

How to Create Your IRS Online Account

This guide walks you through creating an online account with the IRS. Your IRS Online Account lets you view your tax records, check balances, approve Power of Attorney requests, and access transcripts. The IRS uses ID.me for identity verification. The process takes about 15–30 minutes.

Before You Begin

Make sure you have the following information and items ready before you start:

- A government-issued photo ID (driver's license, state ID, or passport)
- Your Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
- A smartphone or device with a camera (for the ID.me selfie verification)
- Access to your email account (you will receive verification codes)
- A mobile phone number that can receive text messages
- Your most recently filed federal tax return (for reference)

Note: You must complete this process yourself — our office cannot create an IRS account on your behalf. The IRS requires you to verify your own identity. Please set aside 15–30 uninterrupted minutes.

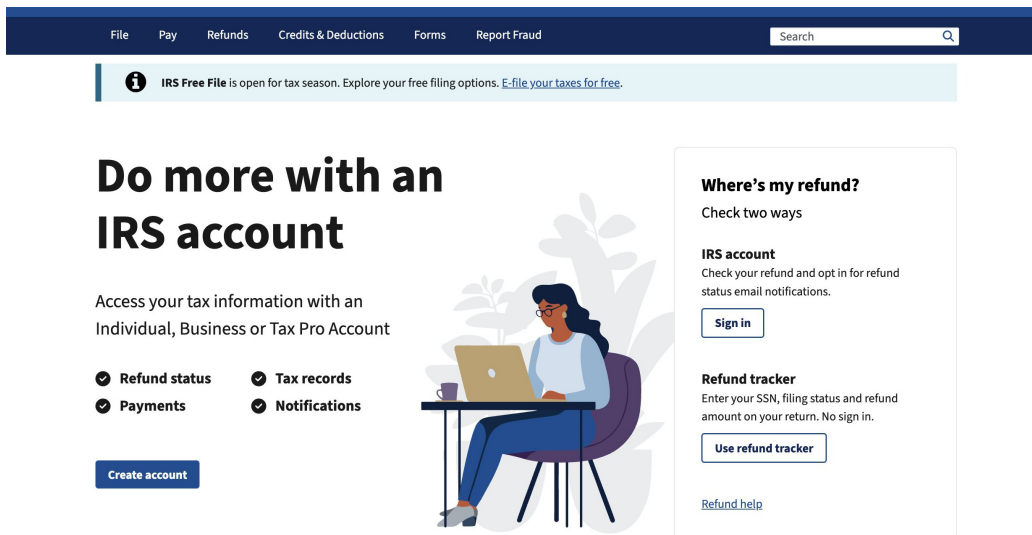
Tip: If you already have an IRS Online Account or an ID.me account, you do not need to create a new one. Simply sign in with your existing credentials.

Part 1: Navigate to the IRS Portal

Step 1: Go to the IRS Website

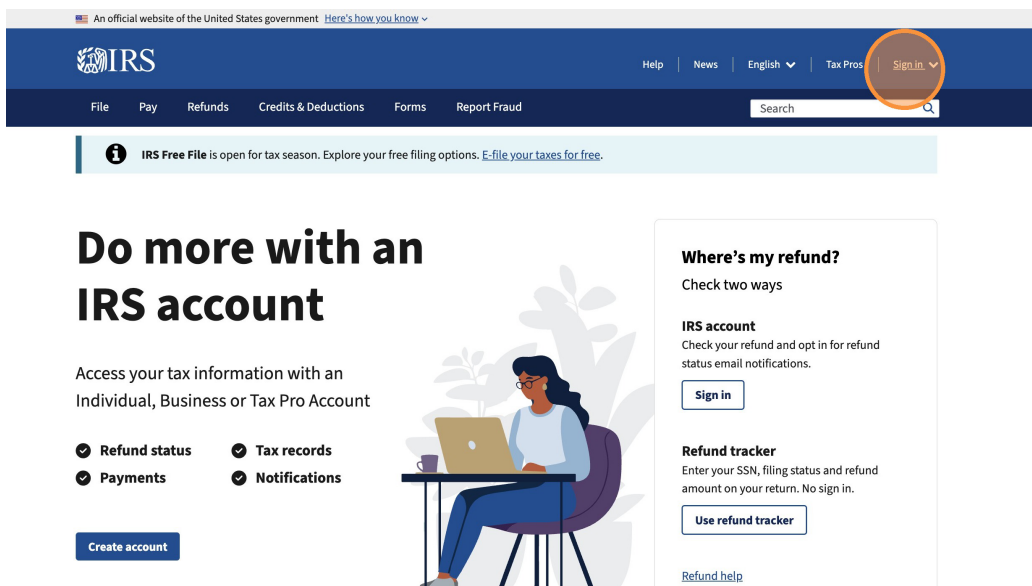
Open your web browser (Chrome, Safari, Firefox, or Edge) and go to:

<https://www.irs.gov>



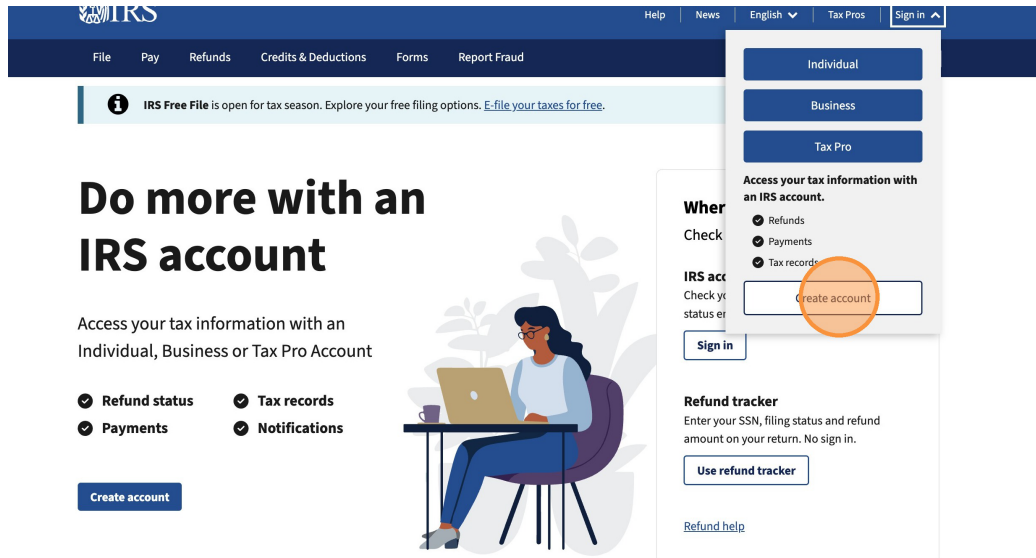
Step 2: Click "Sign In"

On the IRS homepage, click the 'Sign in' button to access the account login area.



Step 3: Click "Create Account"

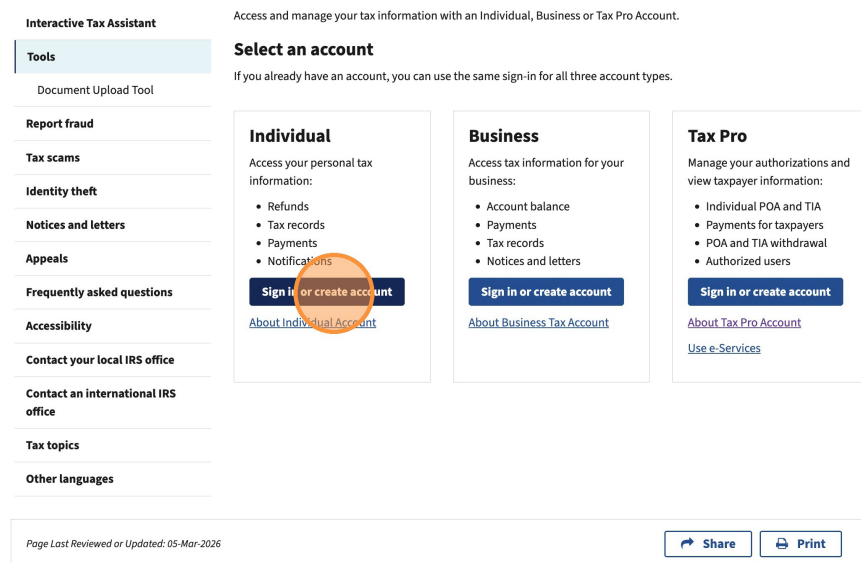
If you do not already have an IRS Online Account, click 'Create account' to begin the setup process.



Tip: If you already have an account, click 'Sign in' instead and skip ahead to Part 4.

Step 4: Click "Sign In or Create Account" with ID.me

You will be directed to the ID.me identity verification page. Click the 'Sign in or create account' button to proceed.



Tip: ID.me is a trusted third-party identity verification service used by the IRS and other government agencies. Creating an ID.me account is free.

Part 2: Create Your ID.me Account

Step 5: Create Your ID.me Account

On the ID.me page, click 'Create an Account' if you do not already have one.

You only need one ID.me account
If you already have an account, don't create a new one. You can use the same ID.me account to sign in to different IRS online services.

The IRS offers a sign-in option with ID.me, which offers access to IRS online services with a secure account that protects your privacy.
ID.me is an account created, maintained, and secured by a technology provider.
If you don't have an ID.me account, you must create a new account.

Sign in with an existing account
Sign in with **ID.me**

OR

Create a new account
ID.me Create an account

Frequently Asked Questions

- + How do I verify my identity?
- + What if I can't verify my identity?
- + What is ID.me?

Step 6: Enter Your Email Address and Create a Password

Enter your email address — use one you check regularly. Create a strong password following the guidelines shown on screen. Then click 'Create account.'

Create an ID.me Wallet

Multiple ID.me Wallets are not allowed.
[If you have an ID.me Wallet, use it to sign in.](#)

Need to use ID.me for work?
[Follow these steps.](#)

* Indicates a required field

Email *
Enter your personal email address

Password
Enter password

Confirm Password *
Reenter password

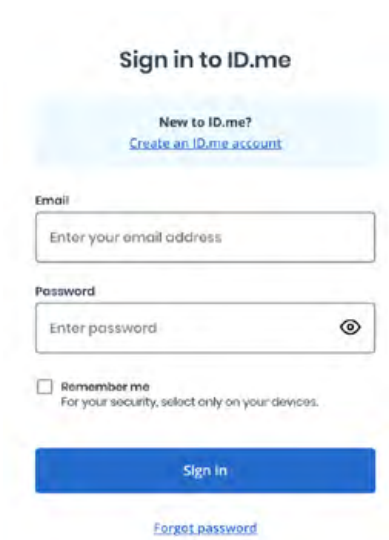
☐ **Remember me**
For your security, select only on your devices.

☐ I accept the ID.me [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) *

Important: Remember your ID.me email and password — you will need them every time you sign in to your IRS Online Account.

Step 7: Verify Your Email Address

Check your email inbox for a message from ID.me. Open the email and click the verification link to confirm your email address.



The image shows the ID.me sign-in interface. At the top, it says "Sign in to ID.me". Below that is a light blue box with the text "New to ID.me?" and a link "Create an ID.me account". Underneath are two input fields: "Email" with the placeholder "Enter your email address" and "Password" with the placeholder "Enter password" and an eye icon for toggling visibility. Below the password field is a checkbox labeled "Remember me" with the text "For your security, select only on your devices." at the bottom. A large blue "Sign in" button is centered below the inputs. At the very bottom is a link "Forgot password".

Step 8: Set Up Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

ID.me will ask you to set up multi-factor authentication to protect your account. You can choose to receive a verification code by text message, phone call, or through an authentication app. Text message is the easiest option for most people.

Enter your mobile phone number, receive the code, and enter it on screen.

VERIFYING IS FAST AND EASY

Choose how to verify your identity from the options below:

- ☒ **Self-Service**
Takes 5-10 minutes
Upload a driver's license or state ID, passport, or passport card and capture a selfie
- ☐ **Video Call**
Expected wait time is 17 minutes
Upload a driver's license or state ID, passport, or passport card and join a quick video call
- ☐ **In-Person**
Schedule an appointment
Bring 2-3 identity documents to a nearby location and verify in person

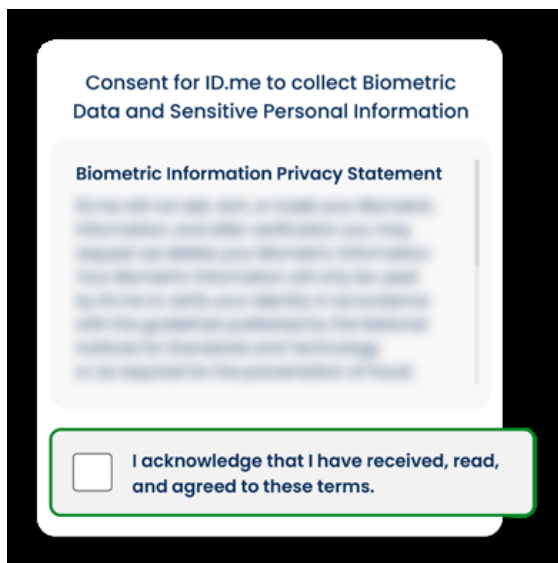
Tip: Keep your mobile phone handy — you will need to enter a verification code each time you sign in to your IRS account in the future.

Part 3: Verify Your Identity

ID.me will now verify your identity. This is the most involved part of the process. You will need your photo ID and a smartphone or device with a camera.

Step 9: Consent to Biometric Information Collection

ID.me will ask for your consent to collect biometric information (your selfie photo). This is used only to verify your identity and help prevent fraud. Review the disclosure and click to agree.



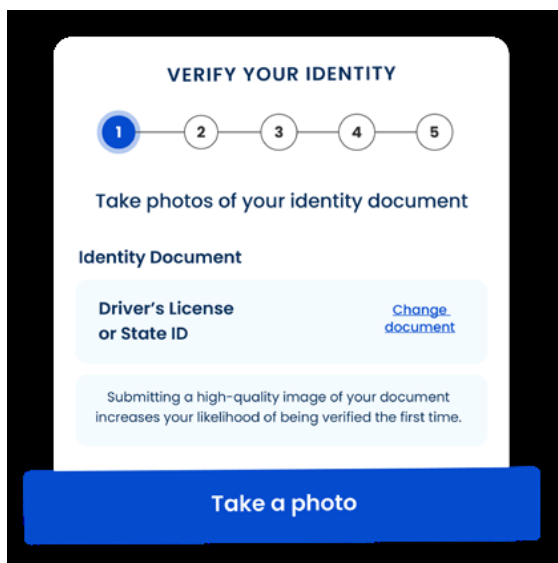
The screenshot shows a white card on a black background. At the top, it says "Consent for ID.me to collect Biometric Data and Sensitive Personal Information". Below that is a section titled "Biometric Information Privacy Statement" with several lines of blurred text. At the bottom, there is a checkbox and the text "I acknowledge that I have received, read, and agreed to these terms."

Step 10: Take Photos of Your Identity Document

You will be asked to upload photos of your government-issued ID. You can use a driver's license, state ID, or passport.

From your phone: Select 'Take a photo' and use your camera to photograph the front and back of your ID.

From your computer: Select 'Upload a file' to upload photos you have already taken.



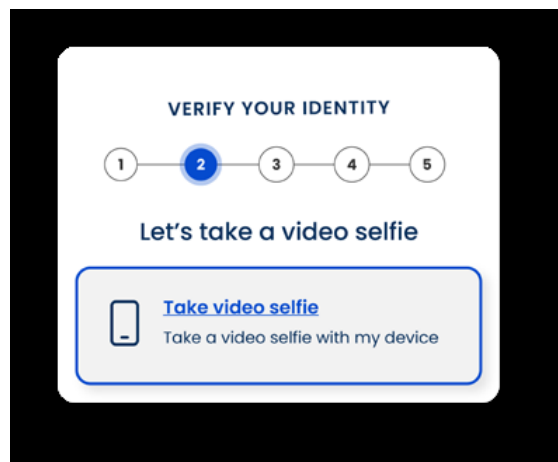
The screenshot shows a white card on a black background. At the top, it says "VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY". Below that is a progress bar with five circles, the first of which is highlighted with a blue ring. Below the progress bar, it says "Take photos of your identity document". Underneath is a section titled "Identity Document" with a light blue box containing the text "Driver's License or State ID" and a link "Change document". Below this box is a note: "Submitting a high-quality image of your document increases your likelihood of being verified the first time." At the bottom of the card is a large blue button that says "Take a photo".

Follow these tips for a successful photo:



Step 11: Submit Your Document for Review

After uploading your photos, ID.me will review the images. Make sure the photos are clear and all information is legible before submitting.



Step 12: Take a Video Selfie

ID.me will ask you to take a selfie using your device's camera. This is used to match your face to the photo on your ID.

When prompted:

- Click 'Start' to begin the selfie process
- Review the tips shown on screen, then click 'Start liveness detection'
- Allow ID.me to access your camera
- Hold your device in front of your face with good lighting
- Wait for the 'Processing Video Selfie' message



Tips for a successful selfie:

- Avoid glare — step back from bright light sources
- Do not wear hats, scarves, masks, or sunglasses
- Make sure your face is clearly visible and well-lit
- Hold your device steady and look directly at the camera

Step 13: Enter Your Personal Information

When prompted, enter your phone number and Social Security Number (SSN). Make sure all information matches your government-issued ID exactly.

VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

1 2 3 4 5

Enter your Social Security number

Social Security Number (#####)*

#####

The Social Security is used as a unique identifier to confirm identity. This will not affect your credit score.

Continue

Step 14: Confirm Your Information

Review all the information you have entered. If everything is correct, select 'Yes' to proceed. If anything is inaccurate, select 'No' and update it before continuing.

Your information will be reviewed, and you may need to wait briefly while ID.me completes the verification.

VERIFY YOUR IDENTITY

1 2 3 4 5

Is your information displayed correctly?

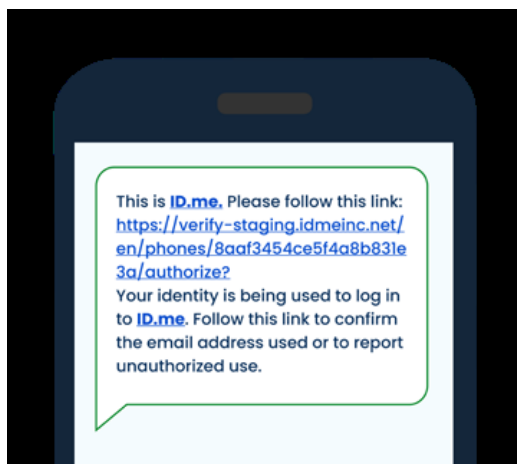
We will securely use the following information to verify your identity against trusted resources.

[What does this mean?](#)

Personal information	
First Name	BRYCE
Middle Name	S
Last Name	ALEXANDER
Date of Birth	08/07/1996
Home Address	
Street	123 MAIN AVENUE SOUTHWEST

Step 15: Confirm Your Phone Number and Email

You will receive a text message to confirm your phone number — click the link in the text. Then confirm the email address shown on screen is yours.



Part 4: Complete IRS Account Setup

Step 16: Authorize the IRS to Access Your Information

After ID.me verifies your identity, you will see an authorization screen. Review the information that the IRS will receive, then select 'Allow' to consent and complete the connection.



Step 17: Your IRS Online Account Is Ready

You will now have access to your IRS Online Account. From here, you can:

- View your tax account balance and payment history
- Access tax transcripts and records
- Approve or reject Power of Attorney and Tax Information Authorization requests
- View and manage payment plans
- View key notices from the IRS

Tip: Bookmark the IRS sign-in page for easy access: <https://www.irs.gov/payments/your-online-account>

If You Cannot Verify Through Self-Service

If ID.me cannot verify your identity through the automated self-service process, you will be offered the option to complete a video call with an ID.me Trusted Referee.

- You can schedule a video call for a later time or join one immediately.
- During the call, you will be asked to show your ID and answer a few questions.
- Video call wait times vary — scheduling in advance is recommended.

Tip: For technical issues with ID.me, contact ID.me support at <https://help.id.me>

Signing In to Your Account in the Future

To sign in to your IRS Online Account after it has been created:

- Go to <https://www.irs.gov> and click 'Sign in'
- Click 'Sign in with ID.me'
- Enter your ID.me email and password
- Enter the verification code sent to your mobile phone

Note: The IRS will send a new verification code to your phone each time you sign in. Make sure you have access to the mobile phone number you registered with ID.me.

Need Help?

If you run into any issues or have questions at any point during this process, contact our office:

Email: zack@taxpreptech.com

Phone: (347) 249-4990