



# Instructions for Form 8615

## Tax for Children Under Age 14 Who Have Investment Income of More Than \$1,400

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code.

### General Instructions

#### A Change To Note

Lines 7 through 16 of Form 8615 may not have to be completed if the total of the taxable incomes of the child and the child's parent is not more than \$43,850. For details, see the instructions for line 6.

#### Purpose of Form

For children under age 14, investment income over \$1,400 is taxed at the parent's rate if the parent's rate is higher than the child's rate. If the child's investment income is more than \$1,400, use Form 8615 to figure the child's tax.

#### Investment Income

For Form 8615, "investment income" includes all taxable income other than earned income as defined on this page. It includes taxable interest, ordinary dividends, capital gains (including capital gain distributions), rents, royalties, etc. It also includes taxable social security benefits, pension and annuity income, and income (other than earned income) received as the beneficiary of a trust.

#### Who Must File

Generally, Form 8615 must be filed for any child who was under age 14 on January 1, 2001, had more than \$1,400 of investment income, and is required to file a tax return. But if neither parent was alive on December 31, 2000, do not use Form 8615. Instead, figure the child's tax in the normal manner.

**Note:** *The parent may be able to elect to report the child's interest, ordinary dividends, and capital gain distributions on the parent's return. If the parent makes this election, the child will not have to file a return or Form 8615. However, the Federal income tax on the child's income, including capital gain distributions,*

*may be higher if this election is made. For more details, see Form 8814, Parents' Election To Report Child's Interest and Dividends.*

#### Additional Information

For more details, see **Pub. 929**, Tax Rules for Children and Dependents.

#### Incomplete Information for Parent or Other Children

If the parent's taxable income or filing status or the net investment income of the parent's other children is not known by the due date of the child's return, reasonable estimates may be used. Enter "Estimated" next to the appropriate line(s) of Form 8615. For more details, see **Pub. 929**.

#### Amended Return

If after the child's return is filed the parent's taxable income changes or the net investment income of any of the parent's other children changes, the child's tax must be refigured using the adjusted amounts. If the child's tax changes, file **Form 1040X**, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, to correct the child's tax.

#### Alternative Minimum Tax

A child whose tax is figured on Form 8615 may owe the alternative minimum tax. For details, see **Form 6251**, Alternative Minimum Tax—Individuals, and its instructions.

### Line Instructions

#### Lines A and B

If the child's parents were married to each other and filed a joint return, enter the name and social security number (SSN) of the parent who is listed first on the joint return.

If the parents were married but filed separate returns, enter the name and SSN of the parent who had the

**higher** taxable income. If you do not know which parent had the higher taxable income, see **Pub. 929**.

If the parents were unmarried, treated as unmarried for Federal income tax purposes, or separated by either a divorce or separate maintenance decree, enter the name and SSN of the parent who had custody of the child for most of the year (the custodial parent).

**Exception.** If the custodial parent remarried and filed a joint return with his or her new spouse, enter the name and SSN of the person listed first on the joint return, even if that person is not the child's parent. If the custodial parent and his or her new spouse filed separate returns, enter the name and SSN of the person with the **higher** taxable income, even if that person is not the child's parent.

**Note:** *If the parents were unmarried but lived together during the year with the child, enter the name and SSN of the parent who had the higher taxable income.*

#### Line 1

If the child had no earned income (defined below), enter the child's adjusted gross income from Form 1040, line 34; Form 1040A, line 20; or Form 1040NR, line 34.

If the child had earned income, use the worksheet on page 2 to figure the amount to enter on line 1. But if the child files **Form 2555** or **2555-EZ** (relating to foreign earned income), has a net loss from self-employment, or claims a net operating loss deduction, you **must** use the worksheet in **Pub. 929** instead.

**Earned income** includes wages, tips, and other payments received for personal services performed. Generally, it is the total of the amounts reported on Form 1040, lines 7, 12, and 18; Form 1040A, line 7; or Form 1040NR, lines 8, 13, and 19.

**Child's Investment Income Worksheet—Line 1** (keep for your records)

1. Enter the amount from the child's Form 1040, line 22; Form 1040A, line 15; or Form 1040NR, line 23, whichever applies . . . . . 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Enter the child's **earned income** (defined on page 1) plus any deduction the child claims on Form 1040, line 30, or Form 1040NR, line 30, whichever applies . . . . . 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Subtract line 2 from line 1. Enter the result here and on Form 8615, line 1 . . . . . 3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Line 2**

If the child itemized deductions, enter the **greater** of:

- \$1,400 **or**
- \$700 plus the portion of the amount on **Schedule A** (Form 1040), line 28 (or line 17 of the Form 1040NR Schedule A), that is directly connected with the production of the investment income on Form 8615, line 1.

**Line 6**

If the parent filed a joint return, enter the taxable income shown on that return even if the parent's spouse is not the child's parent.

**Next**, add lines 4 and 6 of Form 8615 plus the total taxable income, if any, from Forms 8615, line 4, of **all other** children of the parent identified on line A. Is the total more than the amount shown below for the parent's filing status?

- Single—\$26,250
- Married filing jointly or qualifying widow(er)—\$43,850
- Married filing separately—\$21,925
- Head of household—\$35,150

**Yes.** Go to line 7.

**No.** Skip lines 7 through 16. Complete line 17 and enter that amount on line 18. Also enter "No Effect" on the dotted line next to line 18.

**Line 9**

Figure the tax using the Tax Table, Tax Rate Schedules, the **Capital**

**Gain Tax Worksheet**, or **Schedule D** or **J**, whichever applies. If any net capital gain is included on line 5, 6, or 7, Schedule D must be used to figure the tax unless the Capital Gain Tax Worksheet may be used. See Pub. 929 for details on how to figure the net capital gain included on line 8. If any farm income is included on line 5, 6, or 7, the tax may be less if you use Schedule J.

**Line 10**

If the parent filed a joint return, enter the tax shown on that return even if the parent's spouse is not the child's parent. If the parent filed **Form 4972**, **do not** include any tax from that form on line 10. If the parent filed Form 8814, enter "Form 8814" and the total tax from line 9 of Form(s) 8814 on the dotted line next to line 10 of Form 8615.

**Line 15**

Figure the tax using the Tax Table, Tax Rate Schedule X, the Capital Gain Tax Worksheet, or Schedule D or J, whichever applies. If line 14 includes any net capital gain, use Schedule D to figure the tax unless the Capital Gain Tax Worksheet may be used. See Pub. 929 for details on how to figure the net capital gain included on line 14. If any farm income is included on line 14, the tax may be less if you use Schedule J.

**Line 17**

Figure the tax as if these rules did not apply. For example, if the child has a net capital gain, use Schedule D to figure the child's tax unless the Capital Gain Tax Worksheet may be used.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.**

We ask for the information on this form to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. You are required to give us the information. We need it to ensure that you are complying with these laws and to allow us to figure and collect the right amount of tax.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103.

The time needed to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is: **Recordkeeping**, 26 min.; **Learning about the law or the form**, 11 min.; **Preparing the form**, 42 min.; and **Copying, assembling, and sending the form to the IRS**, 20 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the instructions for the tax return with which this form is filed.