

Married Women Could Be Denied Tax Credit

Personal Exemptions or Refunds Delayed

IRS Says Names Don't Match SS Numbers

The IRS sent out letters warning 2.4 million women that the married names on their tax returns do not match up with their Social Security numbers. Most of the cases involve women who took their husbands' names when they got married. For various reasons,

The IRS said that married women who have not changed their name's with the Social Security Administration should hyphenate their unmarried name with their married name. For example. If Jane Single is married to John Married then on their tax return Jane's name should appear as: Jane Single-Married.

their new names were either entered incorrectly into the Social Security system or weren't entered at all.

Unless the taxpayers straighten out the problem with the Social Security Administration (SSA), when they file their tax returns in the spring they could be denied the earned income

tax credit or the personal exemption a spouse gets when a couple files jointly, and refunds may be delayed. In some cases, couples who have been married for decades are returning to Social Security offices with their marriage certificates and other documentation. The documents can be mailed in, but they have to be originals, not copies, and many fear the originals might get lost. If you get one of these letters, a visit to the Social Security office in person may be the only way to straighten the situation out.

The move is part of an effort to reduce fraud. Congress passed the law to make sure that there were legitimate people making legitimate claims to offset tax liability or to claim refunds.

The cause could be as simple as a transposed number or some other typographical error. With the increase in the ability of computers to cross-check names and numbers over the past two decades, discrepancies that once were buried deep in file cabinets can now be found with the click of a computer mouse. We advise you to take care of this immediately.