

Date of Approval: February 10, 2021
Social Media PCLIA ID Number: 5761

SITE DESCRIPTION

The full name and acronym for the Social Media site, Third Party Website, or Application.

IRS Return Preparer Office Facebook Page, None

Note: the remaining questions will be simplified to Social Media site (vs. Third Party Website or Application)

Is this a new Social Media site?

No

Is there a PCLIA for this Social Media site?

No

What type of Social Media site will be used?

Facebook

GENERAL BUSINESS PURPOSE

What is the specific business purpose of the IRS use of this Social Media site? Provide a clear, concise description of the Social Media site, the reason for the site, and the benefits to the IRS mission.

The purpose of the Return Preparer Office (RPO) Facebook page is to provide an opportunity to directly communicate with and engage the more than 45,000 return preparers who have identified themselves as Facebook users. Through group discussions, wall posts, videos and notes, RPO can promote key initiatives; communicate requirements, processes and events; gauge sentiment and address concerns; determine areas of improvement and provide clarity and answer questions.

Is the Social Media site operational?

Yes

What was the operational date?

1/14/2010

PII DETAILS

Will Personally Identifiable Information (PII) become available to the IRS through public use of this Social Media site?

Yes

What PII is likely to become available?

Name
Location
Picture
Contact Information
Employer
Education
Other

Please explain:

They may also provide information on their activities and interests. Facebook "friends" may be viewable to other "friends," including all the PII information they provide about themselves, depending on how the user sets up his or her Facebook account.

Will the public be able to respond or interact with comments or questions?

Yes

How?

The intent of the page is to engage with tax professionals and to allow them to comment upon our actions. However, it is not our intent to use this page as a substitute for official feedback or comments made through www.irs.gov. Each proposed regulation contains a comment email address.

Will the public need to identify their email address or other address if they request service?

No

ABOUT THE SOCIAL MEDIA SITE

Does the IRS intend or expect to use the PII?

No

Will the IRS share the PII?

No

SYSTEM OF RECORDS NOTICE

Is there a System of Records Notice(s) or 'SORN(s)', that address(es) the PII records in this site?

Yes

List the SORN number(s) and the complete name(s) of the SORN

IRS 00.001 Correspondence Files and Correspondence Control Files

IRS 10.004 Stakeholder Relationship Management and Subject Files

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Official Use Only

RECORDS SCHEDULE

Will your site interact with the public?

Yes

What are the plans to maintain the PII collected, used, or stored?

The Return Preparer Office will not solicit, accept or maintain any PII on the Return Preparer Office Facebook page other than the Facebook user name of persons who post comments on the page. Any comments containing PII other than Facebook user name are removed from the page.

Cite the authority to retain/dispose of the PII.

RCS 17, item 34 for IRS Interactive Networking Site Use Records

Describe where the PII data will be stored, who will have access to it and the purpose.

Daily screenshots of the Return Preparer Office Facebook pages and its content will be retained for a period of six months after the cut-off date. Comments being deleted will be first copied and pasted into a Word document for archival and FOIA purposes. Those documents will be retained in chronological order. The Word document is saved, and it is deleted after six months.

How will the PII be eliminated at the end of the retention period?

Electronic records will be deleted.

TRACKING

Does this Social Media site use any means to track visitors' activities on the Internet?

Yes

Indicate how:

Session Cookies

Statue authority & provide reason.

According to the Facebook Data Use Policy, "We use these technologies to do things like make Facebook easier or faster to use; enable features and store information about you (including on your device or in your browser cache) and your use of Facebook; deliver, understand and improve advertising; monitor and understand the use of our products and services; and, protect you, others and Facebook."

PRIVACY POLICY

Has the IRS Business Owner examined the Third Party's Privacy Policy and evaluated risks?

Yes

Is the Social Media site appropriate for IRS use?

Yes

Will the IRS Business Owner monitor any changes to the Third Party's Privacy Policy and periodically assess the risks involved?

Yes

Can the IRS Business Owner assure that if a link is posted that leads to an external Third Party website or any other external location that is not an official government domain, the agency will provide a pop-up alert to the visitor explaining that they are being directed to another website that may have different Privacy Policies?

Yes

If the IRS Business Owner incorporates or embeds a third-party application on its website or any other official government domain; will the IRS Business Owner take the necessary steps to disclose the Third Party's involvement and describe the IRS Privacy Requirements in its Privacy Policy notice, as specified by OMB M-10-23?

Yes

DATA SECURITY

How will the IRS secure the PII that is used, maintained, or provided? (Be specific to ensure the security controls meet Cyber Security and other federal security authorities.)

All Facebook sites are public, including those maintained by government agencies. Facebook users choose to take part in discussions and freely provide information. The IRS Return Preparer Office will use periodic message posts to notify public users that they must not provide identifying information about anyone else other than themselves, and the consequences if they do.

Are there any privacy risks that may exist or be inherent in a social networking environment?

Yes

List the risks:

A return preparer, or any public member of the Facebook site, could deliberately or inadvertently disclose taxpayer information.

What are the plans to mitigate the risks?

The Return Preparer Office will work with the IRS Chief Counsel's office to formulate a policy to deal with anyone who discloses information about a taxpayer and publish that information for the site's users to view.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Will the IRS Business Owner follow guidance that suggests when an agency uses a Social Media site that is not a part of an official government domain; the IRS will apply appropriate branding to distinguish the agency's activities from those of nongovernmental actors. For example, to the extent practicable, the IRS Business Owner will assure that the IRS Seal or Emblem will be added to its profile page on a Social Media site to indicate that it is an official IRS agency presence?

Yes

If information is collected through the IRS use of a Social Media site, will the IRS Business Owner assure that they collect only the information "necessary for the proper performance of agency functions and which has practical utility"?

Yes

If PII is collected, will the Business Owner assure that the agency collect only the minimum necessary to accomplish a purpose required by statute, regulations, or executive order?

Yes

PRIVACY NOTICE

Does the Business Owner of this Social Media site agree to maintain an IRS approved Privacy Notice that will "stand alone" and not be combined into other background information? (Privacy Compliance & Assurance may request copies of the Terms of Service Agreements and/or the Privacy Notice.)

Yes

Can the Business Owner confirm that links to IRS.gov and the IRS.gov Privacy Policy will be placed on the front page of the website?

Yes

OTHER SITES

Are there any other Social Media sites owned or maintained by the Business Unit?

No

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Does the Social Media site maintain records describing how an individual exercises rights guaranteed by the First Amendment (including, but not limited to information regarding religious and political beliefs, freedom of speech and of the press, and freedom of assembly and petition)?

No

Will this Social Media site have the capability to identify, locate, and monitor individuals or groups of people?

No