

Iowa Individual Income Tax

Refund Offsets / Injured Spouse

Tax information for individuals
from the

IOWA  Department of **REVENUE**

What is a Refund Offset?

An individual's income tax refund may be taken to pay certain debts.

This process is called a “refund offset.”

What Types of Debts Can a Refund be Taken For?

- taxes owed the State of Iowa
- taxes owed the Internal Revenue Service
- unpaid child support
- overpayment of unemployment
- fines owed to counties
- unpaid college aid loans
- food stamp overpayment
- ADC / FIP overpayment
- any other debt owed to an Iowa state or municipal agency

What Happens When a Refund is Offset?

When a refund is offset to pay debt, a letter is sent to the taxpayer by the agency taking the money.

For example, when a refund from an individual income tax return is used to pay back child support, the Department of Human Services will send a letter to the taxpayer.

What Happens if I Owe a Debt to More Than One Agency?

A refund may be taken to pay more than one debt.

Each offsetting agency has **up to 45 days** to process their offset.

What Happens to the Rest of My Refund After it is Offset?

If an entire refund is not needed to pay the debt, the remainder will be sent to the taxpayer.

If direct deposit was requested, the remainder will be refunded by direct deposit.

It may take at least **45-60 days to receive the refund.**

What if I'm an Injured Spouse?

The “injured spouse” designation is not recognized by the State of Iowa when using:

- Filing Status 2: Married filing a joint return; or
- Filing Status 3: Married filing separately on a combined return

So What Can I Do to Make Sure my Iowa Refund Isn't Taken to Pay my Spouse's Debt?

If your spouse's refund will be used to pay a debt, you must use:

- Filing Status 4: Married filing separate returns

This will prevent your refund from being applied to your spouse's debt.

Questions?

- Call us: 8 a.m. - 4:15 p.m. CT
515-281-3114 or
1-800-367-3388 (Iowa, Omaha, Rock
Island, Moline)
- E-mail us at idr@iowa.gov