



What to do after you file your taxes:

Guidance for Current & Former Foster Youth

Filing your taxes is an important step, but there are still things to keep in mind after you submit your return. This quick guide will help you check your refund status, set up payment plans if needed, and troubleshoot common issues, such as identity theft or someone incorrectly claiming you on their return. If you encounter problems, don't wait—take action and seek support if needed.

Checking Your Federal Tax Return – Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

If you filed a federal tax return, you can create an IRS online account through ID.ME to:

- Check your refund status
- Set up a payment plan if you owe taxes
- View and download tax documents
- Go paperless for certain IRS notices
- Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

If you're concerned about identity theft, you can request an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)—a six-digit number that prevents someone else from using your Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) to file a tax return. You will receive a new IP PIN every year.



For information about an IP PIN: [IRS Identity Protection PIN](#)



Create an IRS Account: [IRS Online Account](#)

Checking Your California State Tax Return – Franchise Tax Board (FTB)

If you filed a California state tax return, you can check your refund status on the FTB website:

→ **Check Refund Status:** [Where's My Refund?](#)

You will need:

- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Mailing Address & ZIP Code
- Exact Refund Amount

If You Owe Taxes

If you owe state taxes, you can set up a payment plan online:

→ **Make a Payment Plan:** [FTB Payment Options](#)

It's usually best to:

- Use direct deposit to speed up your refund.
- Schedule payments strategically—pay the tax you owe later rather than immediately if you are waiting on a refund.



Troubleshooting Common Issues

What if Someone Incorrectly Claims Me on Their Tax Return?

If you're under age 19, lived with a caregiver for 6 months or more during the tax year, and they provided more than half of your care, they can claim you on their tax return. This also applies if you're under age 24 and a full-time student.

If someone (such as a caregiver or relative) claimed you as a dependent but they should not have, you should:

1. **Complete and mail both your Federal and State tax return.**
2. The IRS and FTB will review your claim and may send you a letter requesting proof, such as:
 - a. A letter from your social worker or probation officer verifying your living situation.
3. Respond to the request within the deadline given.

Mail Your Federal Return:



Filing Form...	Not enclosing a payment use this address...	Enclosing a payment use this address...
1040	Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service Ogden, UT 84201-0002	Internal Revenue Service P O Box 802501 Cincinnati, OH 45280-2501

Mail Your STATE Return:



Form	Without payment	With payment
540	Franchise Tax Board	Franchise Tax Board
540 2EZ	PO Box 942840	PO Box 942867
540NR	Sacramento CA 94240-	Sacramento CA 94267-
Schedule X	0001	0001

Troubleshooting Common Issues

What if Someone Filed a Tax Return Using My Information?

If someone used your Social Security Number (SSN) to file a fraudulent tax return:

1. Visit the **IRS Identity Theft Central** for guidance:

 [IRS Identity Theft Guide](#)

2. Consider filing Form 14039 (Identity Theft Affidavit) with the IRS.
3. Seek support from a trusted adult or legal professional, such as:
 - a. Your former or current dependency attorney
 - b. A legal aid clinic

Receiving Important Tax Mail When You Don't Have a Stable Address

The IRS or FTB may send you important letters about your tax return. If you **don't** have a **stable mailing address**, consider using a trusted adult's address, such as:

- A local foster youth center or ILP (Independent Living Program)
- Your (current or former) **social worker's, probation officer's, or case manager's** office
- Your **CASA** (Court Appointed Special Advocate), if you have one
- Your **housing program**, if you have one
- Your **foster parent/caregiver**, if you have one

Need Help?

If you're confused about your tax return or facing a problem you don't know how to solve, **don't ignore it!** Reach out to a trusted adult, legal aid organization, or support program for guidance. For information on tax filing and the California Foster Youth Tax Credit, visit:

 www.jbay.org/resources/FYTC