When an ITIN Holder Gets an SSN

The Impact to Tax Preparation

Notifying the IRS

When an ITIN holder gets an SSN, they should notify the IRS of the change and request that their ITIN be revoked and that all tax records be associated with their newly assigned SSN.

This notification can be done via an **in-person** appointment at an IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center **or in writing**. To assist the client in submitting a request in writing, see When an ITIN Holder Gets an SSN.

The process of the IRS revoking the ITIN and associating all tax records with the newly assigned SSN **can take several months**. The taxpayer should receive a "We Have Revoked Your ITIN" letter - which looks similar to the ITIN assignment notice - to confirm their ITIN was cancelled.

The taxpayer should ideally **submit this request in advance of filing their tax return** to avoid any processing delays at tax time. If the taxpayer submits a tax return under their newly assigned SSN without their ITIN having been revoked, it can cause not only a processing delay but also potential problems impacting the outcome of their tax return.

If this notification cannot be done in advance of filing their tax return, we recommend the tax return be filed as **Paper** with a cover letter - see When an ITIN Holder Gets an SSN.

When the taxpayer's Form W-2 shows a TIN other than their new SSN

Often an ITIN holder will present Form W-2 showing a taxpayer identification number (TIN) other than their ITIN. In these cases, the tax return can usually still be e-filed. When entering the W-2 information into the tax software, TaxSlayer asks the preparer to enter the "ITIN SSN," which means the number entered in the box for the employee's SSN. As long as we enter that full number, we can e-file the tax return and expect the W-2 information to be processed correctly by the IRS.

When an ITIN holder gets a newly assigned SSN, sometimes **Form W-2 still shows the previous TIN** instead of their new SSN. When the preparer enters the newly assigned SSN for the taxpayer in the Basic Info section, TaxSlayer will no longer ask for the "ITIN SSN" when entering the W-2 information. This means that **if the tax return is e-filed**, the **IRS will not be able to validate the W-2 information** since it is associated with a different TIN. This can **negatively impact** the processing of the taxpayer's **tax return**.

If the taxpayer can get the **W-2 corrected by their employer to reflect their new SSN**, the tax return **can be e-filed**. However, **if the taxpayer has not already informed the IRS of the ITIN > SSN change**, we recommend filing a **Paper** return and including the **cover letter** When an ITIN Holder Gets an SSN. Filing a tax return with a newly assigned SSN without the ITIN first being revoked can cause delays and problems when the IRS processes the tax return.

If the taxpayer **cannot get the W-2 corrected** by their employer to reflect their new SSN, it should be submitted as a **Paper** return. The preparer should include a **cover letter** notifying the IRS of the change from ITIN to SSN - see When an ITIN Holder Gets an SSN - and **also include a note in the top margin of Form 1040 explaining the mismatch** between the taxpayer's newly assigned SSN and the W-2 SSN. (If the taxpayer did not previously have an ITIN but received a W-2 with a TIN other than their newly assigned SSN, the messaging should be adjusted accordingly.)

Example:
Primary taxpayer SSN: xxx-xx-xxxx

The primary taxpayer previously had an ITIN: xxx-xx-xxxx. He recently received an SSN: xxx-xx-xxxx. He has one W-2 with a different SSN (xxx-xx-xxxx). He used this SSN to work when he had an ITIN and before he received his valid SSN during the tax year.

If the taxpayer cannot get their W-2 corrected, we still recommend the taxpayer update their SSN with their current employer to avoid issues when filing their tax return the following year.

Situation	Income Source	E-file or Paper?
The taxpayer had an ITIN and now has an SSN	Form W-2 that lists a TIN other than their newly assigned SSN	• If the taxpayer can **get the W-2 corrected** to show their valid SSN, we still **strongly recommend** the client submit a **Paper** return with a cover letter. But upon request by the client, the tax return can be e-filed. • If the taxpayer ***cannot* get the W-2 corrected** to show their valid SSN, it is a **Paper** return. Follow these instructions.
The taxpayer had an ITIN and now has an SSN	Self-employment income	• We **strongly recommend** the client submit a **Paper** return with a cover letter. But upon request by the client, the tax return can be e-filed.
The taxpayer did not previously have an ITIN and now has an SSN	Form W-2 that lists a TIN other than their newly assigned SSN	• If the taxpayer can **get the W-2 corrected** to show their valid SSN, we still **strongly recommend** the client submit a **Paper** return with a cover letter. But upon request by the client, the tax return can be e-filed.

		• If the taxpayer ***cannot* get the W-2 corrected** to show their valid SSN, it is a **Paper** return. Follow these instructions.
The taxpayer did not previously have an ITIN and now has an SSN	Self-employment income	• We **strongly recommend** the client submit a **Paper** return with a cover letter. But upon request by the client, the tax return can be e-filed.

What if the taxpayer needs to file for multiple years?

If the IRS receives a prior year tax return filed under a newly assigned SSN that was not issued by the due date of the prior year return, the IRS may disallow the following tax credits:

- Child Tax Credit
- Credit for Other Dependents
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- American Opportunity Tax Credit

Example: a taxpayer previously had an ITIN and has two dependent children eligible for the Child Tax Credit for tax year 2023. The taxpayer would have received the Child Tax Credit if she had filed on time (i.e. by 4/15/24). However, the taxpayer receives an SSN in December 2024 and decides to file her 2023 and 2024 tax returns in February 2025.

Upon receiving the 2023 tax return filed under the new SSN, the IRS may disallow the Child Tax Credit from the 2023 tax return because the taxpayer's SSN was not issued by the due date of the return for that year (4/15/24). *We have seen this happen for multiple taxpayers.*

Although taxpayers should usually stop using the ITIN and file only with their SSN upon receiving it, in situations where the taxpayer needs to file a prior year return that includes one of the previously mentioned tax credits, we recommend instead to file the prior year returns with the existing ITIN and file an extension for the current year return (using the newly assigned SSN). Once the prior years have been processed and resolved, the taxpayer may return to the tax site (possibly during the summer season) to complete the process of informing the IRS of the ITIN > SSN change and filing their current year tax return using their newly assigned SSN.

If none of the aforementioned tax credits are included on the tax return, then the newly assigned SSN can be used to file all tax years.