

IRS to Discontinue TeleFile

Announcement 2005–26

Summary Paragraph:

The IRS will discontinue its TeleFile program after August 16, 2005. TeleFile allows taxpayers to file Forms 1040EZ, 4868, and 941 by telephone. Decline in use for most forms, coupled with increasing costs to maintain the system, led to the decision.

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The program's end date will permit taxpayers to TeleFile:

- Form 941 second quarter returns through July 31. Taxpayers who have electronically paid all taxes due by July 31 are granted an extension to TeleFile through Aug. 10 (Aug. 11 in Hawaii).
- 1040EZ through Aug. 15.

TeleFile rolled out nationally in 1997 for single Form 1040EZ filers. TeleFile was later expanded to allow the filing of selected Forms 1040EZ, Forms 941, 4868 and individual tax returns for eight states.

Despite its initial success, the program has since experienced a decline in use for most forms as other electronic filing alternatives have become available. This, coupled with increasing costs to maintain the TeleFile infrastructure, led the IRS to decide to discontinue the program.

In its place, IRS offers a number of electronic filing alternatives. More information on e-filing options is available by visiting *www.irs.gov* and clicking on the e-file logo.