

In January, the IRS Identity Protection PIN Opt-In Program will be expanded to all taxpayers who can properly verify their identity.

An Identity Protection PIN is a six-digit number assigned to eligible taxpayers to help prevent their Social Security number from being used to file fraudulent federal income tax returns. This number helps the IRS verify a taxpayer's identity and accept their tax return. The online [Get An IP PIN](#) tool immediately displays the taxpayer's assigned number.

This tool uses Secure Access authentication to verify a person's identity. Taxpayers should review the [Secure Access requirements](#) before they try to use the Get An IP PIN tool.

Other ways to get an IP PIN

There are other ways to get an IP PIN if someone is unable to pass the Secure Access authentication. Taxpayers with income of \$72,000 or less should complete Form 15227 and mail or fax it to the IRS. An IRS employee will call the taxpayer to verify their identity using a series of questions. Those who pass authentication will receive an IP PIN the following tax year.

Taxpayers who cannot verify their identities remotely or who are ineligible to file Form 15277 should make an appointment, visit a [Taxpayer Assistance Center](#) and bring two forms of picture identification. This is an in-person identity verification. After the taxpayer passes authentication, an IP PIN will be mailed to them within three weeks.

Taxpayers should never share their IP PIN with anyone but their tax provider. The IRS will never call to request the taxpayer's IP PIN, and taxpayers must be alert to potential IP PIN scams.

Here's what taxpayers need to know before applying:

- The Get an IP PIN tool will be available in mid-January.
- This is the preferred method of obtaining an IP PIN and the only one that immediately reveals the PIN to the taxpayer.
- Taxpayers who want to voluntarily opt into the IP PIN program don't need to file a Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit.
- The number is valid for one year. Each January, the taxpayer must get a new one.

- It must be entered correctly on electronic and paper tax returns to avoid rejections and delays.
- Taxpayers with either a Social Security number (SSN) or Individual Tax Identification Number who can verify their identity are eligible for the program.
- Any primary or secondary taxpayer or dependent can get an IP PIN, if they can prove their identity.
- The IRS plans to offer an opt out feature to the IP PIN program in 2022.

Confirmed victims of tax-related identity theft

There is no change in the IP PIN Program for confirmed victims of tax-related identity theft. These taxpayers should still file a Form 14039 if their e-filed tax return rejects because of a duplicate SSN filing. The IRS will investigate their case and once the fraudulent tax return is removed from their account, they will automatically receive an IP PIN by mail at the start of the next calendar year.

IP PINs will be mailed annually to confirmed victims and participants enrolled before 2019. For security reasons, confirmed identity theft victims can't opt out of the IP PIN program. Confirmed victims also can use the Get an IP PIN tool to retrieve lost IP PINs assigned to them.