

# Choosing a Tax Preparer?

**SURE**, it is a good idea to seek professional help, but be sure to choose wisely. Even if your return is prepared by someone else, you're still legally responsible! Here are a few DOs and DON'Ts to help you find, and use, a reputable preparer:

## **FREE TAX PREPARATION!**

If you're a senior or have low income, you may be eligible to have your taxes prepared for free. Check out the options on the DOR website at [mass.gov/MAFreeFile](http://mass.gov/MAFreeFile).



Massachusetts Department of Revenue

## **DO**

- ✓ Check out a tax preparer with the Better Business Bureau at [www.bbb.org/search](http://www.bbb.org/search)
- ✓ Make sure the preparer asks to see your records and receipts
- ✓ Read your completed return, or ask someone you trust to read it, before signing it
- ✓ Ask preparer for contact information for any questions you may have later on
- ✓ Ask if preparer will file your return electronically – you will receive your refund faster
- ✓ Make sure the preparer signs your tax return and includes an IRS ID number
- ✓ Ask the preparer for a copy of your completed return



## **DON'T**

- ✓ Don't agree to pay a percentage of your refund as a fee – ask for a quote to prepare your return
- ✓ Don't fall for promises of a bigger refund - all preparers follow the same rules
- ✓ Don't let the preparer deposit your refund in *any* bank account but yours
- ✓ Don't sign a blank tax return
- ✓ Don't fall for "early" refund payment schemes – wait a few days for the real thing