

THE FAMILY CAREGIVER

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TAX SEASON IS HERE!



Did you know that there are free services to help seniors and the elderly prepare their taxes? Tax counseling for the elderly (TCE) is a program through the IRS that provides free help to individuals aged 60 and over. Trained volunteers provide free tax counseling and income tax preparation. To locate the nearest TCE site call the IRS at 800-829-1040. AARP also offers free tax counseling as part of the TCE program. To locate a site for AARP's tax-aid counseling call 888-227-7669.

An even bigger issue for senior citizens is getting tax deductions. Here are six not-so-common deductions that seniors often forget

about:

1. The higher standard deduction—for those that don't itemize their deductions, they can get a higher standard deduction if they are 65 and older.
2. Medical and dental expenses—must total more than 7.5% of adjusted gross income before deductions lower taxes. Medicare Part B premiums and Medigap premiums are deductible. Long-term care insurance is also deductible.
3. Miscellaneous deductions—fees for financial planners, attorneys, investment news-

letters, and online services are deductible.

4. Charitable giving/cash donations—donations by cash, check or credit card to charities or government bodies are deductible.
5. Dependency exemptions—if the individual provides support to a dependent parent, even if the person lives in a nursing home. Must have a gross income of \$3500 or less.
6. Home care services are tax deductible. The services do not have to be provided by a nurse as long as they are connected with caring for the patient's condition, such

as giving medications or changing dressings, bathing and grooming, and personal care services.

There are plenty of opportunities to maximize income by taking advantage of tax deductions. IRS deduction rules change almost annually, so it is important to make sure that you are factoring in the proper deduction in their income tax preparation. Consulting an accountant is the best way to ensure income taxes are processed correctly and accurately.

RESOURCE OF THE MONTH

AM Recht and Associates is a full service geriatric care management firm. They provide assessment and care plan development, intensive care management, PRI screens, medication management, assisted living or nursing home placement, counseling and therapy, and

entitlements and paperwork. AM Recht and Associates is a distinguished firm. Their clients are treated with respect, dignity, and care which translates into quality services. When you step into their office you are greeted with friendly, professional ser-

vice that carries out through every step of the way. If your seniors are looking for a firm they can trust and rely on to help them achieve their goals AM Recht and Associates are the people to do it. Call 888-732-4884 to get more information.

