

## Learning from Our Mistakes: IRS Identifies 10 Common Mistakes on Tax Returns

This year, the Internal Revenue Service reviewed tax returns filed during this past tax season and identified the top ten mistakes commonly made by taxpayers when they filed their tax returns. The mistakes cost taxpayers millions of dollars. Sometimes the mistakes resulted in substantial penalties and interest. The mistakes identified included the following:

1. Choosing the wrong filing status, whether Single, Joint, or Head of Household.
2. Failing to include Social Security Numbers, or using incorrect numbers.
3. Failing to use the correct forms and schedules when completing the tax return.
4. Failing to sign and date the tax return.
5. Claiming ineligible dependents.
6. Failing to file for the earned income credit.
7. Improperly claiming the earned income credit.
8. Failing to report and pay domestic payroll taxes.
9. Failing to report income just because it was not included on a W-2, a Form 1099, or other form. This included income paid “under the table.”
10. Treating employees as independent contractors.

The IRS also identified several other mistakes including failing to file a tax return, when a refund was owed to the taxpayer and mailing the tax return to the wrong address.