# ATX™ Learning Portal

## **Securing your PTIN**

The IRS has a few broad guidelines for paid tax preparers. They must 1) use professional tax software that allows them to sign the return as a paid preparer and 2) e-file the return as an Electronic Return Originator (ERO). To be a paid preparer they must register to be assigned a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN).

#### **Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN)**

One of the first things that a professional tax preparer will need, a PTIN is required for anyone who is paid to prepare – or assist – in preparing federal tax returns. To apply for your PTIN online, you must:

- Create a PTIN account
- Apply for your PTIN
- Pay Your Fee
- Get Your PTIN

Most first-time PTIN applicants can obtain a PTIN online in about 15 minutes. The current fee is \$30.75 and this fee is non-refundable.

All PTIN correspondence is delivered through secure online messaging in your PTIN account.

If you prefer to apply or renew your PTIN by paper, you can do so using Form W-12, IRS Paid Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) Application. This process can take 4 – 6 weeks. For additional information review the instructions for this form.

#### Create PTIN Account

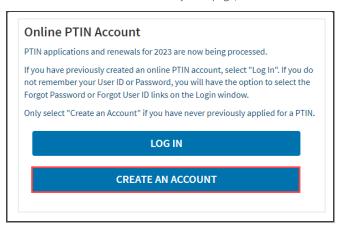
To create a PTIN account:

- 1. Go to: https://www.irs.gov/tax-professionals
- $\textbf{2.} \quad \textbf{Click the PTIN System Renew or Register} \ \textbf{button}.$

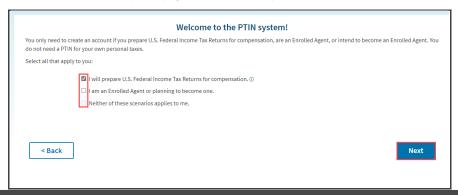




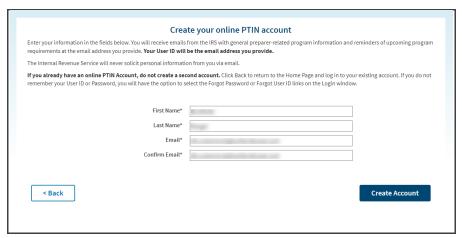
3. From the IRS Tax Professional PTIN System page, click **CREATE AN ACCOUNT**.



**4.** On the Welcome to PTIN System page, select all that apply and click **Next**.



5. On the Create your online PTIN account page, enter your first name, last name, and email address. You will have to rekey your email address for confirmation, and then click **Create Account**.



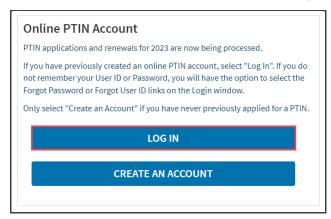
**6.** Once the IRS creates your PTIN account you will see a confirmation message on screen along with your name and User ID, which happens to be the same as the email you used.



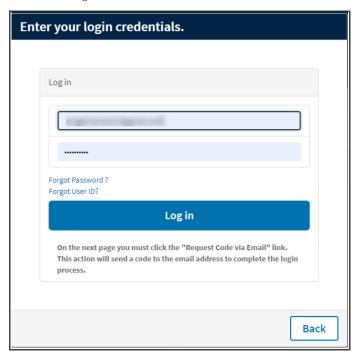
7. You will receive an email that contains a temporary password and further instructions. Click **Done**.



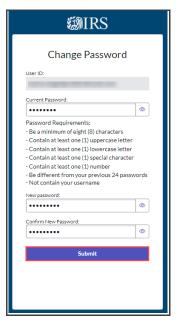
**8.** You are then redirected to back to the Online PTIN Account page, Click **Login**.



**9.** Enter your login credentials. This is your email address and the temporary password you received via email. Click Login.



**10.** You will then be prompted to change your password. Enter your current password, and then enter and rekey your new password. Click **Submit**.



### **Apply for your PTIN**

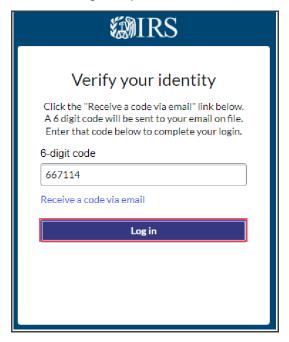
Once you create your online PTIN account, you can move forward with your PTIN Application.

To do so:

- 1. From the Online PTIN Account page, enter your email address and password, and click Login.
- 2. On the Verify your identity page, click the Receive a code via email link.



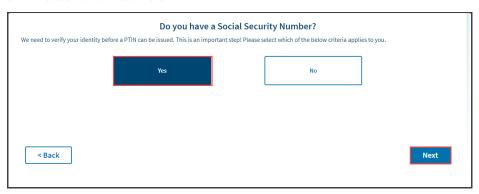
3. Retrieve the 6-digit code you received via email, enter in the code field, and click Log in.



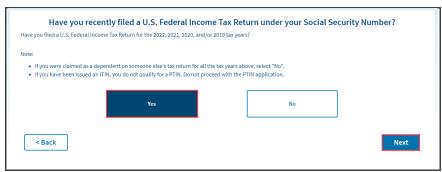
4. Click the **Register for a PTIN** button.



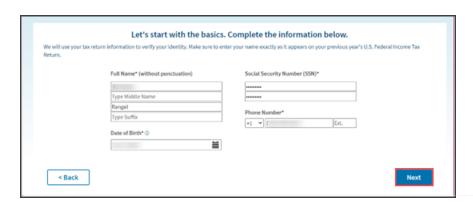
5. The registration process begins with a series of questions. First you are asked to verify that you have a Social Security Number. Remember that having an SSN is one of the few requirements for registering for a PTIN. Select Yes and click Next.



**6.** The next question is asking if you have filed a federal tax return using this Social Security number. For the purpose of this lesson, select **Yes**, and click **Next**.

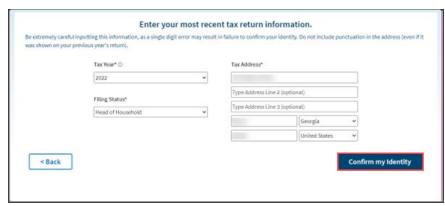


7. Next, complete your personal information, and click Next.



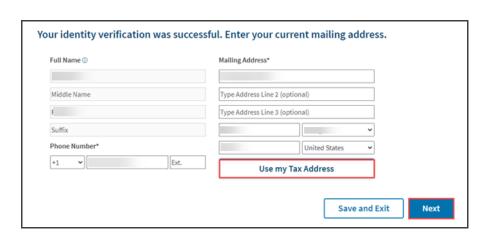
**Commented [ED1]:** Does this next button need a red box around it like others above

8. To help confirm your identity, enter your most recent tax return information. Be careful inputting this information, as a single digit error may result in failure to confirm your identity. Do not include punctuation in the address. Once you enter and verify that the information is correct, click the **Confirm my Identity** button.

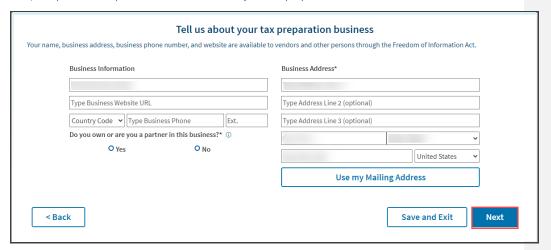


Commented [ED2]: Again, the red around the box

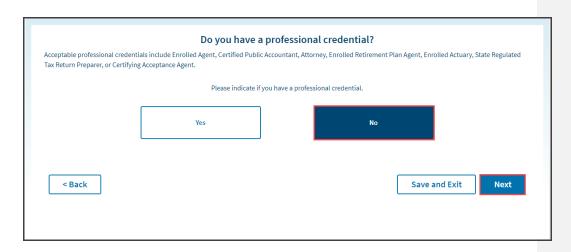
**9.** Assuming your identity verification was successful, you will be asked to enter your current mailing address. If the current address is the same as your tax return address, click the button Use my Tax Address, and then click Next.



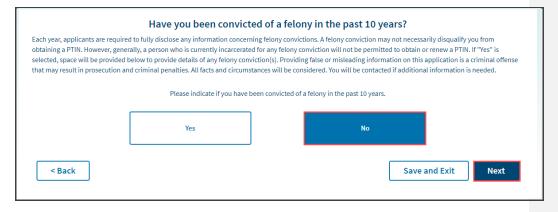
10. Next, complete the requested information about your tax preparation business and click Next.



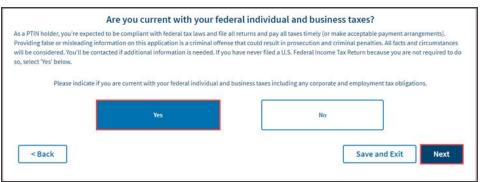
**11.** Next question is Do you have a professional credential. This includes being an Enrolled Agent, Certified Public Accountant, Attorney, Enrolled Retirement Plan Agent, Enrolled Actuary, State Regulated Tax Return Preparer, or Certifying Acceptance Agent. Select the appropriate response and click Next.



**12.** Next answer the question: Have you been convicted of a felony in the past 10 years. If you answer Yes, you will be provided with space to provide details of any felony convictions. For the purpose of this lesson, select **NO**, and click **Next**.



**13.** Next, answer if you are current with your federal individual and business taxes . Select your response and click Next.

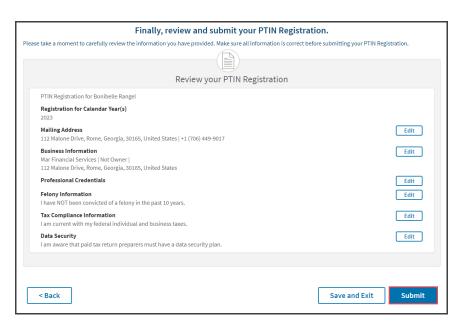


**14.** Next you are asked to verify that you understand your data security responsibilities. Select the checkbox to confirm that you are aware and click Next.

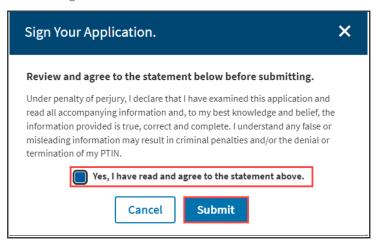


**15.** Now you have the opportunity to review the data you have provided and edit responses as needed. Once you have reviewed this information, click Submit.

Commented [ED3]: red around Yes box



16. Review and agree to the statement on screen and then click Submit.



- 17. Displayed you will see confirmation message stating that your PTIN application has been successfully submitted.
- 18. The next step in the process is to Submit payment for your PTIN. Do one of the following:
  - Pay Later Your application will not be processed at this time.
  - Pay Now Directs you to the online payment system.

In order for your application to be processed and a PTIN issued, you must pay the fee below. Your fee must be paid using the online payment system.	
Once the payment is made, and the IRS processes your PTIN application, your PTIN will be issued.	