

Note: *The draft you are looking for begins on the next page.*



Caution: DRAFT—NOT FOR FILING

This is an early release draft of an IRS tax form, instructions, or publication, which the IRS is providing for your information. **Do not file draft forms** and do **not** rely on draft forms, instructions, and publications for filing. We do **not** release draft forms until we believe we have incorporated all changes (except when explicitly stated on this coversheet). However, unexpected issues occasionally arise, or legislation is passed—in this case, we will post a new draft of the form to alert users that changes were made to the previously posted draft. Thus, there are never any changes to the last posted draft of a form and the final revision of the form. Forms and instructions generally are subject to OMB approval before they can be officially released, so we post only drafts of them until they are approved. Drafts of instructions and publications usually have some changes before their final release.

Early release drafts are at [IRS.gov/DraftForms](https://www.irs.gov/DraftForms) and remain there after the final release is posted at [IRS.gov/LatestForms](https://www.irs.gov/LatestForms). All information about all forms, instructions, and pubs is at [IRS.gov/Forms](https://www.irs.gov/Forms).

Almost every form and publication has a page on IRS.gov with a friendly shortcut. For example, the Form 1040 page is at [IRS.gov/Form1040](https://www.irs.gov/Form1040); the Pub. 501 page is at [IRS.gov/Pub501](https://www.irs.gov/Pub501); the Form W-4 page is at [IRS.gov/W4](https://www.irs.gov/W4); and the Schedule A (Form 1040/SR) page is at [IRS.gov/ScheduleA](https://www.irs.gov/ScheduleA). If typing in a link above instead of clicking on it, be sure to type the link into the address bar of your browser, not a Search box.

If you wish, you can submit comments to the IRS about draft or final forms, instructions, or publications at [IRS.gov/FormsComments](https://www.irs.gov/FormsComments). We cannot respond to all comments due to the high volume we receive and may not be able to consider many suggestions until the subsequent revision of the product.

If you have comments on reducing paperwork and respondent (filer) burden, with respect to draft or final forms, please respond to the relevant information collection through the Federal Register process; for more info, click [here](#).

**IRS e-file Signature Authorization for
Form 4868 or Form 2350**

▶ ERO must obtain and retain completed Form 8878.
▶ Go to www.irs.gov/Form8878 for the latest information.

Submission Identification Number (SID) ▶

Taxpayer's name

Social security number

Spouse's name

Spouse's social security number

Part I Information From Extension Form — Tax Year Ending December 31, 2020 (Whole dollars only)

Check the box and complete the line(s) for the form you authorize your ERO to sign and file. Check only one box.

- 1 **Form 4868**, Application for Automatic Extension of Time To File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return. Amount you are paying from Form 4868, line 7 1
- 2 **Form 2350**, Application for Extension of Time To File U.S. Income Tax Return
 - a I request an extension of time until this date as shown on Form 2350, line 1 2a
 - b Amount you are paying from Form 2350, line 5 2b

Part II Taxpayer Declaration and Signature Authorization

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined a copy of my electronic application for extension of time to file for the tax year ending December 31, 2020, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. I further declare that the information listed above is the information from my electronic application for extension of time to file. I consent to allow my intermediate service provider, transmitter, or electronic return originator (ERO) to send this form to the IRS and to receive from the IRS (a) an acknowledgement of receipt or reason for rejection of the transmission and (b) the reason for any delay in processing the form. If applicable, I authorize the U.S. Treasury and its designated Financial Agent to initiate an ACH electronic funds withdrawal (direct debit) entry to the financial institution account indicated in the tax preparation software for payment of my federal taxes owed on this return and/or payment of estimated tax, and the financial institution to debit the entry to this account. This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until I notify the U.S. Treasury Financial Agent to terminate the authorization. To revoke (cancel) a payment, I must contact the U.S. Treasury Financial Agent at **1-888-353-4537** no later than 2 business days prior to the payment (settlement) date. I also authorize the financial institutions involved in the processing of the electronic payment of taxes to receive confidential information necessary to answer inquiries and resolve issues related to the payment. I further acknowledge that the personal identification number (PIN) below is my signature for my electronic application for extension of time to file and, if applicable, my Electronic Funds Withdrawal Consent.

Taxpayer's PIN: check one box only

I authorize _____ to enter or generate my PIN as my
ERO firm name Enter five digits, but don't enter all zeros
signature for my electronic application for extension of time to file for the tax year ending December 31, 2020.

I will enter my PIN as my signature for my electronic application for extension of time to file for the tax year ending December 31, 2020. Check this box **only** if you are entering your own PIN **and** your extension form is filed using the Practitioner PIN method. The ERO must complete Part III below.

Your signature ▶ _____ Date ▶ _____

Spouse's PIN: check one box only

I authorize _____ to enter or generate my PIN as my
ERO firm name Enter five digits, but don't enter all zeros
signature for my electronic application for extension of time to file for the tax year ending December 31, 2020.

I will enter my PIN as my signature for my electronic application for extension of time to file for the tax year ending December 31, 2020. Check this box **only** if you are entering your own PIN **and** your extension form is filed using the Practitioner PIN method. The ERO must complete Part III below.

Spouse's signature ▶ _____ Date ▶ _____

Practitioner PIN Method for Form 4868 Only—continue below

Part III Certification and Authentication—Practitioner PIN Method for Form 4868 Only

ERO's EFIN/PIN. Enter your six-digit EFIN followed by your five-digit self-selected PIN.

Don't enter all zeros

I certify that the above numeric entry is my PIN, which is my signature to authorize submission of the electronic **Form 4868** and electronic funds withdrawal for the taxpayer(s) indicated above. I confirm that I am submitting **Form 4868** in accordance with the requirements of the Practitioner PIN method and **Pub. 1345**, Handbook for Authorized IRS e-file Providers of Individual Income Tax Returns.

ERO's signature ▶ _____ Date ▶ _____

**ERO Must Retain This Form — See Instructions
Don't Submit This Form to the IRS Unless Requested To Do So**

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form 8878 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/Form8878.

Purpose of Form

Complete Form 8878 (a) when Form 4868 is filed using the Practitioner PIN method, or (b) when the taxpayer authorizes the electronic return originator (ERO) to enter or generate the taxpayer's personal identification number (PIN) on Form 4868 or Form 2350. See the chart below for more details.



Form 8878 isn't an application for an extension of time to file. Taxpayers must file the appropriate application for extension of time to file (Form 4868 or Form 2350).

When and How To Complete

Use this chart to determine when and how to complete Form 8878.

IF e-filing . . .	THEN . . .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 4868, and Authorizing an electronic funds withdrawal, and The taxpayer is entering his or her own PIN, and The ERO isn't using the Practitioner PIN method 	Don't complete Form 8878.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 4868, and The taxpayer isn't authorizing an electronic funds withdrawal 	Don't complete Form 8878.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 4868, and Authorizing an electronic funds withdrawal, and Authorizing the ERO to enter or generate the taxpayer's PIN, and The ERO isn't using the Practitioner PIN method 	Complete Form 8878, Parts I and II.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 2350, and Authorizing the ERO to enter or generate the taxpayer's PIN 	Complete Form 8878, Parts I and II.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 4868, and Authorizing an electronic funds withdrawal, and The ERO is using the Practitioner PIN method 	Complete Form 8878, Parts I, II, and III.

ERO Responsibilities

The ERO will do the following.

1. Enter the name(s) and social security number(s) of the taxpayer(s) at the top of the form.
2. Complete Part I by entering the required information from the taxpayer(s) 2020 extension form.
3. Enter or generate, if authorized by the taxpayer, the taxpayer's PIN and enter it in the boxes provided in Part II.
4. Enter on the authorization line in Part II the ERO firm name (not the name of the individual preparing the return) if the ERO is authorized to enter the taxpayer's PIN.
5. After completing items 1 through 4, give the taxpayer Form 8878 for completion and review by hand delivery, U.S. mail, private delivery service, email, Internet website, or fax.
6. Enter the 20-digit Submission Identification Number (SID) assigned to the taxpayer's extension form, or associate Form 9325, Acknowledgement and General Information for Taxpayers Who File Returns Electronically, with Form 8878 after filing. If Form 9325 is used to provide the SID, it is NOT required to be physically attached to Form 8878. However, it must be kept in accordance with published retention requirements for Form 8878. See Pub. 4164, Modernized e-File (MeF) Guide for Software Developers and Transmitters, for more details.



You must receive the completed and signed Form 8878 from the taxpayer before the application for extension of time to file is transmitted (or released for transmission).

For additional information, see Pub. 1345.

Taxpayer Responsibilities

Taxpayers have the following responsibilities.

1. Verify the accuracy of the prepared application for an extension of time to file.
2. Check the appropriate box in Part II to authorize the ERO to enter or generate your PIN or to do it yourself.
3. Indicate or verify your PIN when authorizing the ERO to enter or generate it (the PIN must be five digits other than all zeros).
4. Sign and date Form 8878. Taxpayers must sign Form 8878 by handwritten signature, or electronic signature if supported by computer software.
5. Return the completed Form 8878 to the ERO by hand delivery, U.S. mail, private delivery service, email, Internet website, or fax.

Your application for extension of time to file won't be transmitted to the IRS until the ERO receives your signed Form 8878.

Important Notes for EROs

- Don't send Form 8878 to the IRS unless requested to do so. Retain the completed Form 8878 for 3 years from the return due date or IRS received date, whichever is later. Form 8878 may be retained electronically in accordance with the recordkeeping guidelines in Rev. Proc. 97-22, which is on page 9 of Internal Revenue Bulletin 1997-13 at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb97-13.pdf.
- Confirm the identity of the taxpayer(s).
- Provide the taxpayer with a copy of the signed Form 8878 for his or her records upon request.
- Provide the taxpayer with a corrected copy of Form 8878 if changes are made to the extension form (for example, based on taxpayer review).
- Enter the taxpayer's PIN(s) on the input screen only if the taxpayer has authorized you to do so. If married filing jointly, it is acceptable for one spouse to authorize the ERO to enter his or her PIN, and for the other spouse to enter his or her own PIN. It isn't acceptable for a taxpayer to select or enter the PIN of an absent spouse.
- If the taxpayer is making a payment by electronic funds withdrawal for Form 4868 and the ERO isn't using the Practitioner PIN method, the ERO must enter the taxpayer's date of birth and either the adjusted gross income amount or the PIN, or both, from the taxpayer's originally filed prior year tax return. This information is entered when the return is prepared, and is used by the IRS to authenticate the taxpayer. **Don't** use an amount from an amended return or a math error correction made by the IRS.
- Complete Part III only if you are filing Form 4868 using the Practitioner PIN method.
- EROs can sign the form using a rubber stamp, mechanical device (such as a signature pen), or computer software program. See Notice 2007-79, 2007-42 I.R.B. 809, available at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb07-42.pdf for more information.
- For more information, go to www.irs.gov/Efile.