

Does My Child or Dependent **REALLY** Have to Pay Taxes This Year?



Did your child or dependent earn money for the first time last year?
We've got all your answers on what they (and you) should do this tax time!

My kid's income was less than \$10,000 in 2018 - do they still have to file a federal tax return?

Most people who made less than \$10,000 are not required to file (but the filing requirement is based on gross income, filing status, and age). However, your child should still file to recover additional withholdings. *For more information, see [Filing Requirements](#).*

Can I still claim my child as a dependent if they earned some money?

Yes, as long as they're a "Qualifying Child or Qualifying Relative," you can legally claim them on an income tax return. There are five tests that must be met to qualify as a dependent. See the [Dependency Test](#).

My child qualifies as my dependent. Are you sure they should still file their own return?

Yes, they should file a tax return to reclaim excess withholding! Just make sure your dependent knows they shouldn't claim themselves as an exemption. *For more information see: [Who Should File](#).*

Is my dependent eligible for the EITC?

No, dependents are not eligible for Earned Income Tax Credit. *For information See [Earned Income Tax Credit in a Nutshell](#).*

FYI, you should get your taxes prepared at a VITA site if you're eligible!

VITA is free, high quality tax preparation for anyone who earned less than \$54,000. [You can find a site near you.](#)

ALSO, YOU SHOULD SAVE YOUR REFUND.

SaveYourRefund gives Americans big incentives to save part of their tax refund, with \$30,000 in prizes and 102 chances to win. To enter to win, you have to:

1. Use Form 8888 when you file your taxes to split your refund into two parts, at least one for savings.
2. Save as little as \$50 of that split into a savings account, certificate of deposit, IRA, prepaid card, savings bond, or Treasury Direct account.

Enter to win a \$100 prize by sharing with saveyourrefund.com/enter your savings information, and enter a contest for the grand prize by submitting a photo of your savings goal or motivation.



This resource was created in collaboration between America Saves and the Internal Revenue Service.

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