



Protect & Prevent: IRS Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)

What is an IRS Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)?

An IP PIN is a six-digit number issued by the IRS to help prevent identity theft on your tax return. It's required for filing if you have one, and it's valid for one calendar year and automatically regenerated by the IRS annually. Anyone with a Social Security Number (SSN) or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) can apply, including spouses, dependents, and those living abroad.

Eligibility

- You must have a valid SSN or ITIN.
- Confirmed victims of tax-related identity theft will automatically receive one annually via mail (CP01A Notice) after the IRS resolves their case.

Prerequisites

- A valid SSN or ITIN.
- Access to your prior-year tax information (e.g., AGI, filing status).
- An IRS online account
(requires identity verification via ID.me or Login.gov—see separate handout for setup instructions).
- Internet access.

Step-by-Step: Get an IP PIN Online (Only Method Covered Here)

1. **Go to the Official IRS IP PIN Tool** Visit: <https://www.irs.gov/ippin> or directly: <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/icce-core/loac/ippin/pages/ippin.xhtml>
2. **Create or Log In to Your IRS Online Account**
 - If you don't have an account: Click **"Create an account"** → Follow prompts to verify identity using **ID.me** or **Login.gov**.

You'll need:

- Email address
- SSN/ITIN

- Photo ID (driver's license, passport, etc.)
- Live selfie via webcam or phone
- Answers to credit-based questions (lift any credit freeze temporarily)

3. **Navigate to IP PIN Enrollment** Once logged in:

- Go to your **Profile** page.
- Select **“Get an IP PIN”** or **“Opt-in to IP PIN program”**.

4. **Complete Identity Verification**

- Confirm personal details (SSN, DOB, address from prior return).
- Answer security questions based on your credit file.
- If needed, upload supporting documents (e.g., Social Security card).

5. **Receive Your IP PIN Immediately**

- Upon approval, your **6-digit IP PIN displays on screen**.
- **Save it securely** (password manager recommended).
- You will **not** receive a mailed copy.

6. **Retrieve Annually**

- IP PINs expire December 31.
- Return to your IRS account **mid-January** each year to get your new one.
- Available online from **mid-January to mid-November**.

How to Use Your IP PIN

- Enter it on your **federal tax return** (Form 1040, 1040-SR, etc.) when prompted.
- Provide it to your **tax preparer** if applicable.
- Use the **correct year's IP PIN** when filing prior-year returns.