You made decisions about how money was spent. For example, you paid bills or made decisions about household purchases.
- ☐ You were not involved in handling money for the household.
- ☐ Other ▶

Explain anything else you want to tell us about your household finances ▶

20 **Has the person on line 7 ever transferred assets (money or property) to you?** (Property includes real estate, stocks, bonds, or other property that you own.) See instructions.

- ☐ Yes. List the assets, the dates they were transferred, and their fair market values on the dates transferred. Explain why the assets were transferred ▶
- ☐ No.

Part V Tell us about your current financial situation

21 Tell us the number of people currently in your household. Adults ____________ Children ____________

22 Tell us your current average monthly income and expenses for your entire household. If family or friends are helping to support you, include the amount of support as gifts under **Monthly income.** Under **Monthly expenses,** enter all expenses, including expenses paid with income from gifts.

Monthly income	Amount	Monthly expenses	Amount
Gifts		Federal, state, and local taxes deducted from your paycheck	
Wages (Gross pay)		Rent or mortgage	
Pensions		Utilities	
Unemployment		Telephone	
Social security			
Government assistance, such as housing, food stamps, grants		Food	
		Car expenses, payments, insurance, etc.	
Alimony		Medical expenses, including medical insurance	
Child support		Life insurance	
Self-employment business income		Clothing	
Rental income		Child care	
Interest and dividends		Public transportation	
Other income, such as disability payments, gambling winnings, etc. List the type below:		Other expenses, such as real estate taxes, child support, etc. List the type below:	
Type		Type	
Type		Type	
Type		Type	
Total ▶		**Total** ▶	

23 Tell us about your assets. Your assets are your money and property. Property includes real estate, motor vehicles, stocks, bonds, and other property that you own. Tell us the amount of cash you have on hand and in your bank accounts. Also give a description of each item of property, the fair market value of each item, and the balance of any outstanding loans you used to acquire each item. Do not list any money or property you listed on line 20. If you need more room, attach more pages. Write your name and social security number on the top of all pages you attach.

24 Please provide any other information you want us to consider in determining whether it would be unfair to hold you liable for the tax. If you need more room, attach more pages. Write your name and social security number on the top of all pages you attach.

Caution

By signing this form, you understand that, by law, we must contact the person on line 7. See instructions for details.

Sign Here

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this form and any accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Keep a copy for your records.

Your signature | Date

Paid Preparer's Use Only

Preparer's signature	Date	Check if self-employed ☐	Preparer's SSN or PTIN
Firm's name (or yours if self-employed), address, and ZIP code		EIN	
		Phone no.	