

Types of Exemptions from the Requirement to Have Health Insurance

Starting in 2014, everyone must have health insurance. The only people who do not need to get basic health insurance are the ones who get an “exemption.” This chart provides an overview of the different reasons you could get an exemption, where and when you need to apply, and how long each type of exemption lasts.

Reason for getting an exemption	Where to apply	When to apply	How long you are exempt
You did not have health insurance for less than three months in a row	Tax return	At tax time	The months you were without coverage, up to three
Your income is low enough that you don't have to file taxes	On your tax return, or you are automatically exempt if you don't file a tax return for this reason	N/A	Calendar year
If you did not add in your dependent's income, your income alone would be low enough that you wouldn't have to file taxes	Tax return	At tax time	Calendar year
You would have to pay 8% or more of your household income for insurance (household income is the income from members of your household who are listed on your taxes)	Tax return	At tax time	Calendar year
You and a family member each get insurance through your own jobs, but the cost for both plans is more than 8% of your household income	Tax return	At tax time	Calendar year

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Types of Exemptions from the Requirement to Have Health Insurance (continued)

Reason for getting an exemption	Where to apply	When to apply	How long you are exempt
You are not lawfully living in the United States, you do not have permanent residency, or you are considered a “nonresident alien” (See http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc851.html)	IRS will provide guidance	IRS will provide guidance	Until the first full month that your immigration status has changed
You are in jail or prison after a conviction	Marketplace application or tax return	Anytime within the year	Month(s) in which you are in prison or jail after a conviction
You are a member of a recognized health care sharing ministry that pays the health expenses of its members	Marketplace application or tax return	Anytime within the year	Months in which you are a member of the ministry
You belong to a federally recognized Indian tribe	Marketplace application or tax return	Anytime within the year	Continues unless you report a change
You belong to a religious sect that is opposed to insurance, such as the Amish	Marketplace application	Anytime within the year	For adults, continues until you report a change; for children, continues until age 21, at which point you must apply on your own
You are eligible for services through an Indian health care provider	Marketplace application	Anytime within the year	Until you report that you are no longer eligible

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Types of Exemptions from the Requirement to Have Health Insurance (continued)

Reason for getting an exemption	Where to apply	When to apply	How long you are exempt
Hardship Exemptions			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You had an unexpected increase in basic expenses that prevents you from purchasing coverage; or the cost of coverage would deprive you of food, shelter, clothing, or other necessities; or other circumstances prevent you from getting insurance in the marketplace (such as homelessness, eviction, foreclosure, damage from natural disaster, etc.) you were in a plan that cannot be renewed and cannot afford other plans. 	Marketplace application	It's best to apply right away when you have the hardship	At least three months; you may need to renew
Based on what you think your household income will be for the upcoming year, insurance would cost more than 8% of that income (including family coverage through your job)	Marketplace application	Before March 31, during a special enrollment period, or when you can enroll in a job-based plan	The rest of the year after you get the exemption
Your income is below 138% of poverty, but you can't get Medicaid in your state	Marketplace application	Anytime within the year	Calendar year

If you think you might qualify for one of the exemptions that require you to apply through the marketplace for a certificate, you can find out how from your state marketplace or www.healthcare.gov. For more information, call 1-800-318-2596; hearing impaired callers TTY/TDD number: 1-855-889-4325.

