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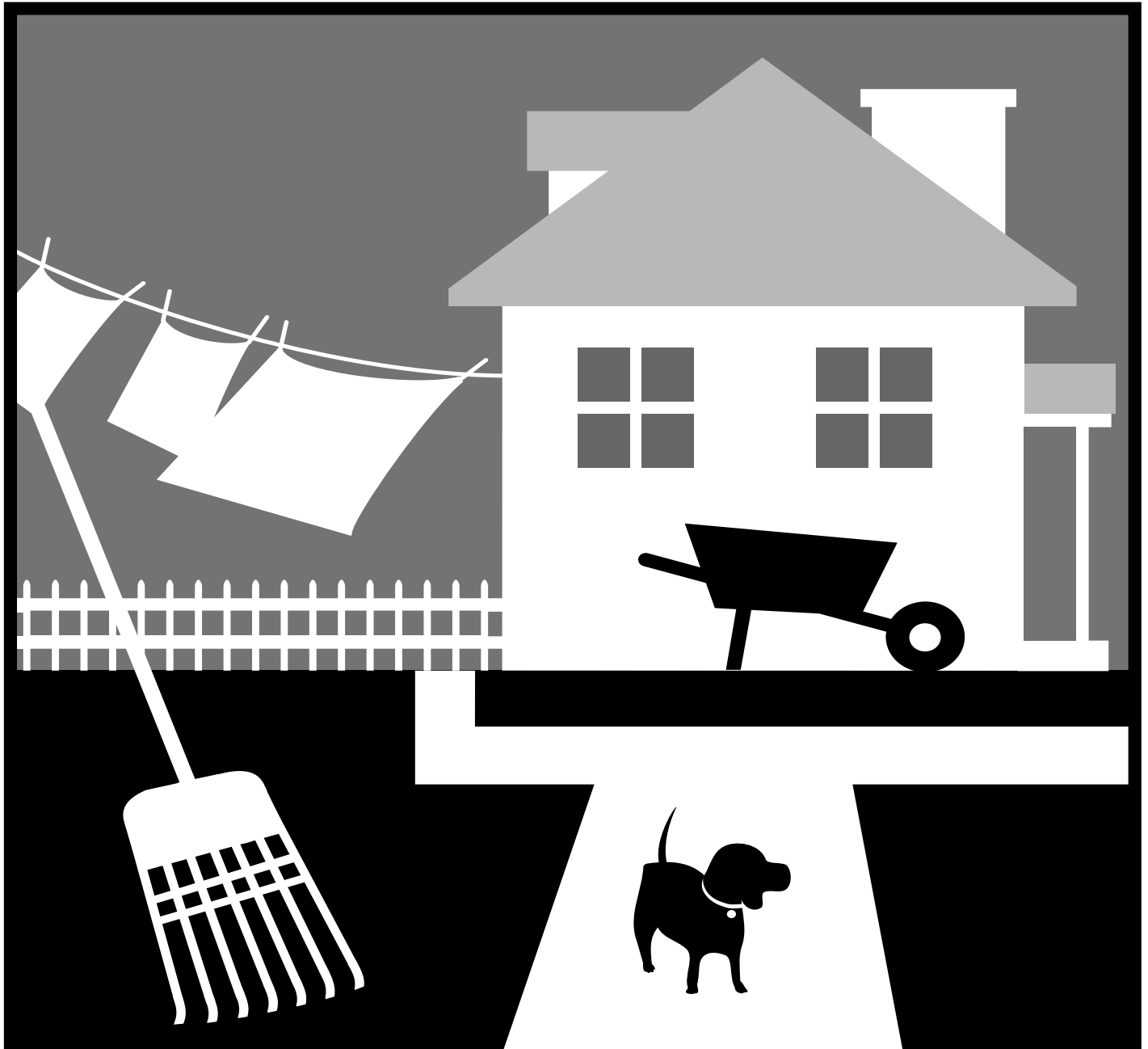
Internal
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Service

Household Employer's Tax Guide For Wages Paid in 1998

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Here are the tax rules you
should know when you
employ a household worker
such as a:

- Babysitter
- Caretaker
- Health Aide
- Housekeeper
- Maid
- Nanny
- Private Nurse
- Yard Worker



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See *How Can You Get More Information?* in this publication.

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Introduction

If you have a household employee in 1998, you may need to pay state and federal employment taxes. You generally must add your federal employment taxes to the income tax that you will report on your 1998 federal income tax return.

This publication will help you decide whether you have a household employee and, if you do, whether you need to pay federal employment taxes. It explains how to figure, pay, and report social security tax, Medicare tax, federal unemployment tax, and federal income tax withholding for your household employee. It also explains what records you need to keep.

This publication also tells you where to find out whether you need to pay state unemployment tax for your household employee.

Important Changes for 1998

Social security and Medicare wage threshold increased to \$1,100. The \$1,000 social security and Medicare wage threshold has been increased to \$1,100 for 1998. This means that if you pay a household employee cash wages of less than \$1,100 in 1998, you do not have to report and pay social security and

Medicare taxes on that employee's 1998 wages. For more information, see *Social Security and Medicare Taxes* on page 4.

Estimated tax penalty may apply to household employment taxes. Beginning in 1998, the estimated tax penalty may apply to household employers who:

- 1) Do not prepay household employment taxes, and
- 2) Either:
 - a) Will have federal income tax withheld from pay, pensions, annuities, etc., or
 - b) Would be required to make estimated tax payments (to avoid the penalty) even if no household employment taxes were owed.

For more information, see *How Do You Make Tax Payments?* on page 7.

Who Is a Household Employee?

The information in this publication applies to you only if you pay someone for household work and that worker is your employee. Household work is work done in or around your home by babysitters, nannies, health aides, private nurses, maids, caretakers, yard workers, and similar domestic workers.

A household worker is your employee if you can control not only what work is done, but how it is done. If the worker is your employee, it does not matter whether the work is full time or part time, or that you hired the worker through an agency or from a list provided by an agency or association. It also does not matter whether you pay the worker on an hourly, daily, or weekly basis, or by the job.

If only the worker can control how the work is done, the worker is not your employee but is self-employed. A self-employed worker usually provides his or her own tools and offers services to the general public in an independent business. If an agency provides the worker and controls what work is done and how it is done, the worker is not your employee.

More information about who is an employee is in Publication 15-A, *Employer's Supplemental Tax Guide*.

Example 1. You pay Betty Shore to babysit your child and do light housework 4 days a week in your home. Betty follows your specific instructions about household and child care duties. You provide the household equipment and supplies that Betty needs to do her work. Betty is your household employee.

Example 2. You pay John Peters to care for your lawn. John also offers lawn care services to other homeowners in your neighborhood. He provides his own tools and supplies, and he hires and pays any helpers he needs. Neither John nor his helpers are your household employees.

Table 1. Do You Need To Pay Employment Taxes?

If you:	Then you need to:
<p>A—Pay cash wages of \$1,100 or more in 1998 to any one household employee.</p> <p>Do not count wages you pay to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Your spouse, ● Your child under age 21, ● Your parent, or ● Any employee under age 18 during 1998. <p style="margin-left: 150px;">} See page 4 for exceptions.</p>	<p>Withhold and pay social security and Medicare taxes. (Page 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The taxes are 15.3% of cash wages. ● Your employee's share is 7.65%. (You can choose to pay it yourself and not withhold it.) ● Your share is a matching 7.65%.
<p>B—Pay total cash wages of \$1,000 or more in any calendar quarter of 1997 or 1998 to household employees.</p> <p>Do not count wages you pay to—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Your spouse, ● Your child under age 21, or ● Your parent. 	<p>Pay federal unemployment tax. (Page 5)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The tax is usually 0.8% of cash wages. ● Wages over \$7,000 a year per employee are not taxed. ● You may also owe state unemployment tax.

Note: If neither A nor B above applies, you do not need to pay any federal employment taxes. But you may still need to pay state employment taxes.

Can Your Employee Legally Work in the United States?



It is unlawful for you to knowingly hire or continue to employ an alien who cannot legally work in the United States.

When you hire a household employee to work for you on a regular basis, he or she must complete the employee part of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Form I-9, *Employment Eligibility Verification*. You must verify that the employee is either a U.S. citizen or an alien who can legally work and then complete the employer part of the form. Keep the completed form for your records.



Two copies of Form I-9 are contained in the *INS Handbook for Employers*. Call the INS at 1-800-755-0777 to order the handbook or additional copies of the form, or to get more information.

Do You Need To Pay Employment Taxes?

If you have a household employee, you may need to withhold and pay social security and Medicare taxes, or you may need to pay federal unemployment tax, or you may need to do both. To find out, read Table 1, *Do You Need To Pay Employment Taxes?*, above.

You do not need to withhold federal income tax from your household employee's wages. But if your employee asks you to withhold it, you can choose to do

so. See *Do You Need To Withhold Federal Income Tax?* on page 6.

If you need to pay social security, Medicare, or federal unemployment tax or choose to withhold federal income tax, read Table 2, *Household Employer's Checklist*, on page 4 for an overview of things you may need to do.



Child and dependent care expenses. *If your household employee cares for your dependent who is under age 13 or your spouse or dependent who is not capable of self care, so that you can work, you may be able to take an income tax credit of up to 30% of your expenses. If you can take the credit, you can include your share of the federal and state employment taxes you pay, as well as the employee's wages, in your qualifying expenses. For information about the credit, get Publication 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses.*

If you do not need to pay social security, Medicare, or federal unemployment tax and do not choose to withhold federal income tax, read *State employment taxes*, next. The rest of this publication does not apply to you.

State employment taxes. You should contact your state unemployment tax agency to find out whether you need to pay state unemployment tax for your household employee. For the address and phone number, see the list beginning on page 10 of this publication. You should also find out whether you need to pay or collect other state employment taxes or carry workers' compensation insurance.

Table 2. Household Employer's Checklist

You may need to do the following things when you have a household employee. Page numbers are given to help you find the related discussion in this publication.

When you hire a household employee:	<input type="checkbox"/> Find out if the person can legally work in the United States. (Page 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Find out if you need to pay state taxes. (Page 3)
When you pay your household employee:	<input type="checkbox"/> Withhold social security and Medicare taxes. (Page 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Withhold federal income tax. (Page 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Make advance payments of the earned income credit. (Page 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Decide how you will make tax payments. (Page 7) <input type="checkbox"/> Keep records. (Page 8)
By February 1, 1999:	<input type="checkbox"/> Get an employer identification number. (Page 7) <input type="checkbox"/> Give your employee Copies B, C, and 2 of Form W-2, <i>Wage and Tax Statement</i> . (Page 7)
By March 1, 1999:	<input type="checkbox"/> Send Copy A of Form W-2 to the Social Security Administration. (Page 7)
By April 15, 1999:	<input type="checkbox"/> File Schedule H (Form 1040), <i>Household Employment Taxes</i> , with your 1998 federal income tax return (Form 1040 or 1040A). (Page 8)

Social Security and Medicare Taxes

Social security and Medicare taxes pay for benefits that workers and their families receive under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA). Social security tax pays for benefits under the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance part of FICA. Medicare tax pays for benefits under the hospital insurance part.

Both you and your household employee may owe social security and Medicare taxes. The taxes for each of you are 7.65% (6.2% for social security tax and 1.45% for Medicare tax) of the employee's social security and Medicare wages.

You are responsible for payment of your employee's share of the taxes as well as your own. You can either withhold your employee's share from the employee's wages or pay it from your own funds. Pay the taxes as discussed under *How Do You Make Tax Payments?* on page 7. Also, see *What Forms Must You File?* on page 7.

Social security and Medicare wages. You figure social security and Medicare taxes on the social security and Medicare wages you pay. If you pay your household employee cash wages of \$1,100 or more in 1998, all cash wages you pay to that employee in 1998 (regardless of when the wages were earned) are social security and Medicare wages. If you pay the employee less than \$1,100 in cash wages in 1998, none of the wages you pay the employee are social security and Medicare wages, and neither you nor your employee will owe social security or Medicare tax.

Wages not counted. Do not count wages you pay to any of the following individuals as social security and Medicare wages:

- 1) Your spouse.
- 2) Your child who is under age 21.
- 3) Your parent. **Exception:** Count these wages if both of the following apply:
 - a) Your child lives with you and either is under age 18 **or** has a physical or mental condition that

requires the personal care of an adult for at least 4 continuous weeks in a calendar quarter, and

- b) You are divorced and have not remarried, or you are a widow or widower, or you are married to and living with a person whose physical or mental condition prevents him or her from caring for your child for at least 4 continuous weeks in a calendar quarter.

- 4) An employee who is under age 18 at any time during the year. **Exception:** Count these wages if providing household services is the employee's principal occupation. If the employee is a student, providing household services is not considered to be his or her principal occupation.

Also, if your employee's social security and Medicare wages reach \$68,400 in 1998, do not count any wages you pay that employee during the rest of the year as social security wages to figure social security tax. (But continue to count the employee's cash wages as Medicare wages to figure Medicare tax.)

Cash wages. Cash wages include wages you pay with checks, money orders, etc. Cash wages do not include the value of food, lodging, clothing, and other noncash items you give your household employee. However, cash you give your employee in place of these items is included in cash wages.

If you reimburse the amount your employee pays to commute to your home by public transit (bus, train, etc.), do not count the reimbursement (up to \$65 per month) as wages.

Withholding the employee's share. You should withhold the employee's share of social security and Medicare taxes if you expect to pay your household employee social security and Medicare wages of \$1,100 or more in 1998. However, if you prefer to pay the employee's share yourself, see *Not withholding the employee's share*, next.

You may withhold the employee's share of the taxes even if you are not sure your employee's social security

and Medicare wages will be \$1,100 or more in 1998. If you withhold the taxes but then actually pay the employee less than \$1,100 in social security and Medicare wages for the year, you should repay the employee.

Withhold 7.65% (6.2% for social security tax and 1.45% for Medicare tax) from each payment of social security and Medicare wages. You can use the table on page 12 to figure the proper amount to withhold. Instead of paying this amount to your employee, you will pay it to the IRS with a matching amount for your share of the taxes.

If you make an error by withholding too little, you should withhold additional taxes from a later payment. If you withhold too much, you should repay the employee.

Example. You hire a household employee (who is an unrelated individual over age 18) to care for your child and agree to pay cash wages of \$100 every Friday. You expect to pay your employee \$1,100 or more for the year. You should withhold \$7.65 from each \$100 wage payment and pay your employee the remaining \$92.35. The \$7.65 is the sum of \$6.20 ($\$100 \times 6.2\%$) for your employee's share of social security tax and \$1.45 ($\$100 \times 1.45\%$) for your employee's share of Medicare tax. You will match the \$7.65 you withhold with \$7.65 from your own funds when you pay the taxes.

Not withholding the employee's share. If you prefer to pay your employee's social security and Medicare taxes from your own funds, you do not have to withhold them from your employee's wages. The social security and Medicare taxes you pay to cover your employee's share must be included in the employee's wages for income tax purposes. However, they are not counted as social security and Medicare wages or as federal unemployment (FUTA) wages.

Example. You hire a household employee (who is an unrelated individual over age 18) to care for your child and agree to pay cash wages of \$100 every Friday. You expect to pay your employee \$1,100 or more for the year. You decide to pay your employee's share of social security and Medicare taxes from your own funds. You pay your employee \$100 every Friday without withholding any social security or Medicare taxes. For each wage payment you will pay \$15.30 when you pay the taxes. This is \$7.65 ($\6.20 for social security tax plus \$1.45 for Medicare tax) to cover your employee's share plus a matching \$7.65 for your share. For income tax purposes, your employee's wages each payday are \$107.65 ($\100 plus the \$7.65 that you will pay to cover your employee's share of social security and Medicare taxes).

Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax

The federal unemployment tax is part of the federal and state program under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA) that pays unemployment compensation to workers who lose their jobs. Like most employers, you may owe both the federal unemployment tax (the FUTA

tax) and a state unemployment tax. Or, you may owe only the FUTA tax or only the state unemployment tax. To find out whether you will owe state unemployment tax, contact your state's unemployment tax agency. See the list of state unemployment agencies in the Appendix on page 10 for the address.

The FUTA tax is 6.2% of your employee's FUTA wages. But it is reduced to 0.8% for 1998 if:

- 1) The FUTA wages you pay are not more than the wages that are subject to state unemployment tax, and
- 2) You pay all the required contributions for 1998 to your state unemployment fund by April 15, 1999.



Do not withhold the FUTA tax from your employee's wages. You must pay it from your own funds.

Pay the tax as discussed under *How Do You Make Tax Payments?* on page 7. Also, see *What Forms Must You File?* on page 7.

FUTA wages. You figure the FUTA tax on the FUTA wages you pay. If you pay cash wages to household employees totaling \$1,000 or more in any calendar quarter of 1998, the first \$7,000 of cash wages you pay to each household employee in 1998 and 1999 is FUTA wages. (A calendar quarter is January through March, April through June, July through September, or October through December.) If your employee's cash wages reach \$7,000 during the year, do not figure the FUTA tax on any wages you pay that employee during the rest of the year. For a discussion of "cash wages," see page 4.

If you pay less than \$1,000 cash wages in each calendar quarter of 1998, but you had a household employee in 1997, the cash wages you pay in 1998 may still be FUTA wages. They are FUTA wages if the cash wages you paid to household employees in any calendar quarter of 1997 totaled \$1,000 or more.

Wages not counted. Do not count wages you pay to any of the following individuals as FUTA wages:

- 1) Your spouse.
- 2) Your child who is under age 21.
- 3) Your parent.

Example. You hire a household employee (who is not related to you) on January 1, 1998, and agree to pay cash wages of \$200 every Friday. During January, February, and March you pay the employee cash wages of \$2,600. Because you pay cash wages of \$1,000 or more in a calendar quarter of 1998, the first \$7,000 of cash wages you pay the employee (or any other employee) in 1998 or 1999 is FUTA wages. The FUTA wages you pay are also subject to your state's unemployment tax.

During 1998, you pay your household employee cash wages of \$10,400. You pay all the required contributions for 1998 to your state unemployment fund by April 15, 1999. Your FUTA tax for 1998 is \$56 ($\$7,000 \times 0.8\%$).

Do You Need To Withhold Federal Income Tax?

You are not required to withhold federal income tax from wages you pay a household employee. You should withhold federal income tax only if your household employee **asks** you to withhold it and you **agree**. The employee must give you a completed Form W-4, *Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate*.

If you agree to withhold federal income tax, you are responsible for paying it to the IRS. Pay the tax as discussed under *How Do You Make Tax Payments?* on page 7. Also, see *What Forms Must You File?* on page 7.

Use the income tax withholding tables in Publication 15, *Circular E, Employer's Tax Guide*, to find out how much to withhold. Figure federal income tax withholding on wages before you deduct any amounts for other withheld taxes. Withhold federal income tax from each payment of wages based on the filing status and exemptions shown on your employee's Form W-4. Publication 15 contains detailed instructions.

Wages. You figure federal income tax withholding on both cash and noncash wages you pay. Measure wages you pay in any form other than cash by the value of the noncash item.

Do not count as wages any of the following items:

- Meals provided at your home for your convenience.
- Lodging provided at your home for your convenience and as a condition of employment.
- Up to \$65 a month for bus or train tokens (passes) you give your employee, or for any cash reimbursement you make for the amount your employee pays to commute to your home by public transit.
- Up to \$175 a month for the value of parking you provide your employee at or near your home or at or near a location from which your employee commutes to your home.

See Publication 15 for more information on cash and noncash wages.

Paying tax without withholding. Any income tax you pay for your employee without withholding it from the employee's wages must be included in the employee's wages for federal income tax purposes. It is also counted as social security and Medicare wages and as federal unemployment (FUTA) wages.

What Do You Need To Know About the Earned Income Credit?

Certain workers can take the earned income credit (EIC) on their federal income tax return. This credit reduces their tax or allows them to receive a payment from the IRS if they do not owe tax. You may have to make advance payments of part of your household employee's EIC along with the employee's wages. You also may have to give your employee a notice about the EIC.

Advance EIC payments. You must make advance EIC payments if your employee gives you a properly completed Form W-5, *Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate*. Any advance EIC payments you make reduce the amount of social security and Medicare taxes and withheld federal income tax you need to pay to the IRS. Use the advance EIC payment tables in Publication 15, *Circular E, Employer's Tax Guide*, to find out how much to pay your employee. But do not pay more than the amount of social security and Medicare taxes and withheld federal income tax you would otherwise need to pay to the IRS.

Notice about the EIC. The employee's copy (Copy C) of the 1998 Form W-2, *Wage and Tax Statement*, has a statement about the EIC on the back. If you give your employee that copy by February 1, 1999 (as discussed under *Form W-2* on page 7), you do not have to give the employee any other notice about the EIC. Otherwise, you must give your household employee a notice about the EIC only if you agree to withhold federal income tax from the employee's wages (as discussed under *Do You Need To Withhold Federal Income Tax?* on page 6), but the income tax withholding tables show that no tax should be withheld. Even if not required, you are encouraged to give the employee a notice about the EIC if his or her 1998 wages are less than \$30,095.

If you do not give your employee Copy C of the Form W-2, your notice about the EIC can be any of the following:

- 1) A substitute Form W-2 with the same EIC information on the back of the employee's copy that is on Copy C of the Form W-2,
- 2) Notice 797, *Possible Federal Tax Refund Due to the Earned Income Credit (EIC)*, or
- 3) Your own written statement with the same wording as Notice 797.

If you must file Form W-2 for your employee, you must give your notice about the 1998 EIC to the employee by February 1, 1999, or if later, within one week of the date you give the employee a substitute Form W-2 that does not have the EIC statement. If Form W-2 is not required, you must give your notice to the employee by February 8, 1999.

How Do You Make Tax Payments?

When you file your 1998 federal income tax return in 1999, you will add the federal employment taxes on the wages you pay to your household employee in 1998, less any advance earned income credit payments you make to the employee, to your income tax. (For information about reporting the employment taxes on your return, see *Schedule H* on page 8.) The amount you owe with your return is due to the IRS by April 15, 1999.

If your home is on a farm or you also have employees who work in your business, see *Payment option for business employers*, later in this discussion.

You can avoid owing tax with your return if you pay enough tax during the year to cover the employment taxes for your household employee, as well as your income tax. If you are employed, you can ask your employer to withhold more federal income tax from your wages in 1998. If you get a pension or annuity, you can ask the payer to withhold more federal income tax from your benefits. Or, you can make estimated tax payments for 1998 to the IRS, or increase your payments if you already make them.



You may have to pay an estimated tax penalty if you do not have enough federal income tax withheld or pay enough estimated tax.

For information about paying taxes through federal income tax withholding and estimated tax payments and figuring the estimated tax penalty, get Publication 505, *Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax*.

Asking for more federal income tax withholding. If you are employed and want more federal income tax withheld from your wages to cover the employment taxes for your household employee, give your employer a new Form W-4, *Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate*. Complete it as before, but show the additional amount you want withheld from each paycheck on line 6.

If you get a pension or annuity and want more federal income tax withheld to cover the employment taxes for your household employee, give the payer a new Form W-4P, *Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments* (or a similar form provided by the payer). Complete it as before, but show the additional amount you want withheld from each benefit payment on line 3.

To make sure you will have the right amount withheld, get Publication 919, *Is My Withholding Correct for 1998?*. It will help you compare your total withholding for 1998 with the combined income tax and employment taxes that you can expect to figure on your 1998 return.

Paying estimated tax. If you want to make estimated tax payments to cover the employment taxes for your household employee, get Form 1040-ES, *Estimated Tax for Individuals*. Use its payment vouchers to make your payments. You can pay all of the employment taxes at once, or you can pay them in installments. If you have already made estimated tax payments for

1998, you can increase your remaining payments to cover the employment taxes. Estimated tax payments for 1998 are ordinarily due April 15, June 15, and September 15, 1998, and January 15, 1999.

Payment option for business employers. If you own a business as a sole proprietor or your home is on a farm operated for profit, you can choose either of two ways to pay the 1998 federal employment taxes for your household employee. You can pay them with your federal income tax as described above, or you can include them with your federal employment tax deposits or other payments for your business or farm employees.

If you pay the employment taxes for your household employee with business or farm employment taxes, you must report them with those taxes on Form 941 or Form 943 and on Form 940 (or 940-EZ). See *Business employment tax returns* on page 8.

What Forms Must You File?

You must file certain forms to report your household employee's wages and the federal employment taxes for the employee if you pay the employee:

- 1) Social security and Medicare wages,
- 2) FUTA wages, or
- 3) Wages from which you withhold federal income tax.

The employment tax forms and instructions you need will be sent to you automatically in January 1999 if you reported employment taxes for 1997 on Schedule H (Form 1040), *Household Employment Taxes*.

Employer identification number (EIN). You must include your employer identification number (EIN) on the forms you file for your household employee. An EIN is a 9-digit number issued by the IRS. It is not the same as a social security number.



You ordinarily will have an EIN if you previously paid taxes for employees, either as a household employer or in a business you own as a sole proprietor. If you already have an EIN, use that number.

If you do not have an EIN, get Form SS-4, *Application for Employer Identification Number*. The instructions for Form SS-4 explain how you can get an EIN immediately by telephone or in about 4 weeks if you apply by mail.

Form W-2. File a separate 1998 Form W-2, *Wage and Tax Statement*, for each household employee to whom you pay:

- 1) Social security and Medicare wages, or
- 2) Wages from which you withhold federal income tax.

You must complete Form W-2 and give Copies B, C, and 2 to your employee by February 1, 1999. You must send Copy A of Form W-2 with Form W-3, *Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements*, to the Social Security Administration by March 1, 1999.

Employee who leaves during the year. If an employee stops working for you before the end of 1998, you may file Form W-2 and provide copies to your employee immediately after you make your final payment of wages. You do not need to wait until 1999. If the employee asks you for Form W-2, give it to him or her within 30 days after the request or the last wage payment, whichever is later.

Schedule H. Use Schedule H (Form 1040), *Household Employment Taxes*, to report the federal employment taxes for your household employee if you pay the employee:

- 1) Social security and Medicare wages,
- 2) FUTA wages, or
- 3) Wages from which you withhold federal income tax.

File Schedule H with your 1998 federal income tax return by April 15, 1999. If you get an extension to file your return, the extension will also apply to your Schedule H.

If you are not required to file a 1998 tax return, you must file Schedule H by itself. See the Schedule H instructions for details.

Business employment tax returns. Do not use Schedule H (Form 1040) if you choose to pay the employment taxes for your household employee with business or farm employment taxes. (For information on choosing to pay the taxes that way, see *Payment option for business employers*, on page 7.) Instead, include the social security, Medicare, and withheld federal income taxes for the employee on the Forms 941, *Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return*, that you file for your business or on the Form 943, *Employer's Annual Tax Return for Agricultural Employees*, that you file for your farm. Include the FUTA tax for the employee on your Form 940 (or 940-EZ), *Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment (FUTA) Tax Return*.

If you report the employment taxes for your household employee on Form 941 or Form 943, file Form W-2 for the employee with the Forms W-2 and Form W-3 for your business or farm employees.

What Records Must You Keep?



Keep your copies of Schedule H or other employment tax forms you file and related Forms W-2, W-3, W-4, and W-5. You must also keep records to support the information you enter on the forms you file. If you are required to file Form W-2, you will need to keep a record of your employee's name, address, and social security number.

Wage and tax records. On each payday you should record the date and amounts of:

- 1) Your employee's cash and noncash wages,

- 2) Any employee social security tax you withhold or agree to pay for your employee,
- 3) Any employee Medicare tax you withhold or agree to pay for your employee,
- 4) Any federal income tax you withhold,
- 5) Any advance EIC payments you make, and
- 6) Any state employment taxes you withhold.

Employee's social security number. You must keep a record of your employee's name and social security number exactly as they appear on his or her social security card if you pay the employee:

- 1) Social security and Medicare wages, or
- 2) Wages from which you withhold federal income tax.

You must ask for your employee's social security number no later than the first day on which you pay the wages. You may wish to ask for it when you hire your employee.



An employee who does not have a social security number must apply for one on Form SS-5, *Application for a Social Security Card*. An employee who has lost his or her social security card or whose name is not correctly shown on the card should apply for a new card. Employees may get Form SS-5 from any Social Security Administration office or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

How long to keep records. Keep your employment tax records for at least 4 years after the due date of the return on which you report the taxes or the date the taxes were paid, whichever is later.

How Can You Get More Information?



You can get help from the IRS in several ways.

Free publications and forms. To order free publications and forms, call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). You can also write to the IRS Forms Distribution Center nearest you. Check your income tax package for the address. Your local library or post office also may have the items you need.

For a list of free tax publications, order Publication 910, *Guide to Free Tax Services*. It also contains an index of tax topics and related publications and describes other free tax information services available from IRS, including tax education and assistance programs.

If you have access to a personal computer and modem, you also can get many forms and publications electronically. See *Quick and Easy Access to Tax Help and Forms* in your income tax package for details.

Tax questions. You can call the IRS with your tax questions. Check your income tax package or telephone book for the local number, or you can call 1-800-829-1040.

TTY/TDD equipment. If you have access to TTY/TDD equipment, you can call 1-800-829-4059 to ask tax questions or to order forms and publications. See your income tax package for the hours of operation.

Evaluating the quality of our telephone services. To ensure that IRS representatives give accurate, courteous, and professional answers, we evaluate the

quality of our "800 number" telephone services in several ways.

- A second IRS representative sometimes monitors live telephone calls. That person only evaluates the IRS assistor and does not keep a record of any taxpayer's name or tax identification number.
- We sometimes record telephone calls to evaluate IRS assistors objectively. We hold these recordings no longer than one week and use them only to measure the quality of assistance.
- We value our customers' opinions. Throughout this year, we will be surveying our customers for their opinions on our service.

Appendix: State Unemployment Tax Agencies



The following list of state unemployment tax agencies was provided to the IRS by the U.S. Department of Labor. If the telephone number listed for your state would be a long distance call from your area, you can use the name of the agency to look for a local number in your telephone book.

Alabama

Department of Industrial Relations
649 Monroe Street
Montgomery, AL 36131
(334) 242-8467

Alaska

Department of Labor
PO Box 25509
Juneau, AK 99802-5509
(907) 465-5912

Arizona

Department of Economic Security
2801 North 33rd Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85009
(602) 255-4755

Arkansas

Employment Security Division
PO Box 2981
Little Rock, AR 72203
(501) 682-3253

California

Employment Development Department, MIC-90
PO Box 942880
Sacramento, CA 94280-0001
(916) 653-1528

Colorado

Department of Labor and Employment
1515 Arapahoe
Tower 2, Suite 400
Denver, CO 80202-2117
(303) 603-8235

Connecticut

Labor Department
200 Folly Brook Blvd.
Wethersfield, CT 06109-1114
(860) 566-2124

Delaware

Department of Labor
4425 North Market Street
Wilmington, DE 19809-0950
(302) 761-8353

District of Columbia

Department of Employment Services
500 C Street, NW, Room 501
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 724-7462

Florida

Department of Labor and Employment Security
107 East Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0211
(850) 921-3108

Georgia

Department of Labor
148 International Blvd.
Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 656-4309

Hawaii

Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
830 Punchbowl Street
Room 437
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-8927

Idaho

Department of Employment
317 Main Street
Boise, ID 83735-0760
(208) 334-6385

Illinois

Bureau of Employment Security
401 South State Street
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 793-1918

Indiana

Department of Workforce Development
10 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-7698

Iowa

Workforce Development
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 281-8200

Kansas

Department of Human Resources
401 S.W. Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66603
(785) 296-5026

Kentucky

Division of Unemployment Insurance
PO Box 948
Frankfort, KY 40602
(502) 564-6838

Louisiana

Department of Labor
PO Box 98146
Baton Rouge, LA 70804
(504) 342-2992

Maine

Department of Labor
PO Box 309
Augusta, ME 04332-0309
(207) 287-1239

Maryland

Office of Unemployment Insurance
1100 North Eutaw Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 767-2448

Massachusetts

Department of Employment and Training
19 Staniford Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 727-5054

Michigan

Employment Security Division
7310 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 876-5131

Minnesota

Department of Economic Security
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101
(612) 296-3736

Mississippi

Employment Security Commission
PO Box 22781
Jackson, MS 39225-2781
(601) 961-7755

Missouri

Division of Employment Security
Box 59
Jefferson City, MO 65104
(573) 751-3328

Montana

Department of Labor and
Industry
PO Box 1728
Helena, MT 59624
(406) 444-2747

Nebraska

Department of Labor
Box 94600
State House Station
Lincoln, NE 68509
(402) 471-9839

Nevada

Department of Employment,
Training and Rehabilitation
500 East Third Street
Carson City, NV 89713
(702) 687-4599

New Hampshire

Department of Employment
Security
32 South Main Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 224-3311 (ext. 270)

New Jersey

Department of Labor
CN 947
Trenton, NJ 08625-0947
(609) 292-2810/2811

New Mexico

Department of Labor
PO Box 2281
Albuquerque, NM 87103
(505) 841-8568

New York

Department of Labor
State Campus, Building 12,
Room 542
Albany, NY 12240
(518) 457-4120

North Carolina

Employment Security
Commission
PO Box 26504
Raleigh, NC 27611
(919) 733-7395

North Dakota

Job Service of North Dakota
PO Box 5507
Bismarck, ND 58506-5507
(701) 328-2814

Ohio

Bureau of Employment Services
PO Box 923
Columbus, OH 43216
(614) 466-2319

Oklahoma

Employment Security
Commission
Will Rogers Memorial
Office Building
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
(405) 557-7135

Oregon

Employment Department
875 Union Street, NE
Salem, OR 97311
(503) 974-1696

Pennsylvania

Department of Labor and
Industry
7th and Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17121
(717) 787-2097

Rhode Island

Division of Taxation
One Capital Hill
Providence, RI 02908-5829
(401) 277-3688

South Carolina

Employment Security
Commission
PO Box 995
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 737-3070

South Dakota

Department of Employment
Security
PO Box 4730
Aberdeen, SD 57402
(605) 626-2312

Tennessee

Department of Employment
Security
500 James Robertson Parkway
8th Floor, Davy Crocket Tower
Nashville, TN 37245-3500
(615) 741-2346

Texas

Workforce Commission
101 East 15th Street
Austin, TX 78778
(512) 463-2699

Utah

Department of Employment
Security
PO Box 45288
Salt Lake City, UT 84145
(801) 536-7755

Vermont

Department of Employment
Security
PO Box 488
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 828-4242

Virginia

Employment Commission
PO Box 1358
Richmond, VA 23211
(804) 371-6325

Washington

Employment Security
Department
PO Box 9046
Olympia, WA 98507-9046
(360) 920-9360

West Virginia

Bureau of Employment
Programs
112 California Avenue
Charleston, WV 25305-0112
(304) 558-2675

Wisconsin

Department of Workforce
Development
PO Box 7942 - GEF 1
Madison, WI 53702
(608) 266-3177

Wyoming

Department of Employment
PO Box 2760
Casper, WY 82602
(307) 235-3201

Table 3. Employee Social Security (6.2%) and Medicare (1.45%) Tax Withholding Table

(See Circular E for income tax withholding tables.)

Use this table to figure the amount of social security and Medicare taxes to withhold from each wage payment. For example, on a wage payment of \$180, the employee social security tax is \$11.16 (\$6.20 tax on \$100 plus \$4.96 on \$80 wages). The employee Medicare tax is \$2.61 (\$1.45 tax on \$100 plus \$1.16 on \$80 wages).

If wage payment is:	The social security tax to be withheld is:	The Medicare tax to be withheld is:	If wage payment is:	The social security tax to be withheld is:	The Medicare tax to be withheld is:
\$ 1.00	\$.06	\$.01	\$ 51.00	\$3.16	\$.74
2.00 . . . . .	.12	.03	52.00	3.22	.75
3.00 . . . . .	.19	.04	53.00	3.29	.77
4.00 . . . . .	.25	.06	54.00	3.35	.78
5.00 . . . . .	.31	.07	55.00	3.41	.80
6.00 . . . . .	.37	.09	56.00	3.47	.81
7.00 . . . . .	.43	.10	57.00	3.53	.83
8.00 . . . . .	.50	.12	58.00	3.60	.84
9.00 . . . . .	.56	.13	59.00	3.66	.86
10.00 . . . . .	.62	.15	60.00	3.72	.87
11.00 . . . . .	.68	.16	61.00	3.78	.88
12.00 . . . . .	.74	.17	62.00	3.84	.90
13.00 . . . . .	.81	.19	63.00	3.91	.91
14.00 . . . . .	.87	.20	64.00	3.97	.93
15.00 . . . . .	.93	.22	65.00	4.03	.94
16.00 . . . . .	.99	.23	66.00	4.09	.96
17.00	1.05	.25	67.00	4.15	.97
18.00	1.12	.26	68.00	4.22	.99
19.00	1.18	.28	69.00	4.28	1.00
20.00	1.24	.29	70.00	4.34	1.02
21.00	1.30	.30	71.00	4.40	1.03
22.00	1.36	.32	72.00	4.46	1.04
23.00	1.43	.33	73.00	4.53	1.06
24.00	1.49	.35	74.00	4.59	1.07
25.00	1.55	.36	75.00	4.65	1.09
26.00	1.61	.38	76.00	4.71	1.10
27.00	1.67	.39	77.00	4.77	1.12
28.00	1.74	.41	78.00	4.84	1.13
29.00	1.80	.42	79.00	4.90	1.15
30.00	1.86	.44	80.00	4.96	1.16
31.00	1.92	.45	81.00	5.02	1.17
32.00	1.98	.46	82.00	5.08	1.19
33.00	2.05	.48	83.00	5.15	1.20
34.00	2.11	.49	84.00	5.21	1.22
35.00	2.17	.51	85.00	5.27	1.23
36.00	2.23	.52	86.00	5.33	1.25
37.00	2.29	.54	87.00	5.39	1.26
38.00	2.36	.55	88.00	5.46	1.28
39.00	2.42	.57	89.00	5.52	1.29
40.00	2.48	.58	90.00	5.58	1.31
41.00	2.54	.59	91.00	5.64	1.32
42.00	2.60	.61	92.00	5.70	1.33
43.00	2.67	.62	93.00	5.77	1.35
44.00	2.73	.64	94.00	5.83	1.36
45.00	2.79	.65	95.00	5.89	1.38
46.00	2.85	.67	96.00	5.95	1.39
47.00	2.91	.68	97.00	6.01	1.41
48.00	2.98	.70	98.00	6.08	1.42
49.00	3.04	.71	99.00	6.14	1.44
50.00	3.10	.73	100.00	6.20	1.45