

Information for State Departments of Motor Vehicles

Several state government motor vehicle departments are accepting IRS-issued Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITINs) as proof of identification for state driver's licenses, prompting us to issue this reminder -- ITINs are not valid for identification outside the tax system.

The Internal Revenue Service issues ITINs for the sole purpose of enabling individuals who do not qualify for Social Security numbers to meet their tax filing responsibilities. Therefore, we do not subject ITIN applicants to the same rigorous document verification standards as Social Security number or visa/passport applicants.

Although we require ITIN applicants to provide proof of identity documents, we accept these documents at face value without validating their authenticity with issuing agencies or conducting applicant background investigations. We do not require applicants to appear in person and third parties may submit applications and provide documentation on behalf of others. Also, since we issue ITINs for tax filing purposes only, we do not verify applicants' legal presence in the U.S. —the tax code classifies aliens based on their physical presence (resident or nonresident), not their legal status in this country.

Unlike Social Security numbers, ITINs do not:

- Authorize an individual to work in the U.S.;
- Endorse an individual's legal status in this country; or
- Entitle an individual to Social Security benefits or the Earned Income Tax Credit.

If your state is considering legislation to accept ITINs as proof of identity for driver's licenses, please alert your legislators to potential security risks. State-issued photo identification provides unrestricted access to most U.S. air and ground transportation systems and entry to public buildings.

If your state currently accepts ITINs as proof of identity for driver's licenses, please alert your staffs that IRS issues ITINs for tax purposes only. Please do not direct driver's license applicants to us for ITINs; we do not issue the numbers for non-tax reasons.

Thank you for your help and support. For additional information about ITINs, visit our website at [Individual Taxpayer Identification Number](#) or direct questions to [*ITINProgramOffice@irs.gov](mailto:ITINProgramOffice@irs.gov)