



Rhode Island Department of Revenue Division of Taxation

ADV 2021-29
SECURITY SUMMIT

ADVISORY FOR TAX PROFESSIONALS
JULY 27, 2021

Tax professionals should let clients know about IP PIN program

It can help taxpayers protect against tax-related identity theft, Security Summit says

PROVIDENCE -- The Rhode Island Division of Taxation, the Internal Revenue Service, and other partners in the Security Summit today called on tax professionals to increase efforts to inform clients about the federal Identity Protection PIN Opt-In Program. The program can protect against tax-related identity theft.



The Security Summit asks tax professionals for their help in spreading the word to clients that the IP PIN is now available to anyone who can verify their identity.

“An Identity Protection PIN prevents someone else from filing a tax return using your Social Security number,” said Chuck Rettig, IRS commissioner. “We’ve now made the IP PIN available to anyone who can verify their identity. This is a free way for taxpayers to protect themselves, but we need the help of tax professionals to make sure more people know about it.”

“We all have a role to play in helping to prevent identity theft -- including refund-related identity theft,” said Rhode Island Tax Administrator Neena Savage.

More information for clients

As noted above, the federal Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) is a six-digit number that prevents someone else from filing a federal tax return using your Social Security number. The IP PIN is known only to you and the IRS and helps the IRS verify your identity when you file your electronic or paper tax return.

For security reasons, tax professionals cannot obtain an IP PIN on behalf of clients. Taxpayers must obtain their own IP PIN. To get the ball rolling, tax professionals can share with their clients a publication and posters that provide details about the program.



IRS Publication 5367 (“Identity Protection PIN Opt-In Program for Taxpayers”), in English and Spanish, explains what the program is, how it works, and how it can help your clients. To view or download a copy of the publication: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5367es.pdf>.

Posters are also available. For the English version: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5477.pdf>. For the Spanish version: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5477sp.pdf>.

Security Summit partners urge taxpayers and tax professionals to protect the IP PIN from identity thieves. Taxpayers should share their IP PIN only with their trusted tax preparation provider. Tax professionals should never store clients' IP PINs on computer systems. Also, the IRS will never call, email, or text taxpayers or tax preparers to request the IP PIN.

Tax professionals who experience a data theft can assist clients by urging them to quickly obtain an IP PIN. Even if a thief already has filed a fraudulent return, an IP PIN would still offer protections for later years and prevent taxpayers from being repeat victims of tax-related identity theft.

Following are a few things taxpayers should know about the IP PIN:

- It's a six-digit number known only to the taxpayer and the IRS.
- The opt-in program is voluntary.
- The IP PIN should be entered onto the electronic tax return when prompted by the software product or onto a paper return next to the signature line.
- The IP PIN is valid for one calendar year; taxpayers must obtain a new IP PIN each year.
- Only dependents who can verify their identities may obtain an IP PIN.
- IP PIN users should never share their number with anyone but the IRS and their trusted tax preparation provider. The IRS will never call, email, or text a request for the IP PIN.



Currently, taxpayers may obtain an IP PIN for 2021, which should be used when filing any federal tax returns during the year. New IP PINs will be available starting in January 2022.

The IP PIN is available from the IRS, not from the Rhode Island Division of Taxation. To obtain an IP PIN, the best option is to use the IRS's "Get an IP PIN" online tool" <https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin>

About this announcement

The Security Summit partners are conducting the 2021 "Protect Your Clients; Protect Yourself" summer campaign aimed at tax professionals. This year's theme is "Boost Security Immunity: Fighting Against Identity Theft". It's intended to urge tax professionals to step up their efforts to protect client data amid the pandemic and its aftermath. For more information: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/security-summit>.

The Rhode Island Division of Taxation is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. business days. To learn more, see the agency's website: www.tax.ri.gov.
