

Equipment and Supplies

- Abdominal supports
- Air conditioner where necessary for relief from an allergy or for relieving difficulty in breathing
- Arches
- Artificial teeth, eyes
- Autoeette (auto device for disabled person), and special hand controls installed in a vehicle
- Back supports
- Braces
- Braille books—less cost over regular editions (Revenue Ruling 75-318, IRB 1975-2, 88)
- Contact lenses
- Cost of installing stair-seat elevator for person with heart condition
- Cost of making your home accessible—less the increase in fair market value
- Crutches
- Elastic hosley
- Eyeglasses
- Fluoridation unit in home
- Hearing aids
- Hearing devices
- Invalid chair
- Lead paint removal - but not repainting
- Orthopedic shoes—less cost of regular shoes
- Oxygen equipment
- Prostheses
- Reclining chair if prescribed by doctor
- Repair of special telephone equipment for the hearing impaired
- Sacroiliac belt
- Special mattress and plywood bed boards for relief of arthritis
- Splints and bandages
- Swimming pool prescribed for physical therapy (and not used for recreation)
- Telephone/faxtype equipment and television adapter for closed captions
- Wheelchair
- Wig advised by doctor as essential to mental health of person who lost all his/her hair from disease

Child Care for Employment Purposes

If you are gainfully employed or actively seeking employment, you are allowed a **tax credit** for a portion of child care or dependent care expenses for disabled adults during the time you work or seek employment—depending on amount of care expenses.

Your work-related expenses for tax credit is limited to:

- \$3,000 per year for care of one disabled child or disabled adult
 - \$6,000 per year for care of two or more disabled children or adults
- Payments to relatives qualify for the child care tax credit as long as the relative is not claimed as a dependent. You are **not** allowed tax credit for home care payments made to your dependent under 19 years of age (Reg. 1.44A-4(a)(1)).

Please note: Child Care and Disabled Dependent Care expenses are claimed as a tax credit—or as a deduction. This means that you do not have to itemize your deductions to take advantage of this tax benefit, which reduces your tax liability dollar-for-dollar.

You must file Form 1040 or 1040A (not Form 1040EZ) to claim the credit.

Volunteer Expenses

If you work as a volunteer for a tax-exempt non-profit organization, you are allowed to deduct as a charitable contribution:

- Travel expenses, including transportation to and from the organization; parking and toll fees; meals and lodging while traveling for the organization. You may deduct the actual operation costs of your car in volunteer work, or a flat mileage rate of 14¢ per mile.
 - Cost of telephone calls made on behalf of the organization
 - Convention expenses incurred as an official delegate of the organization
 - Uniform costs in serving the organization
 - Expenses paid in operating equipment for the organization
- Volunteer expenses that are **not deductible** are: Activities incurred as part of lobbying activities; and child care costs incurred to enable you to do volunteer work.

Please note:

- All deductions require documentation.
- All medical deductions must exceed 7.5% of your adjusted gross income (Internal Revenue Code, Section 215 (a)).
- All medical deductions are allowed regardless of your disabled child's age.
- You are still allowed the full \$3,500 exemption whether or not your child attends a special school or institution. For tax purposes, the cost of tuition, room and board is considered a scholarship and is not taken into account in determining whether parents have provided more than half the child's support. (Revenue Rulings 61-186; C.B. 1961-2, 30, 64-221; C.B. 1964-2, 46) (Section 151(e)(4) Internal Revenue Code 1986).
- If your child is an SSI recipient, you may still claim him/her as a dependent if you have provided more than 50% of the child's support.
- If your child receives wages under the **Employment Opportunities for Handicapped Individuals Act**, that income is tax exempt.

Persons with a permanent and total disability that prevents gainful employment may be eligible for a special 15% Tax Credit (Rev. Nov. 87), in limited circumstances.

Some of the medical deductions listed in this pamphlet may be claimed as business expenses (instead of medical expenses) if they are related to a disabled person's business/occupation. If claimed as business expenses the deductions are not subject to the 7.5% limitation.

For more information, contact your local IRS Information Service

Toll-free: 800/829-1040

Publications available from the IRS that provide additional information are:

- Publication # 17: Your Federal Income Tax
- Publication No. 501: Exemptions, Standard Deductions, and Filing Information
- Publication No. 502: Medical and Dental Expenses
- Publication No. 503: Child and Dependent Care Expenses
- Publication No. 526: Charitable Contributions
- Publication No. 907: Tax Highlights for Persons with Disabilities

TAX Guide for Parents

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As the parent of a disabled child you are entitled

to many income tax deductions as

“Medical Expenses,”
provided the expenses are made to alleviate your child's mental or physical condition.

You are entitled to deduct as medical expenses the cost of:

- Educational services
- Equipment and supplies
- Hospital services
- Laboratory exams and tests
- Medical treatments
- Medicines and drugs
- Professional services
- Transportation
- Other **medical expenses** incurred to alleviate your child's mental or physical condition.

It is important to document all your medical expenses by:

- Keeping careful records of all expenses with receipts, date of expense, etc. for at least three years, for possible auditing purposes.
- Obtaining certification from your doctor that the expense has been made for one or more of the following: Diagnosis, cure, alleviation, prevention, treatment, or dysfunction of your child's mental or physical condition.

Educational Services

The following educational services are tax deductible as **medical expenses** if they are incurred to alleviate your child's physical or mental condition:

- Tuition costs for a special education day school (Section 213-1/e/Internal Revenue Code 1954) (Revenue Ruling 58-280) (Revenue Ruling 69-499, C.B. 1969-2, 39)
- Tuition costs for a special education class in a regular school (Revenue Ruling 70-285)
- Tuition and room and board costs for a residential school (Revenue Ruling 58-280) (Section 213-1/e/Internal Revenue Code 1954)
- Tuition costs for a special education class in a parochial school (Revenue Ruling 71-347)
- Tuition and tutoring fees for a learning disabled child by a neurological disorder (Revenue Ruling 78-340, 9/18/78)
- Remedial reading or language training for a child with dyslexia or other disability (Revenue Ruling 69-607, C.B. 1969-2, 40)
- Special instruction or training—such as lip reading, sign language, speech instruction, braille (Section 213-1/e/Internal Revenue Code 1954).

Transportation

Transportation costs that are deductible as **medical expenses** are those incurred transporting your disabled child and yourself to and from:

- Special schools and institutions
- Hospitals and clinics
- Doctors' offices and pharmacists (R.I. Olson 23-TCM-2008, Commerce Clearing House Explanation No. 2019-793)

If you provide the transportation yourself, you may deduct mileage, parking and toll fees, or actual costs of operating your car as per I.R.S. Code (Rev. Proc. 82-61, C.B. 1982-2, 849), up to 27 cents per mile.

If you visit your disabled child at a special school or institution, you may deduct transportation costs—but not meals and lodging—if medical experts deem your visit a necessary part of treatment (Revenue Ruling 58-533).

If you have a person to accompany your disabled child who cannot travel alone (to a special school or institution, hospital or clinic, or doctor's office), this cost is also tax deductible (Revenue Ruling 58-110).

Transportation costs that are **not deductible** are:

- Transportation to and from work even if the disability requires special transportation
- Transportation incurred for non-medical reasons (such as operation or medical care in a resort area when these services are available in your home area)
- Transportation as part of a vacation—even if taken to improve general health, on the recommendation of a doctor.

Professional Services

Assistive Technology
Ambulance
Anesthesiologist
Chiropractor (licensed)
Christian Science Practitioner
Convalescent home (Revenue Ruling 69-499, C.B. 1969-2, 39) (by analogy)
Cosmetic surgery for medical purposes only
Dentist
Dermatologist
Drug treatment inpatient care cost
Gynecologist
Halfway House (IRS Letter Ruling 7714016) (C.B. 1969-2, 39) (by analogy)
Health insurance premiums
Hospital services
Legal fees connected with determination of treatment of mentally ill persons (Revenue Ruling 71-281, C.B. 1971, 166)
Neurologist
Nursing Home and long term care (W. B. County, 42TC 755)
Nursing home services (including attendant care)
Obstetrician
Occupational therapist
Oculist
Ophthalmologist
Optician
Optometrist
Organ transplant (including transportation expenses for donor)
Orthopedist
Osteopath (licensed)
Pediatrician
Physical therapist
Physician
Physiotherapist
Plastic surgeon
Podiatrist
Practical or other nonprofessional nurse for medical services only
Psychiatrist
Psychoanalyst
Psychologist
Registered nurse (including room and board costs)
Psychiatric care.
Sheltered workshop (letter from Mortimer M. Caplin, U.S. Commissioner of Internal Revenue to Dr. Stanford L. Warren, Special Assistant to the President for Mental Retardation, July 6, 1964)
Social worker
Speech therapist
Sterilization
Surgeon
Expenses for service animals
Payments to unlicensed practitioners if the type and quality of services are not illegal
Treatments for specific conditions recommended by doctor

Medical Treatments

Acupuncture
Blood transfusion
Diathermy
Electric shock treatments
Hearing services
Hydrotherapy (water treatments)
Injections
Insulin treatments
Kidney donor expenses
Nursing
Oxygen
Patterning exercises (Revenue Ruling 70-170, C.B. 1970-1, 51)
Pre-natal, post-natal treatments
Psychotherapy
Radium therapy
Ultraviolet ray treatments
Whirlpool baths
X-ray treatments
Radial Kerotomy

Evaluations, Laboratory Examinations and Tests

Blood tests
Cardiographs
Diagnostic evaluations
Metabolism tests
Spinal fluid tests
Sputum tests
Stool examination
Urinalysis
X-ray examinations

Medicines

Cost of prescription drugs
Special food or drinks to treat an illness, used as supplement to normal diet; extra cost of special foods prescribed by medical specialist