

Montana Tax News You Can Use

Montana Department of Revenue

February 11, 2016

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An e-newsletter for tax preparers and those interested in the state's tax system.

Call Center Busy Times, Refund Resources, & Tax Mailing Addresses

The department's call center is now in its busiest of seasons. Historically, our phone lines are busiest on Mondays, Tuesdays, and any weekday between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. To reduce your wait time on the phone, please try calling outside of these busier days or times.

Keep in mind that our website (revenue.mt.gov) and Taxpayer Access Point (TAP) (<https://tap.dor.mt.gov/>) offer great resources that may help you and your clients find answers to common questions. For example:

Where's my refund? Go to revenue.mt.gov and click on the "Where's My Refund" link under [Taxpayer Access Point](#). Your client will need their Social Security Number and the amount of their refund listed on their 2015 tax return. They can find their refund amount on:

- Line 74 of Form 2
- Line 21 of Form 2EZ
- Line 13 of Form 2EC

Payment History. [Taxpayer Access Point](#) (TAP) allows your client to see all of the payments they made to the department over the past year as well as view their prior year returns.

Mailing Addresses. Sending your tax return or payment to the correct address helps us because it presorts the mail and allows us to process the work for your client's account quicker. Click the "Contact Us" tab on our [website](#) for other mailing addresses not listed here.

- **Individual Income Tax Returns with Payments** - PO Box 6308 - Helena, MT 59604-6308

- **Individual Income Tax Return with Refund Request or Zero Balance** - PO Box 6577 -Helena, MT 59604-6577
- **Corporation Tax Returns, Partnership Returns, and all Other Pass-Through Entity Returns** - PO Box 8021 - Helena, MT 59604-8021
- **All Types of Payments** - PO Box 6309 - Helena, MT 59604-6309
- **Withholding and Miscellaneous Tax Correspondence** - PO Box 5835 - Helena, MT 59604-5835
- **Returns or Payments Sent by UPS or FedEx** - 340 N. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59601

Taxpayer Access Point File Upload - Submit W-2s, 1099s, & MW-3 Reports

Employers, third-party representatives, and payroll service providers can file W-2 and 1099 forms, along with their MW-3 annual wage withholding tax reconciliation forms, online through Taxpayer Access Point (TAP).

TAP File Upload is the most accurate and dependable way to submit your MW-3, W-2, and 1099 files to the Montana Department of Revenue. TAP File Upload checks your files for accuracy when you submit them. If you are a preparer or payroll provider, all of your client MW-3, W-2, and 1099 files can be submitted using your TAP account. Online instructions for using TAP File Upload are available [here](#).

POA Form on TAP

Did you know the Montana Power of Attorney (POA) form can be submitted electronically on Taxpayer Access Point (TAP) (<https://tap.dor.mt.gov/>)? It is simple to do and ensures that we can discuss your clients' tax matters with you. Keep in mind, each individual taxpayer has to complete a separate POA form. A POA is valid for the dates allowed by the taxpayer and can cover a timespan beyond the expiration of the checkbox on each year's tax return. Plus, a POA allows the taxpayer to expand the authorization regarding the amount of information that can be shared.

Go to [TAP](#) and choose Add Power of Attorney.

Call for Input on Draft Amendments to Residency Rule

In October 2014, the Department of Revenue proposed amending Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) 42.15.109 to incorporate additional information about the various aspects of residency and domicile status as they apply to individual income taxes. However, in light of feedback the department received about the summary title of MAR Notice No. 42-2-919, and the fact that it inadvertently caused confusion as to what subject matters were included in the rule notice, the department chose to withdraw the proposed changes to the rule from that notice and propose the amendments separately at a future date.

The amendments to ARM 42.15.109 as originally proposed included a list of some of the factors that may be considered when determining an individual's state of domicile or residency status for income tax purposes. The list of factors was intended to be

informative and not comprehensive, with the understanding that additional factors may be considered if the situation warrants.

The proposed amendments further outlined some of the principles that the department applies when making residency determinations. As explained in the original hearing notice, the principles are derived from prior rulings in cases involving residency and domicile and are generally consistent with many other states' rules and laws.

The department plans to renotice the [proposed amendments to ARM 42.15.109](#) later this year and would appreciate any feedback you may have regarding the revisions as currently drafted.

Contact Shona McHugh at smchugh@mt.gov by March 15 with any questions or suggestions.

Identity Theft and Refund Fraud Information on DOR Website

Stopping identity theft and refund fraud is a top priority for the Department of Revenue. We understand that identity theft is a frustrating, complex process for victims. While identity thieves steal information from sources outside the tax system, the IRS and state tax agencies are often the first to inform a victim that identity theft happened.

To assist taxpayers who may be impacted by this matter, we included a new page on our website this year that provides information about [identity verification and fraud prevention](#). The Identity Protection tab offers detailed information about what to do if you or your client is a victim of identity theft. In addition, as posted in February 4th's *Tax News You Can Use*, the Identity Verification tab lists the steps to take if you or your client received an identity verification letter from our department so that we can finish processing the refund. Information about the latest Fraud News and Updates is also included on this page.

DOR Closed on Monday, February 15

The Department of Revenue call center and other offices will be closed on Monday, February 15, in observance of Presidents Day.

Our online services will still be available. Please visit [Taxpayer Access Point \(TAP\)](#) and revenue.mt.gov for all your filing and form needs.

Irrigated Land Owners to Receive Energy Cost Letters

This week, the Montana Department of Revenue began mailing letters to owners of irrigated land. Montana law allows owners to deduct electrical and fuel costs in the calculation of value for irrigated land for the purpose of determining property taxes.

Owners should complete the enclosed forms with the **2015** energy costs incurred in their irrigation operations. Attach all supporting documentation and return it along with the completed form to the local Department of Revenue office. We appreciate your quick response. The forms are due by July 1, 2016.

Providing this information will assist us in determining the correct valuation of the irrigated land for the 2017 reappraisal.

Approved Tax Software for Tax Year 2015

Every year, tax software vendors seek approval to participate in the Montana federal/state electronic filing program. We test the software of each vendor to ensure that it's compatible with our electronic filing system. You can find the latest approval status of each product on the department's website under [Online Services > Tax Software](#).

For more information, email DORe-services@mt.gov.

Tax Facts

For 2016, as of February 5:

- Total number of individual income tax returns we've processed: 71,779
- Number of individual tax returns we've received electronically: 70,958
- Number of individual income tax refunds we've issued: 47,979
- Average amount of refunds: \$373

Contact Us

Web: Revenue.mt.gov

Email: DORCustomerAssistance@mt.gov

Toll Free: 1-866-859-2254

Helena: (406) 444-6900



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To subscribe: visit the [Newsroom](#) page on revenue.mt.gov and click on the "Tax News You Can Use" tab.

Montana Tax News You Can Use is published weekly during tax season and periodically at other times. It is for anyone who helps people file taxes and meet their tax responsibility and for anyone interested in the state's tax system. It keeps you posted on what's happening at the department, lets you know about new ways of preparing and filing taxes, and brings you up-to-date on some of the issues and trends popping up during tax season in Montana.

We welcome your suggestions for articles, as well as your questions and comments. Send them to DORWritingProject@mt.gov.

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