

ITIN Filing Starter Guide

Filing US taxes without a Social Security Number is normal and expected. An ITIN lets you file. This plain-language guide explains the basics; a licensed accountant who works with ITIN filers can walk you through your specific case.

WHAT IS AN ITIN?

A tax-processing number for people without an SSN

Who needs an ITIN

An Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) is for people who must file or are listed on a US tax return but cannot get a Social Security Number. It is only for federal tax purposes. It does not give work authorization or change your immigration status.

How to apply (the basics)

Step	Done
Complete Form W-7 (the ITIN application)	■
Attach the tax return you are filing	■
Provide proof of identity and foreign status (e.g. passport)	■
Apply by mail, through an IRS-authorized Acceptance Agent, or at an IRS center	■

Why use an Acceptance Agent or accountant

A Certifying Acceptance Agent can verify your documents so you do not have to mail your original passport. A licensed accountant who works with ITIN filers can prepare the return and the W-7 together, which is the most common way people apply.

Renewing an ITIN

ITINs can expire if they are not used on a return for several years. If yours expired, you renew it with a W-7. An accountant can check this for you.

This is general information, not immigration or legal advice. For your situation, get matched with a licensed accountant who works with ITIN and immigrant filers.

BalancedRow is a free matching service, not an accounting firm, CPA, Enrolled Agent, or tax preparer, and does not give tax, accounting, financial, or legal advice. This checklist is general and educational. Always hire a licensed accountant (a CPA or IRS Enrolled Agent), verify the credential and PTIN yourself, and never share your Social Security Number, ITIN, bank login, or tax

documents with anyone you have not verified. BalancedRow never charges you and never takes a percentage of a refund.
Free guide from BalancedRow · Get matched, free, with a licensed accountant at balancedrow.com