



Health coverage update: Shared responsibility penalty

Tips for tax time and getting enrolled

As of 2014, most Alabamians are required to have health insurance or pay a penalty when they file their federal income taxes. People caught in the coverage gap because Alabama has not expanded Medicaid – for example, singles with income less than \$11,670 and families of four with income up to \$23,850 – do not owe the penalty. People who do owe the penalty this tax season can enroll between March 15 and April 30 to avoid the penalty next year. Learn more about exemptions and enrollment at healthcare.gov.

How much will I owe if I'm not insured?

- For the 2014 tax year: \$95 for each adult and \$47.50 for each child under age 18 up to a family total of \$285, or 1 percent of household income, whichever is higher.
- For 2015: \$325 for each adult and \$162.50 for each child under 18 up to \$975, or 2 percent of household income, whichever is higher.
- For 2016: \$695 for each adult or 2.5 percent of household income, whichever is higher.

How will I pay the penalty?

- You must file a form 8965 with your income tax. On the form, you can calculate the amount you must pay or claim an exemption.

How can I avoid paying the penalty for 2015?

- Alabamians who just learned they owe a penalty for 2014 can sign up for 2015 coverage during a special enrollment period, March 15 through April 30. You will need to explain that you are subject to the penalty.
- You can sign up for coverage any time if you have a life-changing event such a divorce, job change or birth of a child.
- You may be exempt. Find out whether you qualify at healthcare.gov/exemptions.

How do I sign up?

Get help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or find local help close to where you live:

- Online at healthcare.gov
- By phone at (800) 318-2596