

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to Apply Stricter Standards to Paid Tax Preparers

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More than eighty percent of American households use either a paid tax preparer or tax preparation software to help them file their taxes. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently announced that they are proposing new registration, testing, and continuing education of tax preparers for the 2010 tax year.

The IRS believes that higher standards will serve to protect taxpayers and increase compliance with tax laws. The goal of the new program is to ensure that taxpayers receive competent, ethical service from qualified professionals.

The requirements will include:

- All paid tax return preparers will have to register with the IRS to obtain a preparer tax identification number (PTIN). They will be subject to a limited tax compliance check to qualify.
- Competency tests for all paid tax return preparers who are not attorneys, certified public accountants (CPAs) or enrolled agents.
- Continuing education for all paid tax return preparers who are not attorneys, CPAs, or enrolled agents.
- The ethical rules which currently only apply to attorneys, CPAs and enrolled agents who practice before the IRS will now be required of all paid preparers.

Read more about the new requirements for paid tax preparers at [IRS Proposes New Registration, Testing and Continuing Education Requirements for Tax Return Preparers Not Already Subject to Oversight](#).

If you live in the Jacksonville, Florida or Orlando, Florida area and require assistance with tax planning, please [contact Wood, Atter & Wolf, P.A.](#) for tax planning legal counsel.