

Tax Refund Direct Deposit Guidelines

In an effort to combat fraud and identity theft, new IRS procedures effective January 2015 will limit the number of refunds electronically deposited into a single financial account or pre-paid debit card to **three**. **The fourth and subsequent refunds automatically will convert to a paper refund check and be mailed to the taxpayer.**

Taxpayers also will receive a notice informing them that the account has exceeded the direct deposit limits and that they will receive a paper refund check in approximately four weeks if there are no other issues with the return. Taxpayers can track their refunds at [Where's My Refund?](#)

The direct deposit limit will prevent criminals from easily obtaining multiple refunds. The limit applies to financial accounts, such as bank savings or checking accounts, and to prepaid, reloadable cards or debit cards. This limitation may affect some taxpayers, such as families in which the parent's and children's refunds are deposited into a family-held bank account. Taxpayers in this situation should make other deposit arrangements or expect to receive paper refund checks.

Why Use Direct Deposit?

- You get your refund faster by direct deposit than you do by check.
- Payment is more secure. There is no check that can get lost or stolen.
- It saves tax dollars because it costs the government less.
- It is more convenient. You don't have to make a trip to the bank to deposit your check.

If you are going to be directly depositing your tax refund this year, be mindful of these guidelines to properly ensure your funds get deposited into your accounts.

- Make sure the **routing and account number as well as your name/s** from your financial institution is the same on your tax forms.
- The account that your refund is going to **must** be in your name. Don't request a deposit of your refund to an account that isn't in your name, such as your tax return preparer's account.
- Filing jointly? Make sure **both** names on the check are listed owners on the account of your financial institution. If both names are not on the account, your refund may get kicked back. Joint refunds cannot be deposited into an individual account. The IRS is not responsible if your financial institution rejects your refund.
- The number of refunds that can be directly deposited to a single account or prepaid debit card is limited to **three** a year. The fourth and subsequent refunds automatically will convert to a paper refund check and be mailed to the taxpayer.
- You are able to deposit your refund up to three separate accounts. (See tax form Inst 1040).
- If your financial institution rejects one or two but not all of your direct deposit requests, you may get part of your refund as a paper check and part as a direct deposit.