

Dear Friends,

On September 24, 2020, Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California [issued an Order](#) certifying a nationwide class of people incarcerated in state and federal prisons, and granting the plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction requiring the U.S. Department of Treasury, the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, and the United States of America ("Defendants") to stop withholding CARES Act stimulus funds from plaintiffs or any class member on the sole basis of their incarcerated status.

Charlie Sullivan, Director of National CURE

## **Uptown People's Law Center**

4413 N. Sheridan  
Chicago, IL 60640

### **How Prisoners Can File for Their Economic Stimulus Checks**

**Please Note:** UPLC is unable to assist prisoners applying for stimulus payments, or provide advice regarding these applications. Additionally, we are not taking any legal action regarding stimulus payments in Illinois.

**Online claims** must be filed **before November 21** according to the latest information. **Mailed claims must be postmarked by November 4.**

People who did not file a 2018 or 2019 tax return are urged to file a claim with the IRS before October 30, 2020, in order to receive a payment. If the prisoner filed a 2018 or 2019 tax return or received Social Security Benefits or Railroad Retirement Board Benefits, they do not need to file a claim. However, if they did not file a 2018 or 2019 tax return and their income was below \$12,200 (or \$24,400 if filing jointly) in 2019, then a claim must be filed through the IRS's website.

Prisoners without access to the internet can have someone file a claim for them, **or they can complete a paper application.** [The instructions for a paper application are available below.](#)

If you don't typically file federal income taxes and you can't use our [Non-Filers Enter Payment Info Here](#) online tool, you can file a simplified paper tax return to get your Economic Impact Payment.

### **Who Can File**

You can file a simplified paper tax return to get your payment **only** if **all** of these statements are true:

- You haven't filed a tax return for 2019

- You aren't required to file a tax return for 2019 – typically because your income is too low
- You have a Social Security number that lets you work in the United States
- You can't be claimed as someone else's dependent

## When to File

You must file your **electronic** simplified tax return by **November 21, 2020**, to get your Economic Impact Payment this year. **Mailed returns** must be postmarked by **November 4, 2020**.

## How to File

The first thing you need to do is **download and print either [Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return](#), or, if you are over age 65, [Form 1040-SR, U.S. Tax Return for Seniors](#).**

**To fill out the form and get your payment, follow these steps:**

- 1. Write "EIP2020" on the top of your form.**

## Filing Status Section:

2. Check the **filing status** that applies to you. For help figuring that out, see our [Interactive Tax Assistant](#).

3. Enter your **name, mailing address, Social Security number, and prison registry number. (Since IRS does not show social security numbers on checks mailed out, you must include your prison registry number to ensure the check gets to the right person.)**

- If you are married and you're filing a joint return for you and your spouse, you have to enter your Social Security number and your spouse's.
- If you or your spouse was an active member of the U.S. Armed Forces any time in 2019, you need to enter one spouse's Social Security number. For the other spouse, you can enter either their Social Security number or their individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN).

## Standard Deduction Section:

4. Check any of the boxes that apply to you (and your spouse, if you're filing jointly). Remember that if someone else can claim you as a dependent on their taxes, you don't qualify for an Economic Impact Payment.

## Income and Tax sections (Lines 1-11):

6. Enter \$1 on lines 2b, 7b, and 8b.
7. Enter \$0.00 on line 11b.

8. Leave every other line in this section blank.

**Refund section:**

9. If you want your payment deposited directly into your bank, put your bank account information in lines 21b through 21d. The account must be in the name of the filer who is receiving the Payment.

10. Leave the rest of this section blank.

**Sign Here section:**

11. Sign your name. If you are married and filing jointly, your spouse needs to sign, too. By signing, you are saying that everything on the form is true, and you will face a penalty if you have lied.

12. If you have an identity protection personal identification number (also called an IP PIN), enter it. If you don't have an IP PIN, you can leave that space blank.

13. In addition, a simplified return filer may enter the identifying information of any third-party designee, if applicable, at the bottom of page 2 of Form 1040 or Form 1040-SR.

Mail Your Simplified Tax Return to:

**Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Kansas City, MO 64999-0002**

**Remember, you have to mail your form before November 4, 2020, if you want to get your payment this year.**

**For those with internet access, more information is available at:**

**<https://caresactprisoncase.org/>**