

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS

INFORMATION FOR RELEASE

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LEGAL AID PROVIDES INFORMATION ON ONE-TIME PHONE TAX REFUND

Those who don't file tax return still eligible for refund

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Feb. 6, 2007 – If you paid taxes on any long distance calls between Feb. 28, 2003 and Aug. 1, 2006 you are entitled to a one-time phone excise tax refund. The Legal Aid Society has prepared an information sheet on how to claim this refund.

“Everyone who made long distance calls during this period is entitled to it, even if you don't normally file an income tax return.” says Mary Gillum, a Legal Aid attorney with the Tennessee Taxpayer Project. “It's not a tremendous amount of money, but every little bit helps around this time of year, especially for our low-income clients.”

It's easy to apply for the refund. In fact, you don't even have to file a tax return. You also don't need copies of your phone bills, a Social Security number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, though you will have to send copies of certain papers and a photo ID.

For those who itemize deductions, you can request the full amount of your long distance taxes for the time period, but you have to have copies of your phone bills. Otherwise, the government has set up standard refund amounts based on the number of exemption claimed on a return.

1 person = \$30
2 people = \$40
3 people = \$50
4 people = \$60

“The important thing to remember is that this is a one-time refund, so if you don't ask for it, you lose it,” Gillum said. “So even if you aren't planning on filing a return, you should fill out a 1040EZ-T and request your refund.”

The information sheet on how to file for the one-time payment is available at the Legal Aid web site, www.las.org.

Founded in 1968, the Legal Aid Society is a private, not-for-profit organization governed by a local board of directors comprised of attorneys and members of the client population. The mission of the Legal Aid Society is to “enforce, advance, and defend the legal rights of low-income and vulnerable families in order to obtain for them the basic necessities of life.” Legal Aid provides free legal assistance in civil matters to people in 48 Middle Tennessee counties with a total eligible population of 382,000. They have offices in Nashville, Gallatin, Clarksville, Murfreesboro, Columbia, Tullahoma, Cookeville and Oak Ridge.

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