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taxpayers' personally identifiable information.

Jan. 12, 2021

The screenshot shows the IRS website's 'Get An Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)' page. The top navigation bar includes the IRS logo, 'Help', 'News', and 'English' with a dropdown arrow. Below this is a dark blue menu bar with links: 'File', 'Pay', 'Refunds', 'Credits & Deductions', and 'Forms & Instructions'. The breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home / File / Individuals / Get An Identity Protection PIN'. The main heading is 'Get An Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)'. To the right of the heading are language links: 'English', 'Español', '中文(简体)', '中文(繁體)', and '한국어'. On the left side, there is a sidebar under the 'Individuals' heading with links: 'How to File', 'When to File', 'Where to File', 'Your Information', 'Students', 'Employees', 'Parents', 'Military', and 'Seniors & Retirees'. The main content area starts with a paragraph: 'An Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) is a six-digit number that prevents someone else from using your Social Security number. The IP PIN is known only to you and the IRS and helps us verify your paper tax return.' This is followed by a section titled 'Eligibility' with the text: 'If you are a confirmed victim of identity theft and we have resolved your tax account, we will issue you a new IP PIN each year.' Below this, it says: 'Starting in 2021, you may voluntarily opt into the IP PIN program as a proactive way to protect your tax return from identity theft.' Then, it says: 'If you want to opt in, please note:' followed by a bulleted list: '• You must pass a rigorous identity verification process.' and '• Spouses and dependents are eligible for an IP PIN if they can pass the identity verification process.' The next section is titled 'How to get an IP PIN' with the text: 'If you're a confirmed identity theft victim, we will mail you an IP PIN on a CP01A Notice of the next filing season.'

The Internal Revenue Service is expanding the Identity Protection PIN Opt-In Program to all taxpayers who can verify their identities.

The Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) is a six-digit code known only to the taxpayer

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identity theft victims from ongoing tax-related fraud. In recent years, the IRS expanded the program to specific states where taxpayers could voluntarily opt into the IP PIN program. Now, the voluntary program is going nationwide.

About the IP PIN Opt-In Program Here are a few key things to know about the [IP PIN Opt-In program](#):

- This is a voluntary program.
- You must pass a rigorous identity verification process.
- Spouses and dependents are eligible for an IP PIN if they can verify their identities.
- An IP PIN is valid for a calendar year.
- You must obtain a new IP PIN each filing season.
- The online IP PIN tool is offline between November and mid-January each year.
- Correct IP PINs must be entered on electronic and paper tax returns to avoid rejections and delays.
- Never share your IP PIN with anyone but your trusted tax provider. The IRS will never call, text or email requesting your IP PIN. Beware of scams to steal your IP PIN.
- There currently is no opt-out option but the IRS is working on one for 2022.

### How to get an IP PIN

Taxpayers who want an IP PIN for 2021 should go to [IRS.gov/IPPIN](#) and use the Get an IP PIN tool. This online process will require taxpayers to verify their identities using the Secure Access authentication process if they do not already have an IRS account. See [IRS.gov/SecureAccess](#) for what information you need to be successful. There is no need to file a Form 14039, an Identity Theft Affidavit, to opt into the program

Once taxpayers have authenticated their identities, their 2021 IP PIN immediately

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tax to the IRS. An IRS customer service representative will contact the taxpayer and verify their identities by phone. Taxpayers should have their prior year tax return at hand for the verification process.

Taxpayers who verify their identities through this process will have an IP PIN mailed to them the following tax year. This is for security reasons. Once in the program, the IP PIN will be mailed to these taxpayers each year.

Taxpayers who cannot verify their identities online or by phone and who are ineligible for file Form 15227 can contact the IRS and make an appointment at a [Taxpayer Assistance Center](#) to verify their identities in person. Taxpayers should bring two forms of identification, including one government-issued picture identification.

Taxpayers who verify their identities through the in-person process will have an IP PIN mailed to them within three weeks. Once in the program, the IP PIN will be mailed to these taxpayers each year.

### **No change for confirmed identity theft victims**

Taxpayers who are confirmed identity theft victims or who have filed an identity theft affidavit because of suspected stolen identity refund fraud will automatically receive an IP PIN via mail once their cases are resolved. Current tax-related identity theft victims who have been receiving IP PINs via mail will experience no change.

See [IRS.gov/IPPIN](https://www.irs.gov/IPPIN) for additional details.

The IRS also encourages tax professionals and employers to share information with taxpayers about the availability of the IP PIN. Tax professionals and employers can print or email [Publication 5367](#) or share IRS social media/e-poster products.

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