



Rhode Island Division of Taxation

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Department of Revenue

Advisory

April 15, 2014

ADVISORY: ADV 2014-07

Filing deadline tonight

The deadline is tonight for filing Rhode Island personal income tax returns. Returns covering tax year 2013 must be e-filed or postmarked on or before 11:59 p.m. on April 15, 2014.

So far this season, nine out of every 10 Rhode Island personal income tax returns have been e-filed. "Tax professionals and taxpayers should definitely use electronic filing," said Rhode Island Tax Administrator David M. Sullivan. E-filing saves time and money, and results in fewer errors and faster processing, said Peter McVay, associate director of revenue services. And only by e-filing can you have your refund deposited directly into your bank or credit union account.

Tips for last-minute filers

- **Forms:** Forms, instructions, booklets, and additional information are available for download from the Division of Taxation's website: www.tax.ri.gov/taxforms
- **Using a Preparer:** There are many certified public accountants, enrolled agents, public accountants, registered tax return preparers, and other paid preparers in the Rhode Island area available to prepare and file your federal and state returns. For information about locations and times of volunteer tax preparers, call the United Way of Rhode Island's helpline at 211, or use this website: www.211ri.org. For information on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, call toll-free at 1-800-906-9887, or see www.irs.gov. For information on the AARP Tax-Aide program, call toll-free at 1-888-227-7669, or use this website: www.aarp.org/taxaide.
- **Free File:** The Division of Taxation's website includes links to a number of online tax preparation programs that allow low-income and other eligible taxpayers to prepare and file their federal and Rhode Island personal income tax returns at no charge. Taxpayers must first meet the eligibility requirements and should read each program's terms and conditions carefully. The links are available at: <http://www.tax.ri.gov/misc/efile.php>.
- **Refund Guide:** Among the topics covered in the Division of Taxation's new "[Guide to Tax Refunds](#)": how to find out the status of your refund; what to do when a direct deposit goes

astray; why your refund amount may be more – or less – than you expected; and common errors that lead to refund delays. The average refund so far this season is about \$550.

■ **Extensions:** If you can't file your Rhode Island personal income tax return by the April 15 deadline, you can obtain an automatic six-month extension, pushing your filing deadline out to October 15, 2014. The extension is for resident and nonresident returns. For information about how to make a proper estimate when filing for an extension, please [click here](#). If you have a balance due, you still must pay what you owe by April 15, or face penalty and interest charges. (It's an extension of the time to file, not of the time to pay.) If you'll have a balance due, file [Form RI-4868](#) on paper. (If you'll have a balance due and [pay it by credit card](#), you don't have to file a Form RI-4868. A third-party fee is charged when you pay by credit card.) If you can't pay what you owe by April 15, file anyway to avoid the failure-to-file penalty – and enter into an agreement to pay over time, in installments. To learn more about such payment plans, call the Division of Taxation's Compliance & Collections section, at (401) 574-8941 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. business days. (Have a copy of your return handy when you call.)

■ **Other Forms, Payments Due:** April 15 is the final deadline for property-tax relief claims on [Form RI-1040H](#) and for the residential lead abatement credit on [Form RI-6238](#). It's also the deadline for making your first quarterly estimated payments of Rhode Island personal income tax for the year.

For questions about this Advisory, contact:

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