



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

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Re: IRS Identity Protection PIN

Date: January 12, 2016

Sheriff Al Nienhuis would like to make citizens aware of the availability of the Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN).

The IRS IP PIN is a 6-digit number assigned to eligible taxpayers to help prevent the misuse of their Social Security number (SSN) on fraudulent federal income tax returns. The IP PIN helps to verify a taxpayer's identity and accept their electronic or paper tax return.

What does an IP PIN do?

An IP PIN helps the IRS verify a taxpayer's identity and accept their electronic or paper tax return. When you have an IP PIN, it prevents someone else from filing a tax return with your SSN.

If a return is e-filed with your SSN and an incorrect or missing IP PIN, the system will reject it until you submit it with the correct IP PIN or you file on paper. If the same conditions occur on a paper filed return, the IRS will delay its processing and any refund you may be due for your protection while they determine if it's yours.

Who is eligible for an IRS IP PIN?

You're eligible for an IP PIN if:

- You're a victim of identity theft and the IRS has resolved your case. As a result, the IRS has placed an identity theft indicator on your account and in December 2015/January 2016, they sent you a [CP01A Notice](#) containing your IP PIN, or
- You filed your federal tax return last year as a [resident of Florida, Georgia or the District of Columbia](#), or
- You received an IRS letter inviting you to 'opt-in' to get an IP PIN.

How do I get an IP PIN?

- If you received a [CP01A Notice](#) in December, your IP PIN is located in the left column, third paragraph, which states: “Your assigned 2014 IP PIN is: _____.” (Again, due to programming error the 2015 tax year notices will say 2014.)
- If you filed your tax return last year with an address in Florida, Georgia or the District of Columbia, you are invited to participate in the IP PIN program by going to [Get an IP PIN](#). The program is not limited to identity theft victims.
- If you lost your IP PIN or didn't receive your new one, you can login through [Get an IP PIN](#) or visit [Retrieve Your IP PIN](#) for more information on how to retrieve it.

What you need to do after you get an IRS IP PIN

- You must use the IP PIN on all federal income tax returns 1040, 1040A, 1040EZ and 1040 PR/SS and any delinquent returns filed during the 2016 calendar year.
- Don't reveal your IP PIN to anyone other than your tax preparer. Reveal it only when you are ready to sign and submit your federal income tax return.
- You can't use your IRS IP PIN on a state income tax return. If your state also issues identity protection PINs, use it only for the state income tax return.

If you file your federal tax return without your IRS assigned IP PIN:

- Your electronic return will be rejected and you won't be able to e-File
- Your paper return will be subject to additional screenings to validate your identity and will delay any refund you may be receiving.

If you lost your IP PIN or didn't receive your new one,

Login through [Get an IP PIN](#) or visit [Retrieve Your IP PIN](#) for more information on how to replace it.

“Getting a PIN from the IRS is an easy way to outwit the criminals and save all of us tax dollars. Every year, millions of dollars are stolen from the federal government. Although you may not agree with every expenditure the government makes, we certainly do not want it to end up in the hands of criminals.” ~ Sheriff Al Nienhuis

For more information or assistance with an IP PIN, please visit the website below ~ <https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Electronic-Filing-PIN-Request>