

## Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) Program

If the IPSU determines that you do have a tax-related identity theft problem, the IPSU will research your account, identify the IRS business unit handling the case, and monitor the case to ensure it is being handled in a timely manner.

- The IRS may issue you an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN). The computer-generated IP PIN has six digits and is specific to the tax year for which it was provided.
- The IRS issues IP PINs to allow a legitimate taxpayer's return to bypass the identity theft filter, prevent fraudulent returns from being processed, and minimize taxpayer burden associated with potential delays when a return fails one or more of the identity theft filters.
- A new IP PIN will be issued to you every filing season as long as the identity theft indicator remains on your account.

### Using an IP PIN

You will receive an IRS notice in the mail containing the single-use six-digit PIN. The IRS does use email or fax to notify taxpayers of an IP PIN.

- All six digits must be input on your Form 1040 in the space to the right of the spouse's occupation line. Use of the IP PIN on the return acts as an authenticator to validate you as the legitimate owner of the Social Security number on the tax return.
- If you lose or misplace the IP PIN letter, the IRS may issue a replacement IP PIN for the year. You may file a paper return without the IP PIN, but processing and refunds may be significantly delayed.

### Surprise IP PIN Letter

The IRS has been known to mail an IP PIN letter to a taxpayer who was previously unaware of a potential tax-related identity theft problem. If you receive an unexpected IP PIN letter, you can call the IPSU phone number (800-908-4490) to verify that the IP PIN letter is legitimate.

### Identity Theft Outside the Tax System

- You may be at increased risk for tax-related identity theft for various reasons.
- You have lost or had stolen a wallet, purse, or documents that include sensitive identifying information.
  - You have noted questionable credit card activity or credit report information.
  - You have fallen victim to an identity theft scam.

### Contact Us

There are many events that occur during the year that can affect your tax situation. Preparation of your tax return involves summarizing transactions and events that occurred during the prior year. In most situations, treatment is firmly established at the time the transaction occurs. However, negative tax effects can be avoided by proper planning. Please contact us in advance if you have questions about the tax effects of a transaction or event, including the following:

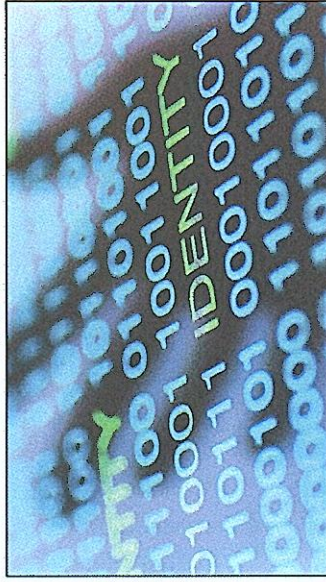
- Pension or IRA distributions.
- Significant change in income or deductions.
- Job change.
- Marriage.
- Attainment of age 59½ or 70½.
- Sale or purchase of a business.
- Sale or purchase of a residence or other real estate.
- Retirement.
- Notice from IRS or other revenue department.
- Divorce or separation.
- Self-employment.
- Charitable contributions of property in excess of \$5,000.

This brochure contains general information for taxpayers and should not be relied upon as the only source of authority. Taxpayers should seek professional tax advice for more information.

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# Identity Theft and Your Taxes

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