2025 · WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO KEEP ON FILE?



TAX DOCUMENTS	YES	NO
 Are you filing income tax returns? If so, consider the following: Keep at least three years of state and federal tax returns and 		
supporting documentation on file. Supporting documentation includes records that prove any income, deductions, or credits claimed (W-2, 1099, end of year statements from banks and		
 investment accounts). Depending on the state (like CA), you may need to keep tax returns for longer than three years. If you think you forgot to report income and it's more than 25% of gross income, keep six years of tax returns on file. If you are claiming a loss for worthless securities or bad debt deduction, keep records for seven years. 		
 Keep all W-2s until you begin collecting Social Security. Have you made taxable gifts or received an inheritance? If so, keep all 709s that you file, and any 8971s or 706s issued to you, along with any supporting documentation in your permanent records. 		
HEALTHCARE DOCUMENTS Will you apply for Medicaid (perhaps due to long-term care	YES	
expenses)? If so, keep all financial statements and records of transactions for the previous five years to support your application for Medicaid, as there is generally a five-year look-back provision.		
> Do you have a Health Savings Account (HSA)? If so, keep all medical receipts from the date the HSA was opened.		
Did you write off medical expenses on your tax return? If so, keep records for as long as you keep your tax returns (generally three years).		
 Are you on Medicare? If so, consider the following: Keep your Medicare Summary Notices for at least a year, or until your bill is paid in full. If you are enrolled in an employer drug plan that is considered creditable, keep your annual "Notice of Creditable Coverage" provided by your employer. This is needed if you enroll in Part D at a later time. 		

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ASSET & DEBT RELATED DOCUMENTS	YES	NO	ASSET & DEBT RELATED DOCUMENTS (CONTINUED)	YES	
 Do you have any investment accounts or bank accounts? If so, consider the following: Keep the most current statements on file (paper or electronic). Keep the End of Year statement on file until you complete your tax return. If you own investments purchased before 2012 (the year that 			 Do you own property (automobiles, real estate)? If so, consider the following: Keep any deeds, titles, settlement statements, or bills of sale on file until you decide to sell the property. Keep documentation showing purchase-related fees that were capitalized on file until you decide to sell the property. 		
custodians were required to track cost basis), keep records of what you paid for the non-covered investments in the event you sell them in the future, as the 1099 may not report cost basis.			Are you self-employed and do you deduct home office expenses? If so, keep all receipts for any housing/home office-related expenses (such as utility bills and mortgage statements) to prove the home office deduction.		
 Do you maintain any retirement accounts? If so, consider the following: Keep documentation on any contributions and withdrawals (e.g., IRS Form 5498). If you took a Coronavirus-Related Distribution, keep your 			 Have you made any improvements to your home? If so, keep any receipts related to the home improvement as they may be used to substantiate any adjustments to the cost basis for your property. 		
 If you took a coronavirus-keiated Distribution, keep your withdrawal request and 1099-R. If you made a Roth conversion, keep records showing the conversion. If you made non-deductible traditional IRA contributions, keep Form 8606 until the account is fully withdrawn to track cost basis. 			Do you own real property in multiple states? If so, keep detailed records proving which state you lived in for the majority of the year (receipts, or travel itineraries). It is especially important if you are concerned about your state income tax liability and/or establishing residency.		
 Are you a small business owner? If so, keep the following: Federal EIN, business formation documents, ownership agreements, and any business licenses. Payroll records, employment tax records, and receipts for all expenses. Business asset records, such as purchase and sales invoices, 			OTHER DOCUMENTS	YES	
			Do you have any higher education (college, certifications)? If so, keep copies proving that you completed the coursework.		
deeds, and titles. ■ Records of employee benefits, such as retirement plan			Do you have any insurance policies (homeowners, disability, life insurance)? If so, keep the most current policies on file.		
documents. Do you have any debts (student loans, mortgage, etc.)? If so, keep the loan documents until the loan is paid off. Once the loan is paid off, keep documentation on file proving that the loan has been paid in full. (continue on next column)			Are you currently employed? If so, keep any contracts signed, including any non-solicit or non-compete agreements.		



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