



FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CONSUMERS AND TRAVELERS - NEWS RELEASE -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 Tips to Help Get You Through Next Year's Tax Filing

EDWARDSVILLE, IL, April 14, 2010 -While the deadline for filing 2009 tax returns is about to pass, the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT) is publishing "Top 10 Tips" to help members with their 2010 returns.

Vicki Rolens, managing director of FACT, says, "It's too late for this year, but the following tips from IRS may help to make the taxpayer's filing process run smoother next year."

- 1. Start gathering your records.** Round up and file any documents or forms you'll need when filing your taxes: receipts, canceled checks and other documents that support an item of income or a deduction you're taking on your return.
- 2. Be on the lookout W-2s and 1099s that will be coming from your employer.** You'll need these to file your tax return.
- 3. Try e-file.** When you file electronically, the software will handle the math calculations for you.
- 4. Check out "Free File."** If your income is \$57,000 or less you may be eligible for free tax preparation software and free electronic filing. The IRS partners with 20 tax software companies to create this free service.
- 5. Consider other filing options.** There are many different options for filing your tax return. You can prepare it yourself or go to a tax preparer. You may be eligible for free face-to-face help at an IRS office or volunteer site. Give yourself time to weigh all the different options and find the one that best suits your needs.
- 6. Consider Direct Deposit.** If you elect to have your refund directly deposited into your bank account, you'll receive it faster than waiting for a paper check.
- 7. Visit IRS.gov again and again.** The official IRS Web site furnishes forms, tips, answers to frequently asked questions, and updates on tax law changes.
- 8. Check out Publication 17.** It's a comprehensive collection of information for taxpayers highlighting everything they need to know when filing their returns.
- 9. Review! Review! Review!** Mistakes will slow down the processing of your return. Be sure to double-check all the Social Security Numbers and math calculations on your return as these are the most common errors made by taxpayers.
- 10. Don't panic!** If you run into a problem, try IRS.gov or call their customer service number at 800-829-1040.

This news release has been issued by the Federation of American Consumers and Travelers (FACT), a consumer organization formed under the not-for-profit corporation laws of the District of Columbia in 1984. FACT serves more than 1 million consumers nationwide. Additional information on FACT may be found in the Encyclopedia of Associations, and by visiting the association's Web site (www.usafact.org). Informative, unbiased news bulletins are regularly disseminated by FACT to help its members remain current on matters which might seriously impact their lives. The association does not offer support to -- and does not receive support from -- any political party or movement. In addition to publishing consumer-related reports, the association provides more than 30 benefits for its members, ranging from medical insurance and dental discounts to prescription drug savings and scholarships. FACT's administrative office is located at 318 Hillsboro Avenue, Edwardsville, IL 62025