



Need someone to prepare your tax return?

There are various types of tax return preparers, including certified public accountants, enrolled agents, attorneys, and many others who don't have a professional credential. You expect your preparer to be skilled in tax preparation and to accurately file your income tax return. You trust him or her with your most personal information. They know about your marriage, your income, your children and your social security numbers – the details of your financial life.

Most tax return preparers provide outstanding and professional tax service. However, each year, some taxpayers are hurt financially because they choose the wrong tax return preparer. Be sure to check our [tips for choosing a tax preparer](#) and how to [avoid unethical "ghost" return preparers](#).

**How to Use the
Tax Return
Preparer
Directory Video**

What kind of tax preparer do I need?

Anyone can be a paid tax return preparer as long as they have an IRS Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). However, tax return preparers have differing levels of skills, education and expertise.

Learn about tax preparer [credentials and qualifications](#). Watch [Choose a Tax Preparer Wisely](#) [↗](#). Get information on the [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\)](#) program.

How can I check a tax preparer's credentials?

Our [Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications](#) [↗](#) can help you find preparers in your area who currently hold professional credentials recognized by the IRS, or who hold an Annual Filing Season Program Record of Completion. You can also check the [professional organizations](#) many tax preparers belong to.

What if I have a complaint about a tax preparer?

Tax return preparer fraud is among the list of common tax scams.

The IRS provides [tips on avoiding unscrupulous tax preparers](#) and is committed to investigating paid tax return preparers who act improperly.

[Make a complaint](#) if you have been financially impacted by a tax return preparer's misconduct or improper tax preparation practices.

Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 25-Aug-2022