

**Enrolled Agents**  
are the only  
professional tax practitioners  
who specialize  
in tax.

The Internal Revenue Code is more than **4,500 pages** long, and the regulations that interpret the Code number more than **18,000 pages!** An **Enrolled Agent** can help you comply with all regulations while ensuring that you get all the credits and deductions to which you're entitled for both state and federal taxes.

**"WE  
SPEAK  
TAX"**  
ENROLLED AGENTS  
The Tax Professionals

California Society of Enrolled Agents  
3200 Ramos Circle  
Sacramento, CA 95827-2513  
916/366-6646  
fax 916/366-6674

[www.csea.org](http://www.csea.org)

## Income Tax Services

We are experienced in all facets of tax preparation, including the filing of individual, small business, corporation, partnership, not for profit, and estate returns. We will ensure that you consider all of your legal deductions so you realize your full tax benefit.

Preparing your own income tax return can be a task that leaves you with more questions than answers. According to a study released by the US Government's General Accounting Office, most taxpayers believe they benefited from using a professional tax preparer.

Today's tax laws are so complicated that filing a relatively simple return can be confusing. It is very easy to overlook deductions and credits to which you are entitled. Even if you use a computer software program there is no substitute for the assistance of an experienced tax professional.

If you are having problems with the IRS or Sate; if you owe past due money or receive puzzling correspondence, or if your return has been selected for an audit, we are able to assist you in working with the IRS or Franchise Tax board. Our team of Enrolled Agents is qualified to work directly with the IRS or Franchise Tax Board to represent your interest and help solve your issues.



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207 West D Street, Encinitas, CA 92024

If you pay taxes,  
you should  
know about

**Enrolled  
Agents**  
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## If you pay taxes...

With tax regulations becoming more convoluted and confusing every time they're "simplified," and with the puzzling differences between state and federal tax laws, this is a good time to review your tax situation. Luckily, there's a federally-licensed tax professional who can help you!

The Enrolled Agent designation originated in 1884 to regulate agents who represented U.S. citizens with claims for Civil War losses. Today, EAs represent taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service and state tax agencies and help prepare returns for individuals, partnerships, corporations, estates, and trusts. EAs are also experts in tax planning, and can help you ensure that you don't pay too much or risk an audit. If you pay taxes, you need to talk to an Enrolled Agent!

# Q&A

Below are some frequently asked questions regarding Enrolled Agents and the benefits of having a tax professional on your side:

## Q: What are Enrolled Agents?

A: Enrolled Agents are tax professionals licensed by the federal government to represent taxpayers. EAs are experts in tax planning and the preparation of tax returns, and effective advocates on behalf of taxpayers before the IRS and state tax agencies.

## Q: How is an EA different from other tax preparers?

A: Enrolled Agents are required to demonstrate competence in matters of taxation; their right to represent taxpayers comes directly from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Unlike many tax preparers for whom tax preparation is a seasonal job from January through April 15, EAs provide tax services year-round in the field of tax planning, preparation, and representation.

## Q: How do I know if my tax preparer is an Enrolled Agent?

A: Look for the "We SpEAK Tax" designation, and insist that your tax preparer be a Member of the California Society of Enrolled Agents (CSEA). Members of CSEA are required to fulfill 25% more professional education every year than any other Enrolled Agents. CSEA Members not only SpEAK Tax — they speak it fluently!

## Q: Are Enrolled Agents bound by ethical standards?

A: Absolutely! The Treasury Department's Circular 230 provides stringent regulations governing the practice of Enrolled Agents before the IRS. No less than 2 hours of Ethics training per year are required under the regulations. In addition, Members of the California Society of Enrolled Agents are bound by a rigorous Code of Ethics and Rules of Professional Conduct.

## Q: What qualifications are required to become an EA and maintain enrollment?

A: There are only two ways to earn the Enrolled Agent designation. The first route is to take a three-part examination, one of the most difficult professional examinations in the country. This test covers all aspects of taxation, including ethics. The approval process for enrollment includes a thorough background investigation.

The other way to become an EA is to be employed by the IRS for a minimum of five years, regularly interpreting and applying the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations.

Following successful enrollment, EAs are required to maintain a rigorous schedule of professional education in the tax field. **Because of the difficulty in becoming enrolled and maintaining that enrollment, fewer than 45,000 tax professionals are currently enrolled as EAs.** When you sit down with an Enrolled Agent, you are sitting down with the *ultimate* tax expert!

To find an  
**Enrolled Agent**  
in your area, visit the  
Taxpayer Help area  
online at [www.csea.org](http://www.csea.org)  
or call toll-free 1-800-TAXPRO-5.