Form **14446** 

(November 2023)

Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service

# Virtual VITA/TCE Taxpayer Consent

This form is required when either the Intake/Interview and/or the Quality Review are not conducted in-person between the taxpayer and the VITA/TCE volunteer. The site must explain to the taxpayer the process used to prepare the taxpayer's return. If applicable, volunteers must advise the taxpayer of the associated risk of transferring their data from one site location to another site.

## Part I - To be completed by the VITA/TCE site:

Site name

Teton VITA

Site address (street, city, state, zip code) Senior Center of Jackson Hole 830 E. Hansen Ave.PO Box 4677 Jackson WY. 83001

Site identification number (SIDN)	Site coordinator name
S61212816	ROBERT WEMPLE
Site contact name	Site contact telephone number
ROBERT WEMPLE	307-248-2049

### This site is using the following Virtual VITA/TCE method(s) to prepare tax returns:

X A. Drop Off Site: This site uses a drop off process which includes the site <u>maintaining personally identifiable information (Social</u> <u>Security numbers, Form W-2, etc.)</u> to prepare the tax return at the same site but at a later time. In this process, the taxpayer comes back to the same site for the quality review and/or signing the completed tax return. The site must explain the method it uses to contact the taxpayer if additional information is needed.

**Note:** Sites where the taxpayer does not leave the site's property, for example waiting in another room or in a vehicle, are NOT considered drop off sites. Since the taxpayer remains at the site, they are not required to complete Form 14446. If the taxpayer leaves their tax documents at the site and then leaves the site's property for any reason, the taxpayer must complete Form 14446.

- **B.** <u>Intake Site:</u> This method includes the taxpayer leaving their personally identifiable information (Social Security numbers, Form W-2 and other documents) at the site in order to prepare and/or quality review the tax return at another location. In this process, the taxpayer's tax return information <u>may</u> be sent to another location for one or more of the following reasons; interviewing the taxpayer, preparing the tax return, or performing a quality review. The taxpayer may come back to the intake site for the quality review or to review and sign the completed tax return.
- C. <u>Return Preparation and/or Quality Review Only Site:</u> This site may receive returns from one or more intake sites to prepare and/or quality review returns. This site generally does not take walk-ins or appointments in their location.
- D. <u>Combination Site</u>: This site prepares returns for other permanent or temporary intake sites and assists walk-ins and appointments in their location.
- E. <u>100% Virtual VITA/TCE Process</u>: There is no in-person interaction with the taxpayer and any of the VITA/TCE volunteers in this process, during the intake, interview, return preparation, quality review, and signing the tax return. The site must explain the virtual processes and consent. This includes the virtual procedures to send required documents (Social Security numbers, Form W-2 and other documents) through a secured file sharing system to a designated volunteer for review.

## Part II: The Site's Process:

Explain how each process will be followed to assist the taxpayer remotely. The questions in parentheses below provide guidance on what to include in the explanation for each process. How will the site manage:

1. Scheduling the appointment (How is the appointment made: by phone, online portal, email, or by other means) Taxpayers make appointments at (https://wyomingfreetaxservice.org/Jackson) "Need an appointment to Drop Off the prepared Packet?", and "....to Pick Up finished return". When stie capacity available, taxpayers without appts. (walk ups) will be assisted.

2. Securing Taxpayer Consent Agreement (How is the 14446 signed, received, and stored) This form, 14446 Consent, page 3 must be completed and signed by the taxpayer (& spouse), consenting to our process, and will be verified at the Drop-off appt. and , if necessary, completed at the Review/Sign appt.

3. Performing the Intake Process - securing all documents (How are the taxpayer's supporting documents received, stored and tracked) Taxpayers begin by picking up Packets from the Senior Center, or downloading forms/info from https://wyomingfreetaxservice.org/ Jackson, then complete their forms and bring their documents to the Drop-off appt. At the Drop-off appt., we will interview & ask questions to ensure accuracy. Documents will be retained in the taxpayers packet.

4. Validating taxpayer's authentication - reviewing photo identification and Social Security cards/ITIN letters (What communication channel, either in-person or virtually, is used to validate the taxpayer's identity and which documents are reviewed)
Per directions, taxpayers bring photos, IDs and TIN documents to the Drop-off appt. We verify the IDs & SSN/ITINs and retain

photocopies for preparers and quality reviewers during tax preparation. Original IDs & SSN/ITINs are returned to the taxpayers.

5. Performing the interview with the taxpayer (What communication channel, either in-person or virtually, is used to conduct the interview)

We will review the contents of the taxpayers prepared packet, then conduct an interview, following the 13614C Intake/Interview form. We will collect any missing information and take notes as needed.

6. Preparing the tax return (Where is the tax return prepared and how are documents accessed by the preparer) The documents in the packet will be scanned and saved in a secure cloud (Google). Certified tax preparers work online, remotely, accessing the documents online and using Taxslayer software to prepare the tax returns.

7. Communicating with the taxpayer (Site must explain the method(s) it uses to contact the taxpayer if additional information is needed) Tax preparers (or reviewers) may contact taxpayers (phone/text) if they have questions. Personal identity information will not be shared. In some cases, taxpayers may be required to bring in sensitive documents to the Senior Center, rather than sending them by email or text.

8. Performing the quality review (Where is the tax return reviewed and how are documents accessed by the reviewer) All returns will have a Quality Review by a second certified tax preparer/quality reviewer. This also will be done remotely, online using Taxslayer software.

11. E-filing the tax return (When is the return e-filed: immediately or at the end of the day)

After the 8879 is signed, returns will be electronically filed to the IRS by the end of the day, or within 24 hours. If there are filing problems, taxpayers are contacted immediately to resolve the issue and the return will be filed as needed until accepted. (Paper returns will be mailed to the IRS by the taxpayer.

<sup>9.</sup> Sharing the completed return (What communication channel, in-person or virtually, is used to share the completed return and how does the volunteer and/or taxpayer access the completed return)

Once the return is quality reviewed and printed, the taxpayer will be notified to come back to the Senior Center in person. At this meeting we will verify IDs, explain the tax return and answer any questions.

<sup>10.</sup> Signing the return (Does taxpayer sign the return in-person or electronically and if electronically, which software is used to sign the return)

Once taxpayers understand their returns and all questions are answered, the taxpayers (and spouse) will sign the return. Taxpayers simultaneously verify the information and agree to efile the return by signing the 8879 Signature & Efile authorization. If it is a paper return, both copies of the return are signed (one to send and one copy).

## Part III: Taxpayer Consents:

### Request to Review your Tax Return for Accuracy:

To ensure you are receiving quality services and an accurately prepared tax return at the volunteer site, IRS employees randomly select free tax preparation sites for review. If errors are identified, the site will make the necessary corrections. IRS does not keep any personal information from your reviewed tax return and this allows them to rate our VITA/TCE return preparation programs for accurately prepared tax returns. If you do not wish to have your return included as part of the review process, it will not affect the services provided to you at this site. If the site preparing this return is selected, do you consent to having your return reviewed for accuracy, by an IRS employee?

Yes	🗌 No
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### Virtual Consent Disclosure:

If you agree to have your tax return prepared and your tax documents handled in the above manner, your signature and/or agreement is required on this document. Signing this document means that you are agreeing to the procedures stated above for preparing a tax return for you. (If this is a Married Filing Joint return both spouses must sign and date this document.) If you chose not to sign this form, we may not be able to prepare your tax return using this process. Since we are preparing your tax return virtually, we have to secure your consent agreeing to this process. If you consent to use these non-IRS virtual systems to disclose or use your tax return information, Federal law may not protect your tax return information from further use or distribution in the event these systems are hacked or breached without our knowledge. If you agree to the disclosure of your consent is valid for one year from the date of signature. If you believe your tax return information has been disclosed or used improperly in a manner unauthorized by law or without your permission, you may contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) by telephone at 1-800-366-4484, or by e-mail at complaints@tigta.treas.gov. While the IRS is responsible for providing oversight requirements to Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs, these sites are operated by IRS sponsored partners who manage IRS site operations requirements and volunteer ethical standards. In addition, the locations of these sites may not be in or on federal property.

I agree to use this site's Virtual VITA/TCE Process			s 🗌 No		
Printed name		Printed name (spouse if married filing joint)	Printed name (spouse if married filing joint)		
Date of birth	Date	Date of birth Date			
Telephone number		Telephone number			
Email address		Email address	Email address		
Signature (electronic)		Signature (electronic)	Signature (electronic)		
OR		OR	OR		
Signature (type/print)		Signature (type/print)	Signature (type/print)		