

§ 1.44A-1

26 CFR Ch. I (4-1-04 Edition)

(B) Related corporations as provided under section 267(b)(2),

(C) Related trusts as provided under section 267(b), (4), (5), (6), and (7),

(D) Related charitable organizations as provided under section 267(b)(9), and

(E) Related partnerships as provided under section 707(b)(1).

For purposes of this subdivision the constructive ownership rules of section 267(c) shall apply except that paragraph (4) of section 267(c) shall be treated as providing that the family of an individual shall include only his spouse, ancestors, and lineal descendants.

(ii) An acquisition does not qualify as a purchase for the purpose of this paragraph if the basis of the property in the hands of the person acquiring such property is determined—

(A) In whole or in part by reference to the adjusted basis of such property in the hands of the person from whom acquired (e.g., a gift under section 1015), or

(B) Under section 1014(a) (relating to property acquired from a decedent).

(d) *Self-construction.* The term “self-construction” means the construction of a residence (other than a factory-made home) to the taxpayer’s specifications on land already owned or leased by the taxpayer at the time of commencement of construction. Thus, where a taxpayer purchases land and either builds a residence himself or hires an architect and a contractor to build a residence on that land, the taxpayer has “self-constructed” the residence.

(e) *Factory-made home.* The term “factory-made homes” includes mobile homes, houseboats and prefabricated and modular homes.

(f) *Lowest offer.* The term “lowest offer” means the lowest price at which the residence was offered for sale after February 28, 1975.

[T.D. 7391, 40 FR 55855, Dec. 2, 1975]

§ 1.44A-1 Expenses for household and dependent care services necessary for gainful employment.

(a) *In general.* (1) This section applies only for expenses incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1975. For deductibility of expenses incurred in taxable years beginning be-

fore January 1, 1972, see § 1.214-1. For deductibility of expenses incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1971, and before January 1, 1976, see §§ 1.214A-1 through 1.214A-5.

(2) Section 44A allows a credit against the tax imposed by chapter 1 of the Code to an individual who maintains a household (within the meaning of paragraph (d) of this section) which includes as a member one or more qualifying individuals (as defined in paragraph (b) of this section). The amount of the credit is equal to the applicable percentage of the employment-related expenses (as defined in paragraph (c) of this section) paid by the individual during the taxable year (but subject to the limits prescribed in § 1.44A-2(a)). However, the credit cannot exceed the tax imposed by chapter 1, reduced by the sum of the allowable credits enumerated in section 44A(b). The term “applicable percentage” means 30 percent reduced by 1 percentage point for each \$2,000 (or fraction thereof) by which the taxpayer’s adjusted gross income for the taxable year exceeds \$10,000, but in no event shall the percent be less than 20 percent. Thus, for example, if a taxpayer’s adjusted gross income is over \$10,000, but less than \$12,000.01, the applicable percentage is 29 percent. (For expenses incurred in taxable years beginning before January 1, 1982, the applicable percentage is a flat 20 percent.)

(3) Generally, the credit for employment-related expenses is allowable, regardless of the taxpayer’s method of accounting, only for expenses which are actually paid during the taxable year and which are incurred during the taxable year or were incurred during a prior taxable year beginning after December 31, 1975. If the expenses are incurred but not paid during the taxable year, no credit may be taken for that year on account of those expenses. Thus, if an expense is incurred in the last month of a taxable year but not paid until the following taxable year, a credit for the expense is not allowed for the earlier taxable year but is allowed for the following taxable year. However, if an expense is incurred in a taxable year beginning before January 1, 1976, and paid in a later taxable year, no credit is allowed with respect to the

expense under section 44A. Section 214 and the regulations thereunder are applicable in determining whether a deduction for the expense is allowed in the year of payment.

(4) Since an expense cannot be an employment-related expense until the services for which the expense was incurred are performed (see paragraph (c) of this section), prepaid expenses may be claimed only in the taxable year in which the services are performed.

(5) The requirements of section 44A, this section and §§1.44A-2 through 1.44A-4 are applied to expenses as of the time they are incurred regardless of when they are paid.

(6) For special rules relating to employment-related expenses which also qualify as medical expenses deductible under section 213, see §1.44A-4(b).

(7) For substantiation of the credit, see paragraph (e) of this section.

(b) *Qualifying individual*—(1) *In general.* A person is considered to be a qualifying individual if he or she is—

(i) The taxpayer's dependent who is under the age of 15 and is an individual for whom the taxpayer is entitled to a deduction for a personal exemption under section 151(e);

(ii) The taxpayer's dependent (not described in subdivision (i)) who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care; or

(iii) The taxpayer's spouse who is physically or mentally incapable of self-care.

The term "dependent," as used in this paragraph (b)(1), includes any individual who is a dependent within the meaning of section 152. However, see paragraph (b)(2) of this section for special rules for determining which parent may treat a child as a qualifying individual where the parents are divorced, legally separated, or separated under a written separation agreement.

(2) *Special dependency test in case of divorced or separated parents.* A child (as defined in section 151(e)(3)) who—

(i) Is under age 15 or is physically or mentally incapable of self-care,

(ii) Receives over half of his or her support during the calendar year from his or her parents who are divorced or legally separated under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance or who

are separated under a written separation agreement, and

(iii) Is in the custody of one or both of his or her parents for more than one-half of the calendar year,

is treated for any taxable year beginning in the calendar year as a qualifying individual (described in subdivision (i) or (ii), as the case may be, of paragraph (b)(1) of this section) of that parent who has custody for a longer period during the calendar year than the other parent. Accordingly, a child may be treated as a qualifying individual of a parent even though the parent is not entitled to a dependency exemption for the child. The child cannot be treated as a qualifying individual with respect to more than one parent.

(3) *Qualification on a daily basis.* The status of a person as a qualifying individual is determined on a daily basis. Thus, if a dependent or spouse of a taxpayer ceases to be a qualifying individual on September 16, the dependent or spouse is treated as a qualifying individual through September 15 only.

(4) *Physical or mental incapacity.* An individual is considered to be physically or mentally incapable of self-care if as a result of a physical or mental defect the individual is incapable of caring for his or her hygienical or nutritional needs, or requires full-time attention of another person for his or her own safety or the safety of others. The fact that an individual, by reason of a physical or mental defect, is unable to engage in any substantial gainful activity, or is unable to perform the normal household functions of a homemaker or to care for minor children, does not of itself establish that the individual is physically or mentally incapable of self-care. An individual who is physically handicapped or is mentally defective, and for such reason requires constant attention of another person, is considered to be physically or mentally incapable of self-care.

(c) *Employment-related expenses*—(1) *Gainful employment*—(i) *In general.* Expenses are considered to be employment-related expenses only if they are incurred to enable the taxpayer to be gainfully employed and are paid for household services or for the care of one or more qualifying individuals. The expenses must be incurred while the

taxpayer is gainfully employed or is in active search of gainful employment. The employment may consist of service either within or without the home of the taxpayer and may include self-employment. An expense is not considered to be employment-related merely because it is incurred while the taxpayer is gainfully employed. The purpose of the expense must be to enable the taxpayer to be gainfully employed. Volunteer work for a nominal salary does not constitute gainful employment. Whether the purpose of an expense is to enable the taxpayer to be gainfully employed depends upon the facts and circumstances of the particular case. Any tax required to be paid by the taxpayer under section 3111 (relating to the Federal Insurance Contributions Act) and 3301 (relating to the Federal Unemployment Tax Act), or under similar State payroll taxes, in respect of any wages which otherwise constitute employment-related expenses is considered to be an employment-related expense.

(ii) *Determination of period of employment on a daily basis.* An allocation of expenses is required on a daily basis when the expenses cover any period during part of which the taxpayer is gainfully employed or is in active search of gainful employment and during the other part of which there is no employment or active search for gainful employment. Thus, for example, if a taxpayer incurs during each month of the taxable year \$60 of expenses which would be employment-related if he or she were gainfully employed all year, and the taxpayer is gainfully employed, or in active search of gainful employment, for only 2 months and 10 days during such year, the amount of employment-related expenses is limited to \$140.

(2) *Household services.* Expenses are considered to be paid for household services if they are paid for the performance in and about the taxpayer's home of ordinary and usual services necessary to the maintenance of the household. However, expenses are not considered as paid for household services unless the expenses are attributable in part to the care of the qualifying individual. Thus, amounts paid for the services of a domestic maid or

cook are considered to be expenses paid for household services if a part of those services is provided to the qualifying individual. Amounts paid for the services of an individual who is employed as a chauffeur, bartender, or gardener, however, are not considered to be expenses paid for household services.

(3) *Care of qualifying individual—(i) In general.* The primary purpose of expenses for the care of a qualifying individual must be to assure that individual's well-being and protection. Not all benefits bestowed upon a qualifying individual are considered as provided for the individual's care. Accordingly, amounts paid to provide food, clothing, or education are not expenses paid for the care of a qualifying individual. However, where the manner of providing care is such that the expense which is incurred includes expenses for other benefits which are incident to and inseparably a part of the care, the full amount of the expense is considered to be incurred for care. Thus, for example, the full amount paid to a nursery school in which a qualifying child is enrolled is considered as being for the care of the child, even though the school also furnishes lunch and educational services. Educational expenses incurred for a child in the first or higher grade level are not expenses incurred for the care of a qualifying individual. Expenses incurred for transportation of a qualifying individual described in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section between the taxpayer's household and a place outside the taxpayer's household where services for the care of the qualifying individual are provided are not incurred for the care of a qualifying individual.

(ii) *Manner of providing care.* The manner of providing the care need not be the least expensive alternative available to the taxpayer. For example, the taxpayer's mother may reside at the taxpayer's home and be available to provide adequate care at no cost for the taxpayer's wife who is physically or mentally incapable of caring for herself. Nevertheless, the expenses incurred in providing a nurse for the wife may be an expense for the care of the wife. See paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section with respect to the requirement

that the expense must be for the purpose of permitting the taxpayer to be gainfully employed.

(4) *Services outside the taxpayer's household.* The credit is allowed under section 44A with respect to employment-related expenses incurred for services performed outside the taxpayer's household only if those expenses are incurred for the care of—

(i) One or more qualifying individuals who are described in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section; or

(ii) One or more qualifying individuals (as to expenses incurred for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1981) who are described in paragraph (b)(1)(ii) or (iii) of this section and who regularly spend at least 8 hours each day in the taxpayer's household.

(5) *Dependent care centers.* The credit is allowed under section 44A with respect to employment-related expenses incurred in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1981, for services provided outside the taxpayer's household by a dependent care center only if—

(i) The center complies with all applicable laws and regulations of a State or unit of local government (e.g., State or local requirements for licensing, if applicable, and building and fire Code regulations); and

(ii) The requirement provided in paragraph (c)(4)(i) or (ii) of this section is met.

The term "dependent care center" means any facility that provides full-time or part-time care for more than six individuals (other than residents of the facility) on a regular basis during the taxpayer's taxable year, and receives a fee, payment, or grant for providing services for any such individuals (regardless of whether such facility is operated for profit). For purposes of the preceding sentence, a facility will be presumed to provide full-time or part-time care for six or less individuals on a regular basis during the taxpayer's taxable year if the facility has six or less individuals (including the qualifying individual) enrolled for full-time or part-time care on the day the qualifying individual is enrolled in the facility (or on the first day of the taxable year the qualifying individual attends the facility in the case where the

individual was enrolled in the facility in the preceding taxable year) unless the Internal Revenue Service demonstrates that the facility provides full-time or part-time care for more than six individuals on a regular basis during the taxpayer's taxable year.

(6) *Allocation of expenses.* Where a portion of an expense is for household services or for the care of a qualifying individual and a portion of such expense is for other purposes, a reasonable allocation must be made and only the portion of the expense paid which is attributable to such household services or care is considered to be an employment-related expense. No allocation is required to be made, however, if the portion of expense for the other purpose is minimal or insignificant. An allocation must be made, for example, if a servant performs household duties, cares for the qualifying children of the taxpayer, and also performs social services for the taxpayer (for which a deduction is not allowable) or clerical services in the office of the taxpayer outside the home (for which a deduction may be allowable under section 162). Employment-related expenses include household service expenses which are provided in conjunction with the care of a qualifying individual. Thus, if an expense is in part attributable to the care of a qualifying individual and in part to household services, no allocation is required.

(7) *Illustrations.* The application of this paragraph (c) may be illustrated by the following examples:

Example 1. The taxpayer lives with her mother who is physically incapable of caring for herself. In order to be gainfully employed the taxpayer hires a practical nurse whose sole duty consists of providing for the care of the mother in the home while the taxpayer is at work. All amounts spent for the services of the nurse are employment-related expenses.

Example 2. The taxpayer has a dependent child 10 years of age who has been attending public school. The taxpayer, who has been working part time, is offered a position involving full-time employment which she can accept only if the child is placed in a boarding school. The taxpayer accepts the position and the child is sent to a boarding school. The expenses paid to the school must be allocated between that part of the expenses which represents care for the child and that part which represents tuition for education.

The part of the expense representing care of the child is incurred for the purpose of permitting the taxpayer to be gainfully employed.

Example 3. The taxpayer, in order to be gainfully employed, employs a full-time housekeeper who cares for the taxpayer's two children, aged 9 and 15 years, respectively, performs regular household services of cleaning and cooking, and chauffeurs the taxpayer to and from his place of employment. The chauffeuring service never requires more than 30 minutes out of the total period of employment each day. No allocation is required for purposes of determining the portion of the expense attributable to the chauffeuring (not a household service expense) since it is *de minimis*. Further, no allocation is required for the purpose of determining the portion of the expense attributable to the care of the 15-year-old child (not a qualifying individual) since the household expense is in part attributable to the care of the 9-year-old child, who is a qualifying individual. Accordingly, the entire expense of employing the housekeeper is an employment-related expense. However, the total amount of employment-related expenses taken into account would be limited to the amount allowable for one qualifying individual.

(d) *Maintenance of a household*—(1) *In general.* An individual is considered to have maintained a household for the taxable year (or lesser period) only if the individual (and his or her spouse if the individual is married) have furnished over one-half of the cost incurred for such taxable year (or lesser period) in maintaining the household. The household must actually constitute for the taxable year the principal place of abode of the taxpayer and the qualifying individual or individuals described in paragraph (b) of this section. It is not sufficient that the taxpayer maintain the household without being its occupant. A physical change in the location of the home does not, however, prevent the home from constituting the principal place of abode of the taxpayer and a qualifying individual. The fact that an individual is born or dies during the taxable year does not prevent a home from constituting his or her principal place of abode for such year. An individual is not considered to have terminated a household as his or her principal place of abode merely by reason of temporary absences therefrom by reason of illness, education, business, vacation,

military service, or a custody agreement.

(2) *Two or more families.* Solely for purposes of section 44A and this section, if two or more families occupy living quarters in common, each of the families is treated as constituting a separate household, and the taxpayer who provides more than one-half of the costs of maintaining such a separate household is treated as maintaining that household. Thus, for example, if two unrelated taxpayers each with children occupy living quarters in common and each taxpayer pays more than one-half of the household costs incurred by each respective family, each taxpayer will be treated as maintaining a separate household.

(3) *Costs of maintaining a household.* The costs of maintaining a household are the expenses incurred for the mutual benefit of the occupants thereof by reason of its operation as the principal place of abode of the occupants. The expenses of maintaining a household include property taxes, mortgage interest, rent, utility charges, upkeep and repairs, property insurance, and food consumed on the premises. These expenses do not include the cost of clothing, education, medical treatment, vacations, life insurance, or transportation or payments on mortgage principal or for the purchase, permanent improvement, betterment, or replacement of property. Further, the costs of maintaining a household do not include the value of services performed in the household by a qualifying individual described in paragraph (b) of this section. An expense incurred by a taxpayer which is paid or reimbursed by another is not considered as a cost of maintaining a household.

(4) *Monthly proration of annual costs.* In determining the cost incurred for a period of less than a taxable year in maintaining a household, the cost incurred during the entire taxable year must be prorated on the basis of the number of calendar months within such lesser period. For this purpose a period of less than a calendar month will be treated as a calendar month. Thus, for example, if the cost of maintaining a household for a taxable year is \$6,600, and the period in respect of which a determination is being made

under section 44A is from June 20 to December 31, the taxpayer must furnish more than \$1,925 ($[\$6,600 \times \frac{7}{12}] \times 50$ percent) in maintaining the household from June 1 to December 31.

(e) *Substantiation.* A taxpayer claiming a credit under paragraph (a) of this section for employment-related expenses must substantiate by adequate records or other sufficient evidence any credit taken under this section. For example, if requested, the taxpayer must furnish information as to the nature and period of the physical or mental incapacity of any dependent or spouse in respect of whom a credit is claimed, including necessary information from the attending physician as to the nature of the physical or mental incapacity.

(Secs. 44A(g) and 7805 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (90 Stat. 1565, 26 U.S.C. 44A(g); 68A Stat. 917, 26 U.S.C. 7805))

[T.D. 7643, 44 FR 50332, Aug. 28, 1979, as amended by T.D. 7951, 49 FR 18091, Apr. 27, 1984]

§ 1.44A-2 Limitations on amount creditable.

(a) *Annual dollar limit on amount creditable.* The amount of the employment-related expenses incurred during any taxable year which may be taken into account under § 1.44A-1 (a) cannot exceed—

(1) \$2,400 (\$2,000 in the case of expenses incurred in taxable years beginning before January 1, 1982) if there is one qualifying individual with respect to the taxpayer at any time during the taxable year, or

(2) \$4,800 (\$4,000 in the case of expenses incurred in taxable years beginning before January 1, 1982) if there are two or more qualifying individuals with respect to the taxpayer at any one time during the taxable year.

For example, a calendar year taxpayer whose only qualifying individual reaches age 15 on April 1, 1982, is subject for 1982 to the entire annual dollar limit of \$2,400, without proration of the \$2,400 limit. However, only expenses incurred prior to the child's 15th birthday may be employment-related expenses.

(b) *Earned income limitation—(1) In general.* The amount of employment-related expenses incurred during any taxable year which may be taken into ac-

count under § 1.44A-1(a) cannot exceed—

(i) For an individual not married at the close of the year, the individual's earned income for the year, or

(ii) For an individual married at the close of the year, the lesser of the individual's earned income or the earned income of his or her spouse for the year.

For purposes of this paragraph (b)(1), the earned income of only the spouse to whom the taxpayer is married at the close of the year is taken into account (and not the earned income of another spouse who died or was divorced from the taxpayer during the year). Further, the spouse's earned income for the entire year is taken into account, even though the taxpayer and his or her spouse were married for only a part of the year. For purposes of this paragraph (b), certain married individuals legally separated or living apart are treated as not married (see § 1.44A-3 (b) and (c), respectively).

(2) *Earned income.* For purposes of this section, earned income means—

(i) Wages, salaries, tips, other employee compensation, and

(ii) Net earnings from self-employment (within the meaning of section 1402(a) and the regulations thereunder).

For taxable years beginning before January 1, 1979, earned income includes only amounts described in subdivision (i) or (ii) of this paragraph (b)(2) which are includible in the eligible individual's gross income for the taxable year of the individual in which the credit is claimed. For all taxable years, however, earned income is computed without regard to any community property laws which may otherwise be applicable. Earned income is reduced by any net loss in earnings from self-employment. Earned income does not include amounts received as a pension or an annuity or an amount to which section 871(a) and the regulations thereunder apply (relating to income of non-resident alien individuals not connected with United States business).

(3) *Special rule for spouse who is a student or incapable of self-care.* (i) For purposes of this section, a spouse is deemed, for each month during which the spouse is a full-time student or is a qualifying individual described in