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Oct. 24, 2019

The screenshot shows the IRS website's 'Tax Pros' section. The header includes the IRS logo, a search bar, and links for 'Help', 'News', 'Language', 'Charities & Nonprofits', and 'Tax Pros'. A navigation bar below the header contains links for 'File', 'Pay', 'Refunds', 'Credits & Deductions', and 'Forms & Instructions'. The main content area is titled 'PTIN Requirements for Tax Return Preparers' and includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Tax Pros > PTIN Requirements for Tax Return Preparers'. On the left, a sidebar lists various categories: 'Enrolled Agents', 'Annual Filing Season Program Participants', 'Enrolled Retirement Plan Agents', 'Certified Professional Employer Organization (CPEO)', 'Enrolled Actuaries', 'E-File Providers', and 'Modernized e-File'. The main text area explains that PTIN applications and renewals for 2020 are being processed and that anyone preparing federal tax returns for compensation must have a valid PTIN. It also mentions the 'Public Directory' and the 'Annual Filing Season Program'. A section titled 'Renew your PTIN in 3 easy steps:' lists: 1. Access Your Account, 2. Verify Your Information, and 3. PTIN Renewal Confirmation. On the right, a 'Hot Topics' section lists links for accessing the online PTIN account, troubleshooting system issues, frequently asked questions, requirements for tax return preparers, staying informed, contacting the return preparer program, and tax pro news and resources.

English

PTIN Requirements for Tax Return Preparers

Home > Tax Pros > PTIN Requirements for Tax Return Preparers

Enrolled Agents

Annual Filing Season Program Participants

Enrolled Retirement Plan Agents

Certified Professional Employer Organization (CPEO)

Enrolled Actuaries

E-File Providers

Modernized e-File

Preparer tax identification number (PTIN) applications and renewals for 2020 are now being processed.

Anyone who prepares or assists in preparing federal tax returns for compensation must have a valid 2020 PTIN before preparing returns. All enrolled agents must also have a valid PTIN.

Are you a non-credentialed return preparer looking to set yourself APART? Do you want to be Included in the [Public Directory](#) of return preparers or desire limited representation rights for your clients? If so, check out the [Annual Filing Season Program](#) which recognizes the efforts of non-credentialed return preparers who aspire to a higher level of professionalism.

Renew your PTIN in 3 easy steps:

1. Access Your Account
2. Verify Your Information
3. PTIN Renewal Confirmation

Hot Topics

- [Access your online PTIN account](#)
- [Troubleshoot PTIN System Issues](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions: Do I Need a PTIN?](#)
- [Requirements for Tax Return Preparers Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Stay Informed](#)
- [Contact the Return Preparer Program](#)
- [Tax Pro News and Resources](#)

Tax return preparers should prepare for the upcoming 2020 tax filing season by renewing their Preparer Tax Identification Numbers now. All current PTINs will expire Dec. 31, 2019.

“Last year we issued more than 813,000 PTIN’s and are asking tax preparers to renew now to avoid a last-minute rush,” said IRS Return Preparer Office Director Carol Campbell. “Having this essential element done now will make the transition to tax season much easier.”

Anyone who prepares or helps prepare a federal tax return for compensation must have a valid PTIN from the IRS before preparing returns, and they need to include the

PTIN as the identifying number on any return filed with the IRS.

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- Select the [Renew or Register](#) button.
- Enter the user ID and password to login to the online PTIN account.
- Follow the prompts to verify information and answer a few questions.

Once completed, users will receive confirmation of their PTIN renewal. There is no fee for renewing or obtaining a PTIN for 2020.

The online system not only allows PTIN renewal, but can also be used by tax preparers to view continuing education credits, see a summary of the number of returns their PTIN has appeared on in the current year, and receive communications through a secure mailbox from the IRS Return Preparer Office.

First time PTIN applicants can also apply for a PTIN online.

To apply for a PTIN online:

- Start at [IRS.gov/tax-professionals](https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals).
- Select the [“Renew or Register”](#) button and select “Create Account” in the New User box.
- First time users are issued a temporary password and will be prompted to change their password upon logging in.
- Select “Sign Up with SSN” once logged in.
- Follow the prompts to obtain the PTIN online.

Opportunity for non-credentialed tax preparers

The [Annual Filing Season Program](#) is a voluntary IRS program intended to encourage non-credentialed tax return preparers to take continuing education courses to increase their knowledge and improve their filing season readiness.

Those who choose to participate must renew their PTIN, complete 18 hours of

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The searchable IRS directory helps taxpayers find [preparers](#) in their area who have completed the program or hold professional credentials recognized by the IRS.

Enrolled agent credential

The [enrolled agent credential](#) is an elite certification issued by the IRS to tax professionals who demonstrate special competence in federal tax planning, individual and business tax return preparation and representation matters. Enrolled agents have unlimited representation rights, allowing them to represent any client before the IRS on any tax matter.

As non-credentialed return preparers think about next steps in their professional career, the IRS encourages them to [consider becoming](#) an enrolled agent.

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

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