



Massachusetts Department of Revenue
Form 84
Application for Relief from
Joint Income Tax Liability

Rev. 6/16

Massachusetts
Department of
Revenue

Names should appear as they did on the joint return for the tax year in question.

Tax year for which relief is being requested

Name of taxpayer

Social Security number

Phone number

Street address

City/Town

State

Zip

Name of spouse

Social Security number

Questionnaire

You must answer all questions. If you answer Yes to any question, attach a separate statement explaining your response.

- 1** Fill in if you have applied for relief from federal tax liability as an innocent spouse
 If Yes, attach copies of the federal request for relief (including any supporting or related documentation), your applicable federal tax return(s) and the federal determination, if any.
- 2** Fill in if a Notice of Intent to Assess (NIA) has been issued for the tax year for which you are requesting relief
 If Yes, attach a copy of the NIA. You may request a conference within 30 days after the issuance date of the NIA. If so, attach this form to your written request for a conference.
- 3** Fill in if a Notice of Assessment (NOA) has been issued for the tax year for which you are requesting relief
 If Yes, attach a copy of the NOA and this application to Form ABT, Application for Abatement. Complete all items on Form ABT. In line 6 write "see attached Form 84." You may also request a hearing at this time by so indicating on Form ABT or with a separate written request.
- 4** Indicate the reason and amount of your application.
 - Relief from joint income tax liability attributable to items omitted from gross income.
 \$ _____ Amount of relief sought (excluding penalties and interest)
 - Relief from joint income tax liability attributable to a claim or claims of deduction, exemption, credit or basis.
 \$ _____ Amount of relief sought (excluding penalties and interest)

Describe below the facts and circumstances demonstrating that you qualify for relief from liability for a substantial understatement of tax on a joint return under MGL Ch. 62C, sec. 84. Attach any exhibits substantiating your claim. Use additional paper if necessary.

Declaration

Pursuant to MGL Ch. 62C, sec. 84, the applicant named herein requests relief from joint income tax liability as an innocent spouse. Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this form and any accompanying statements and documents and to the best of my knowledge and belief the facts and statements as represented therein are true, correct and complete. I understand that if relief is granted it will apply only to the extent specified in the Commissioner's determination and that I will remain jointly and severally liable for any amounts where relief is not provided. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which he/she has knowledge.

Signature of applicant

Date

Preparer's signature and attestation. I attest that I prepared this Form 84 and that I personally **know/do not know** (strike out one) that the statements contained in this Form 84 are true and correct.

Signature of preparer (attach Form M-2848, Power of Attorney, if representing taxpayer) Title

Date



Form 84 Instructions

General Information

The Department of Revenue is authorized to grant relief from a joint income tax liability under certain conditions. Relief can be granted where a taxpayer and a spouse file a joint income tax return reporting a substantial understatement of tax attributable to grossly erroneous items of one spouse if (1) the spouse requesting relief establishes that he or she did not know, and had no reason to know, that there was such a substantial understatement; and (2) taking into account all facts and circumstances of a case, it would be inequitable to hold the applicant liable for the deficiency.

For further information refer to Regulation 830 CMR 62C.84.1 Spousal Relief From Joint Income Tax Liability. This regulation is available by calling the Rulings and Regulations Bureau at (617) 626-3250.

Substantial Understatement

To be considered substantial, the understated tax, excluding any interest and penalties, must exceed \$200 where due to an item omitted from gross income; or exceed \$500 where due to a claim or claims of deduction, exemption, credit or basis, for which there is no basis in fact or law.

Inequitable Liability

Whether it is inequitable to hold a person liable for a tax deficiency will be determined by all the facts and circumstances of a case. Although no single factor is controlling, consideration will be given to whether the applicant significantly benefited from the substantial understatement of tax.

Application for Relief

A taxpayer wishing to apply for relief must submit this form within the time prescribed for challenging an assessment or a proposed assessment under MGL Ch. 62C, sections 26 and 37. Applicants should attach copies of any federal claim for relief, the federal determination, and the federal tax return. Applicants should also submit any documents or exhibits substantiating this application. The filing of this form will not stay the collection of tax unless or until this application is approved. If the application is approved, a refund of any resulting overpayment of tax will be made to the applicant.

Application Prior to Assessment

If a taxpayer has received a Notice of Intent to Assess (NIA), this application must be received within 30 days following the issuance of the NIA. The applicant is entitled to a conference if one is requested within this 30-day period. If a conference is requested, this application must be attached to the written request. Mail the completed Form 84, the NIA and all attachments to the return address as shown on the NIA.

Application After Assessment

If a taxpayer has received a Notice of Assessment (NOA), this application must be made by filing an Application for Abatement (Form ABT). The applicant must attach this application to Form ABT and enter in line 6 of Form ABT, "see attached Form 84." The applicant is entitled to a hearing if one is requested on either Form ABT or on a separate written request. Form ABT is available online at mass.gov/dor. Mail the completed Form 84, Form ABT and all attachments to: **Massachusetts Department of Revenue, PO Box 7058, Boston, MA 02204.**

Notice of Determination

A written notice of determination will be issued to the applicant. A grant of relief will only apply to the extent specified in the written determination. The applicant remains jointly and severally liable for any amounts where relief is not granted. Also, the applicant's spouse remains liable for the entire tax determined to be due. If the grant of relief was obtained by false or fraudulent means, the grant of relief is void.