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identifying number on returns prepared. Failure to have and use a valid PTIN may ...

Oct. 24, 2018



The nation's more than 768,000 federal tax return preparers must renew their Preparer Tax Identification Numbers (PTINs) for 2019. All current PTINs will expire Dec. 31, 2018.

Tax preparers nationwide should renew their Preparer Tax Identification Numbers (PTINs) if they will continue to prepare taxes in 2019. The ID numbers expire at the end of each calendar year, Dec. 31.

Anyone who prepares or helps prepare any federal tax return, or claim for refund, for

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Those who cannot remember their user ID and password can find online tools to assist them. Preparers can get started at [www.irs.gov/ptin](http://www.irs.gov/ptin). If registering for the first time, the PTIN application may also be completed online. There is no fee for obtaining or renewing a PTIN.

Paper [Form W-12](#), IRS Paid Preparer Tax Identification Number Application and Renewal, is available for paper applications and renewals, and takes four to six weeks to process.

All enrolled agents, regardless of whether they prepare returns, must renew their PTIN annually in order to maintain their active status.

### **Annual Filing Season Program participation kicks off**

The voluntary IRS Annual Filing Season Program is intended to encourage non-credentialed tax return preparers to take continuing education (CE) courses to increase their knowledge and improve their filing season readiness. Participation generally requires 18 hours of CE from an IRS approved provider, including a course in basic tax filing issues and updates, ethics, as well as other federal tax law courses. More information on the types and amounts of CE required for the program is available online.

Preparers desiring to receive an Annual Filing Season Program Record of Completion for 2019, must (1) complete their continuing education requirements by Dec. 31, 2018; (2) have a valid 2019 PTIN; and (3) consent to adhere to specific requirements in Treasury Department Circular No. 230.

The IRS has a [video](#) to demonstrate how to sign the Circular 230 consent and print the Record of Completion.

### **Enrolled agent credential**

The Annual Filing Season Program is a filing season qualification, while the enrolled

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in the [Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications](#) created on IRS.gov to help explain the various tax return preparer credentials and qualifications to taxpayers. The directory also contains information on attorneys, certified public accountants, enrolled retirement plan agents and enrolled actuaries who are registered with the IRS.

Get additional information on the [enrolled agent program](#). Information on understanding tax return preparer credentials and qualifications is [also available](#).

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