



The IRS Announces Tax Relief for Victims of Hurricane Irma

Hurricane Irma victims in parts of Florida and elsewhere have until January 31, 2018 to file certain individual and business tax returns. This includes an additional filing extension for taxpayers with valid extensions that expire for business returns on September 15th and individual returns with valid extensions that expire on October 16th.

The tax relief postpones various tax filing and payment deadlines that occurred starting on September 4, 2017 in Florida and September 5, 2017 in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. This includes the Sept 15, 2017 and January 16, 2018 deadlines for making quarterly estimated tax payments. However for individual tax returns that would be due October 16, 2017 and are extended until January 31, 2018 there is no relief for penalties and interest due because payments for those returns were due on April 18, 2017.

Currently the following areas are eligible for the relief but taxpayers in localities added later to the disaster area will automatically receive the same filing period and tax relief: Florida counties Broward, Charlotte, Clay, Collier, Duval, Flagler, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, Pinellas, Putnam, Sarasota and St. Johns counties. Municipalities in Puerto Rico eligible for relief are Culebra and Vieques. The Islands eligible for relief in the U.S. Virgin Islands are St. Johns and St. Thomas. The IRS will automatically provide filing and penalty relief to any taxpayer with an IRS address of record located in the disaster area and taxpayers living in those areas do not need to contact the IRS. However, if an affected taxpayer receives a late filing or late payment penalty notice from the IRS that has an original or extended filing payment or deposit due date falling within the postponement period, the taxpayer should call the number on the notice to have the penalty and any interest abated.

Additionally, the IRS will work with any taxpayer who lives outside the disaster area but whose records necessary to meet a deadline occurring during the postponement period are located in the disaster area. Taxpayers who qualify for this relief need to call the IRS at 866-522-5227. Failure of the taxpayer or taxpayer's qualified representative to call the IRS before the normal due dates will result in the IRS not granting postponement from filing or paying.

Individual and businesses who suffered uninsured or unreimbursed disaster-related losses can choose to claim them either on the return for the year the loss occurred (2017) or the return for the prior year (2016). Please contact your tax advisor with any questions.