

**Exception:** Married clients who file a joint federal income tax return may file separate state tax returns if either spouse:

- Was an active duty member of the United States armed forces (or any auxiliary military branch) during 2016.
- Was a California nonresident for the entire year with no California source income.
- Was a registered domestic partner.

The exceptions above require income splitting. Income splitting rules are complex and outside the scope of the VITA/TCE volunteer program. If military, refer them to their Staff Judge Advocate’s Office.

Completely fill in the circle for the filing status that applies to your clients.

**Claimed as a Dependent**

Completely fill in the circle on line 6 if your client, or their spouse/RDP, meet the dependency rules on someone else’s tax return.

**Exemptions**

**Personal**

Find the exemption credit amounts in the exemption section of Form 540.

If the **square on line 6 is blank** and the filing status is:

Single, enter	<b>1</b>
Married/RDP filing jointly, enter	<b>2</b>
Married/RDP filing separately, enter	<b>1</b>
Head of Household, enter	<b>1</b>
Qualifying widow(er), enter	<b>2</b>

If you **did** check the square on line 6 and the filing status is:

- Single, married/RDP filing separately, head of household or married/RDP filing jointly, and both your client and their spouse/RDP can be claimed as a dependent, **enter 0.**
- Married/RDP filing jointly and only your client or their spouse/RDP can be claimed as a dependent, **enter 1.**

Then, multiply this number by \$111 and enter the amount on line 7 of Form 540.

### **Blind**

Claim an additional personal exemption credit if your client, or spouse/RDP if filing jointly, is visually impaired. If this exemption is claimed for the first time, attach a doctor's statement verifying the visual impairment to the **back** of the tax return.

*Visually impaired* means: "Vision is no better than 20/200 while wearing glasses or contact lenses, or that the field of vision is not more than 20 degrees." Enter 1 if your client qualifies or 2 if both the client and their spouse/RDP qualify. Multiply this number by \$111 and enter the amount on line 8 of Form 540.

**Important Info:** This exemption credit cannot be taken if your client can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return.

### **Senior**

Claim an additional personal exemption credit if your client, or their spouse/RDP, if filing jointly, is 65 years of age or older by December 31, 2016. Enter 1 if your client qualifies or 2 if both your client and spouse/RDP are 65 or older. Multiple this number by \$111 and enter the amount on line 9 of Form 540.

If your client's 65th birthday is on January 1, 2017, they are considered age 65 on December 31, 2016.

If your client can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return, they may not claim this exemption credit.

**Important Note:** You must check the "blind" box located on the personal information screen and/or enter your client's birth date on the personal information screen in order for the blind and senior exemption credits to automatically enter on the state tax return.

### **Dependents**

An exemption credit is allowed for each dependent. Write the name and relationship of each dependent in the appropriate space.

Count the number of dependents listed, and enter the total in the appropriate boxes on the forms. Multiply the number of dependents by \$344 and enter the amount on line 10 of Form 540.

**Important Info:** The Dependent Exemption Credit on Form 540 2EZ is included in Form 540 2EZ tax tables.