

## Unusual Tax Filing Situations

### *Special tax situations*

#### ■ Filing extensions.

For students, spouses and parents granted a tax filing extension, you must submit a copy of IRS Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return.

Students, spouses and parents must also provide a copy of all their W-2 Wage and Earning Transcripts, or, if they are self-employed, a signed statement with the amount of their AGI and their U.S. income taxes to be paid.

You will be required to use the DRT or submit a tax return transcript to your school after the return has been filed. This is done in order to reverify the income information.

#### Filers of amended returns.

Students, spouses, or parents who file an amended tax return (IRS Form 1040X) cannot use the IRS DRT, and if they amend the return after using the DRT to fill out the FAFSA, you cannot rely on that data.

Instead, you will need to use information from these documents to complete verification:

- 1. a signed copy of the 1040X form that was filed and
- 2. an IRS tax return transcript (that will only include information from the original tax return and that does not have to be signed), or any other IRS transcript (such as a return transcript for taxpayer or RTFTP) that includes all the income and tax information required to be verified: AGI, income tax paid, education credits, etc.

■ **Victims of identity theft** who cannot get a tax return transcript or use the DRT must submit a Tax Return Database View (TRDBV) transcript as well as a statement they have signed and dated indicating that they were victims of tax-related identity theft and that the IRS has been made aware of it.

You do this by calling the IRS's Identity Protection Specialized Unit (IPSU) at 800-908-4490.

After the IPSU authenticates the tax filer's identity, you can ask the IRS to mail her the TRDBV transcript, which is an alternate paper transcript that will look different than a regular transcript but that is official and can be used for verification. In some instances an IRS signature or stamp will be required to validate the authenticity of the documents.

A TRDBV transcript may be substituted for another official IRS transcript or equivalent IRS document if it includes all of the income and tax information required to be verified

#### Immigrants and tax filing

Immigrants are not exempt from tax filing. The IRS is more concerned whether a person is a resident or nonresident—rather than legal or illegal—alien. An alien is anyone who is not a U.S. citizen or national. A resident alien is one who either is a permanent resident or has resided in the U.S. for a specific minimum amount of time (has met the substantial presence test). All others are nonresident aliens. Resident aliens'

income is generally subject to tax in the same manner as U.S. citizens', and they file Forms 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ.

Nonresident aliens who are required to file a return submit Form 1040NR or 1040NR-EZ; both forms are acceptable documentation for verification. Immigrants who do not have an SSN and are unable to get one can apply with the IRS for an individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). The ITIN is only for tax purposes. It does not authorize a person to work, endorse his legal status, or entitle him to the earned income credit or Social Security benefits. It is not to be used as an identifier in place of the SSN on the FAFSA

For filers of non-IRS tax returns, you may accept a transcript obtained from a government of a U.S. territory or commonwealth or a foreign nation that includes all of the tax filer's income and tax information required to be verified for tax year 2014. If a transcript is not available, you may accept instead a copy of the tax return, which must be signed by the filer or one of the filers of a joint return. Use the income and tax information that most closely corresponds to the information on the IRS tax return, and convert monetary amounts into U.S. dollars as appropriate.