

**Paid Preparer's Due Diligence Checklist**

*Earned Income Credit (EIC), American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), Child Tax Credit (CTC) (including the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC) and Credit for Other Dependents (ODC)), and Head of Household (HOH) Filing Status*

**2020**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

▶ **To be completed by preparer and filed with Form 1040, 1040-SR, 1040-NR, 1040-PR, or 1040-SS.**  
▶ **Go to [www.irs.gov/Form8867](http://www.irs.gov/Form8867) for instructions and the latest information.**

Attachment  
Sequence No. **70**

Taxpayer name(s) shown on return

Taxpayer identification number

Enter preparer's name and PTIN

**Part I Due Diligence Requirements**

Please check the appropriate box for the credit(s) and/or HOH filing status claimed on the return and complete the related Parts I-V for the benefit(s) claimed (check all that apply).  EIC  CTC/ACTC/ODC  AOTC  HOH

	Yes	No	N/A
<b>1</b> Did you complete the return based on information for tax year 2020 provided by the taxpayer or reasonably obtained by you? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>2</b> If credits are claimed on the return, did you complete the applicable EIC and/or CTC/ACTC/ODC worksheets found in the Form 1040, 1040-SR, 1040-NR, 1040-PR, or 1040-SS instructions, and/or the AOTC worksheet found in the Form 8863 instructions, or your own worksheet(s) that provides the same information, and all related forms and schedules for each credit claimed? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3</b> Did you satisfy the knowledge requirement? To meet the knowledge requirement, you must do both of the following. • Interview the taxpayer, ask questions, and contemporaneously document the taxpayer's responses to determine that the taxpayer is eligible to claim the credit(s) and/or HOH filing status. • Review information to determine that the taxpayer is eligible to claim the credit(s) and/or HOH filing status and to figure the amount(s) of any credit(s) . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>4</b> Did any information provided by the taxpayer or a third party for use in preparing the return, or information reasonably known to you, appear to be incorrect, incomplete, or inconsistent? (If "Yes," answer questions 4a and 4b. If "No," go to question 5.) . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>a</b> Did you make reasonable inquiries to determine the correct, complete, and consistent information? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>b</b> Did you contemporaneously document your inquiries? (Documentation should include the questions you asked, whom you asked, when you asked, the information that was provided, and the impact the information had on your preparation of the return.) . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>5</b> Did you satisfy the record retention requirement? To meet the record retention requirement, you must keep a copy of your documentation referenced in 4b, a copy of this Form 8867, a copy of any applicable worksheet(s), a record of how, when, and from whom the information used to prepare Form 8867 and any applicable worksheet(s) was obtained, and a copy of any document(s) provided by the taxpayer that you relied on to determine eligibility for the credit(s) and/or HOH filing status or to figure the amount(s) of the credit(s) . . . . . List those documents provided by the taxpayer, if any, that you relied on: _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>6</b> Did you ask the taxpayer whether he/she could provide documentation to substantiate eligibility for the credit(s) and/or HOH filing status and the amount(s) of any credit(s) claimed on the return if his/her return is selected for audit? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>7</b> Did you ask the taxpayer if any of these credits were disallowed or reduced in a previous year? . . . . . <b>(If credits were disallowed or reduced, go to question 7a; if not, go to question 8.)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>a</b> Did you complete the required recertification Form 8862? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>8</b> If the taxpayer is reporting self-employment income, did you ask questions to prepare a complete and correct Schedule C (Form 1040)? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part II Due Diligence Questions for Returns Claiming EIC** (If the return does not claim EIC, go to Part III.)

	Yes	No	N/A
<b>9a</b> Have you determined that the taxpayer is eligible to claim the EIC for the number of qualifying children claimed, or is eligible to claim the EIC without a qualifying child? <b>(If the taxpayer is claiming the EIC and does not have a qualifying child, go to question 10.)</b> . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>b</b> Did you ask the taxpayer if the child lived with the taxpayer for over half of the year, even if the taxpayer has supported the child the entire year? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>c</b> Did you explain to the taxpayer the rules about claiming the EIC when a child is the qualifying child of more than one person (tiebreaker rules)? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part III Due Diligence Questions for Returns Claiming CTC/ACTC/ODC** (If the return does not claim CTC, ACTC, or ODC, go to Part IV.)

	Yes	No	N/A
<b>10</b> Have you determined that each qualifying person for the CTC/ACTC/ODC is the taxpayer's dependent who is a citizen, national, or resident of the United States? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>11</b> Did you explain to the taxpayer that he/she may not claim the CTC/ACTC if the taxpayer has not lived with the child for over half of the year, even if the taxpayer has supported the child, unless the child's custodial parent has released a claim to exemption for the child? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>12</b> Did you explain to the taxpayer the rules about claiming the CTC/ACTC/ODC for a child of divorced or separated parents (or parents who live apart), including any requirement to attach a Form 8332 or similar statement to the return? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part IV Due Diligence Questions for Returns Claiming AOTC** (If the return does not claim AOTC, go to Part V.)

	Yes	No
<b>13</b> Did the taxpayer provide substantiation for the credit, such as a Form 1098-T and/or receipts for the qualified tuition and related expenses for the claimed AOTC? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part V Due Diligence Questions for Claiming HOH** (If the return does not claim HOH filing status, go to Part VI.)

	Yes	No
<b>14</b> Have you determined that the taxpayer was unmarried or considered unmarried on the last day of the tax year and provided more than half of the cost of keeping up a home for the year for a qualifying person? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Part VI Eligibility Certification**

- ▶ **You will have complied with all due diligence requirements for claiming the applicable credit(s) and/or HOH filing status on the return of the taxpayer identified above if you:**
  - A. Interview the taxpayer, ask adequate questions, contemporaneously document the taxpayer's responses on the return or in your notes, review adequate information to determine if the taxpayer is eligible to claim the credit(s) and/or HOH filing status and to figure the amount(s) of the credit(s);
  - B. Complete this Form 8867 truthfully and accurately and complete the actions described in this checklist for any applicable credit(s) claimed and HOH filing status, if claimed;
  - C. Submit Form 8867 in the manner required; **and**
  - D. Keep all five of the following records for 3 years from the latest of the dates specified in the Form 8867 instructions under *Document Retention*.
    1. A copy of this Form 8867.
    2. The applicable worksheet(s) or your own worksheet(s) for any credit(s) claimed.
    3. Copies of any documents provided by the taxpayer on which you relied to determine the taxpayer's eligibility for the credit(s) and/or HOH filing status and to figure the amount(s) of the credit(s).
    4. A record of how, when, and from whom the information used to prepare this form and the applicable worksheet(s) was obtained.
    5. A record of any additional information you relied upon, including questions you asked and the taxpayer's responses, to determine the taxpayer's eligibility for the credit(s) and/or HOH filing status and to figure the amount(s) of the credit(s).

▶ **If you have not complied with all due diligence requirements, you may have to pay a \$540 penalty for each failure to comply related to a claim of an applicable credit or HOH filing status.**

	Yes	No
<b>15</b> Do you certify that all of the answers on this Form 8867 are, to the best of your knowledge, true, correct, and complete? . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>