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 as a courtesy. **Do not file draft forms.** Also, do not rely on draft instructions and publications for filing. We generally do not release drafts of forms until we believe we have incorporated all changes. However, unexpected issues sometimes arise, or legislation is passed, necessitating a change to a draft form. In addition, forms generally are subject to OMB approval before they can be officially released. Drafts of instructions and publications usually have at least some changes before being officially released.

Early releases of draft forms and instructions are at IRS.gov/draftforms. Please note that drafts may remain on IRS.gov even after the final release is posted at IRS.gov/downloadforms, and thus may not be removed until there is a new draft for the subsequent revision. All information about all revisions of all forms, instructions, and publications is at IRS.gov/formspubs.

Almost every form and publication also has its own easily accessible information page on IRS.gov. For example, the Form 1040 page is at IRS.gov/form1040; the Form W-2 page is at IRS.gov/w2; the Publication 17 page is at IRS.gov/pub17; the Form W-4 page is at IRS.gov/w4; the Form 8863 page is at IRS.gov/form8863; and the Schedule A (Form 1040) page is at IRS.gov/schedulea. If typing in the links above instead of clicking on them: type the link into the address bar of your browser, not in a Search box; the text after the slash must be lowercase; and your browser may require the link to begin with “www.”. Note that these are shortcut links that will automatically go to the actual link for the page.

If you wish, you can submit comments about draft or final forms, instructions, or publications on the Comment on Tax Forms and Publications page on IRS.gov. We cannot respond to all comments due to the high volume we receive, but we will carefully consider each one. Please note that we may not be able to consider many suggestions until the subsequent revision of the product.

Form **8878**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

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

▶ **Don't send to the IRS. This isn't an application for an extension of time to file.**
▶ **Keep this form for your records. Information about Form 8878 and its instructions is at *www.irs.gov/form8878*.**

OMB No. 1545-0074

2016

Submission Identification Number (SID) ▶

Taxpayer's name	**Social security number**
Spouse's name	**Spouse's social security number**

DRAFT AS OF August 4, 2016 DO NOT FILE

Part I Information from Extension Form — Tax Year Ending December 31, 2016 (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, 2016, 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
ERO firm name — **Enter five digits, but don't enter all zeros**

my signature for my electronic application for extension of time to file for the tax year ending December 31, 2016.

☐ 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, 2016. 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
ERO firm name — **Enter five digits, but don't enter all zeros**

my signature for my electronic application for extension of time to file for the tax year ending December 31, 2016.

☐ 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, 2016. 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

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see your tax return instructions.

DRAFT AS OF August 4, 2016 DO NOT FILE

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

CAUTION *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).*

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.

When and How To Complete

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

IF e-filing . . .	THEN . . .
• 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.
• Form 4868, and • The taxpayer isn't authorizing an electronic funds withdrawal	Don't complete Form 8878.
• 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.
• 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.
• Form 2350, and • Authorizing the ERO to enter or generate the taxpayer's PIN	Complete Form 8878, Parts I and II.

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) 2016 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. The acceptable delivery methods include hand delivery, U.S. mail, private delivery service, email, Internet website, and 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.

CAUTION *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. The acceptable delivery methods include hand delivery, U.S. mail, private delivery service, email, Internet website, and 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.*

• You should 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/irb/2007-42_IRB/ar10.html* for more information.

• For more information, go to *www.irs.gov/efile.*