

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

▶ Attach to Form 1040.
▶ See instructions below.

Name(s) as shown on Form 1040

Your social security number

Note: If you paid cash wages of \$50 or more in a calendar quarter to an individual for services performed in your home, you must file an employment tax return. Get **Form 942** for details.

1 Enter number of qualifying persons who were cared for in 1988. (See instructions for definition of qualifying persons.) ▶ **1**

Caution: To qualify, the person(s) **must** have shared the same home with you in 1988.

2 Enter the amount of **qualified** expenses you incurred and actually paid in 1988 for the care of the qualifying person. (See **What Are Qualified Expenses?** in the instructions.) **Do not** enter more than \$2,400 (\$4,800 if you paid for the care of two or more qualifying persons)

3a You **must** enter your earned income on line 3a. See line 3 instructions for definition of earned income

b If you are married, filing a joint return for 1988, you must enter your spouse's earned income on line 3b. (If spouse is a full-time student or is disabled, see the line 3 instructions for amount to enter.)

c If you are married filing a joint return, compare the amounts on lines 3a and 3b, and enter the **smaller** of the two amounts on line 3c

4 ● If you were unmarried at the end of 1988, compare the amounts on lines 2 and 3a, and enter the **smaller** of the two amounts on line 4.
● If you are married filing a joint return, compare the amounts on lines 2 and 3c, and enter the **smaller** of the two amounts on line 4.

5 Enter decimal amount from table below that applies to the adjusted gross income on Form 1040, line 31

If line 31 is:		Decimal amount is:	If line 31 is:		Decimal amount is:
Over—	But not over—		Over—	But not over—	
	\$0-10,000	.30	\$20,000-22,000		.24
	10,000-12,000	.29	22,000-24,000		.23
	12,000-14,000	.28	24,000-26,000		.22
	14,000-16,000	.27	26,000-28,000		.21
	16,000-18,000	.26	28,000		.20
	18,000-20,000	.25			

6 Multiply the amount on line 4 by the decimal amount on line 5, and enter the result

7 Multiply any child and dependent care expenses for 1987 that you paid in 1988 by the percentage that applies to the adjusted gross income on your 1987 Form 1040, line 31, or Form 1040A, line 13. Enter the result. (See line 7 instructions for the required statement.)

8 Add amounts on lines 6 and 7. See the worksheet in the instructions for line 8 for the amount of credit you can claim

General Instructions

Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.—We ask for this information to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. We need it to ensure that taxpayers are complying with these laws and to allow us to figure and collect the right amount of tax. You are required to give us this information.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

- Recordkeeping** 20 minutes
- Learning about the law or the form** 11 minutes
- Preparing the form** 16 minutes
- Copying, assembling, and sending the form to IRS** 17 minutes

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form more simple, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to either IRS or the Office of Management and Budget at the addresses listed in the instructions of Form 1040.

What Is the Child and Dependent Care Expenses Credit?

You may be able to take this credit if you paid someone to care for your child or other qualifying person so you could work or look for work in 1988. The credit may be as much as \$720 (\$1,440 if two or more qualifying persons were cared for).

Additional information.—For more details, please get **Pub. 503, Child and Dependent Care Credit.**

Who Is a Qualifying Person?

- A qualifying person is:
- Any person under age 15 whom you claim as a dependent (but see **Children of divorced or separated parents**).
 - Your disabled spouse who is mentally or physically unable to care for himself or herself.
 - Any disabled person who is mentally or physically unable to care for himself or herself and whom you claim as a dependent, or could claim as a dependent except that he or she had income of \$1,950 or more.
- Children of divorced or separated parents.**—If you were divorced, legally separated, or lived apart from your spouse during the last 6 months of 1988, you may be able to claim the credit even if your child is not your dependent. If your child is not

your dependent, he or she is a qualifying person if **all five** of the following apply:

1. You had custody of the child for the longer period during the year; and
2. The child received over half of his or her support from one or both of the parents; and
3. The child was in the custody of one or both of the parents over half of the year; and
4. The child was under age 15, or was physically or mentally unable to care for himself or herself; and
5. The child is not your dependent because—
 - a. As the custodial parent, you have signed **Form 8332**, or a similar statement, agreeing not to claim the child's exemption for 1988; or
 - b. You were divorced or separated before 1985 and your divorce decree or written agreement states that the other parent can claim the child's exemption, and the other parent provides at least \$600 in child support during the year. **Note:** This rule does not apply if your decree or agreement was changed after 1984 to specify that the other parent cannot claim the child's exemption.

Who May Take the Credit?

To claim the credit, **all five** of the following must apply:

(Continued on back)

1. You paid for the care so you (and your spouse if you were married) could work or look for work (but see **Spouse who is a full-time student or is disabled**).

2. You and the qualifying person(s) lived in the same home.

3. You (and your spouse if you were married) paid over half the cost of keeping up your home. The cost includes: rent; mortgage interest; property taxes; utilities; home repairs; and food eaten at home.

4. The person you paid to provide the care was not your spouse or a person you could claim as a dependent.

Note: If you paid your child to provide the care, he or she must have been 19 or older by the end of 1988.

5. If you were married at the end of 1988, generally, you must file a joint tax return. But you will be treated as unmarried and still be eligible to take the credit if:

- a. You were legally separated; or
- b. You were living apart from your spouse during the last 6 months of the year, the qualifying person lived with you in your home over 6 months, and you provided over half the cost of keeping up your home.

What Are Qualified Expenses?

Qualified expenses include amounts paid for household services and care of the qualifying person while you work or look for work. Child support payments are not qualified expenses.

Household services.—These services must be needed to care for the qualifying person as well as to run the home. They include, for example, the services of a cook, maid, babysitter, housekeeper, or cleaning person if the services were partly for the care of the qualifying person. Do not include services of a chauffeur or gardener.

Note: If you paid cash wages of \$1,000 or more for household services in any calendar quarter in 1987 or 1988, you should file a **Form 940** for 1988 by January 31, 1989.

Care of the qualifying person.—Care includes the cost of services for the qualifying person's well-being and protection. It does not include the cost of clothing or entertainment.

You may count care provided outside your home if the care was for your dependent under age 15, or any other qualifying person who regularly spends at least 8 hours a day in your home.

Generally, care does not include food or schooling expenses. However, if these items are included as part of the total care, and they are incident to, and cannot be separated from, the total cost, you may count the total payment. However, you may not count the cost of schooling for a child in the first grade or above, or the expenses for sending your child to an overnight camp.

Medical expenses.—Some dependent care expenses may qualify as medical expenses. If you itemize deductions, you may want to take all or part of these medical expenses on Schedule A (Form 1040). Get Pub. 503 for details.

Specific Instructions

Line 2. Dollar limit.—Enter the amount of qualified expenses you incurred and actually paid in 1988. But the most you may figure the credit on is \$2,400 a year for one qualifying person, or \$4,800 a year for two or more qualifying persons. Do not

include amounts paid or incurred by your employer to the extent they are excluded from gross income.

Note: Do not include on line 2 qualified expenses that you incurred in 1988 but did not pay until 1989. Instead, you may be able to increase your 1989 credit when you pay the 1988 expenses in 1989.

Line 3. Earned income limit.—The amount of your qualified expenses may not be more than your earned income or, if married filing a joint return, the smaller of your earned income or your spouse's earned income.

In general, earned income is wages, salaries, tips, and other employee compensation. It also includes net earnings from self-employment. This is usually the amount shown on Schedule SE (Form 1040), line 3 (or 3c if you file section B).

Unmarried taxpayers.—If you were unmarried at the end of 1988 or are treated as being unmarried at the end of the year, enter your earned income on line 3a.

Married taxpayers.—If you are married, filing a joint return, disregard community property laws. Enter your earned income on line 3a and your spouse's earned income on line 3b. Then, enter the smaller of the two incomes on line 3c. If your spouse died in 1988, had no earned income, and you file a joint return for 1988, see Pub. 503.

Spouse who is a full-time student or is disabled.—If your spouse was a full-time student or was mentally or physically unable to care for himself or herself, figure your spouse's earned income on a monthly basis to determine your spouse's earned income for the year. For each month that your spouse was disabled or a full-time student, your spouse is considered to have earned income of not less than \$200 a month (\$400 a month if more than one qualifying person was cared for in 1988).

If, in the same month, both you and your spouse were full-time students and did not work, you may not use any amount paid that month to figure the credit. The same applies to a couple who did not work because neither was capable of self-care.

A full-time student is one who was enrolled in a school for the number of hours or classes that the school considers full time. The student must have been enrolled during each of 5 months during 1988. The months need not be consecutive.

Self-employment income.—You must reduce your earned income by any loss from self-employment. If your net earnings from self-employment are less than \$1,600, and you use the optional method to figure your self-employment tax, you may be able to increase your net earnings to \$1,600 for this credit. Get **Pub. 533**, Self-Employment Tax, for details. If you only have a loss from self-employment, or your loss is more than your other earned income and you do not use the optional method, you may not take the credit.

Line 7.—If you had qualified expenses for 1987 that you did not pay until 1988, you may be able to increase the amount of credit you may take in 1988. To do this, multiply the 1987 expenses you paid in 1988 by the percentage from the table on line 5 that applies to the adjusted gross income shown on your 1987 Form 1040, line 31, or Form 1040A, line 13. Your 1987 expenses must be within the 1987 limits.

Attach a computation showing how you figured the increase.

Line 8.—In certain cases, the amount of credit you figured on line 8 may be limited. Some taxpayers will need to complete **Form 6251**, Alternative Minimum Tax—Individuals, because the computation of this limit uses an amount from line 15 of that form. Other taxpayers, however, will not be affected by the limit and will not need Form 6251. The following will help you determine if you need Form 6251.

First, complete line 1 of the worksheet below.

Get Form 6251 if:

- You filed Schedule C, D, E, or F (Form 1040); **OR**
- The amount you enter on line 1 of the worksheet below is more than: \$112,500 for single or head of household; \$150,000 for married filing jointly; or \$75,000 for married filing separately.

If either of the above applies to you, complete Form 6251 through line 15. Skip lines 2 through 6 of the worksheet and go directly to line A of the worksheet.

If neither of the above applies to you, continue with line 2 of the worksheet. You may still need to get Form 6251.

1. Enter the amount from Form 1040, line 23 _____
(Add to line 1 any tax-exempt interest from private activity bonds issued after August 7, 1986, and any net operating loss deduction.)
2. Enter: \$30,000 if single or head of household; \$40,000 if married filing jointly; or \$20,000 if married filing separately _____
3. Subtract line 2 from line 1. If the result is zero or less, **STOP HERE** and enter on Form 1040, line 41, the amount of your credit shown on line 8 of Form 2441. Otherwise, go on to line 4 _____
4. Enter the amount from Form 1040, line 40 _____
5. Multiply line 3 by .21 _____
6. Subtract line 5 from line 4 (if zero or less, enter zero) _____

Compare line 6 of the worksheet with the amount of credit shown on Form 2441, line 8.

- **If line 6 (above) is more than your credit**, you do not have to complete Form 6251. Enter on Form 1040, line 41, the amount of your credit shown on Form 2441, line 8.
- **If your credit is more than the amount on line 6 (above)**, get Form 6251 and complete it through line 15. Then figure the limit on your credit as follows:

- A. Enter amount from Form 1040, line 40 _____
- B. Enter the amount from Form 6251, line 15 _____
- C. **Maximum credit.** Subtract line B from line A (if zero or less, enter zero) _____

Compare the credit you first figured on line 8 of Form 2441 with line C above. Enter the **smaller** of the two amounts on line 8 of Form 2441, and on Form 1040, line 41. If line C above is the smaller amount, also write "AMT" in the left margin next to line 41.