

# Tax Tips to Tame Tax Time Terror

Yep, it's that time again—tax time. And, while some of you may be eagerly anticipating a refund, the vast majority of you are dreading that April 15 filing deadline and fear that a mistake may lead to penalties, interest and audits. But don't fear—we turned to Stephanie Fierro, an attorney at The Frutkin Law Firm here in town ([www.frutkinlaw.com](http://www.frutkinlaw.com)) to help. According to Fierro, these tried and true tax tips help lessen the burden and can help save time and money, too.

**I'm so confused!** IRS forms are updated regularly so make sure you are using the right form. Better yet, let a professional help you. But if that's not an option, consider using a reputable software program that asks you questions and auto-fills the forms you need.

**I need more deductions!** You're too late for charitable deductions, but you're not too late for IRA contributions. If you're eligible to contribute to an IRA, you



can make the contributions up to the filing deadline and apply the tax deduction to your 2012 return. It's a win-win. Your tax liability decreases and your retirement savings increases. You may be eligible for other deductions, as well. Find out by reading IRS Publication 17 at [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov).

**I need more time!** The filing deadline gets closer every day so don't wait to file. Get organized, file early and file electronically. If for some reason that isn't possible, know that you can request an extension. Although you are simply delaying the inevitable, if you need more time to file your return, ask for it. You can request an extension any time before the filing deadline. But beware! Uncle Sam will wait for your paperwork but he won't wait for his money. To avoid penalties and interest you must properly estimate and pay any money you might owe by the initial filing deadline. Meeting filing deadlines is imperative to avoid penalties and interest.

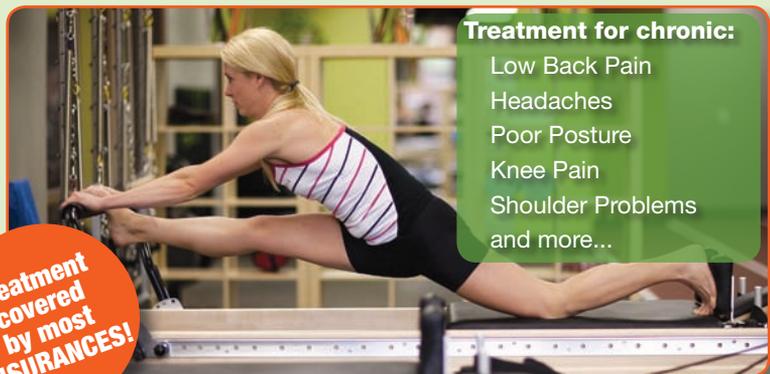
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