



Brooke E. Lierman
Comptroller

Andrew Schaufele
Deputy Comptroller

Tips for Tax Filing Season

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Tax filing season is here! Before you begin your 2022 income tax returns, check out these helpful tips.

When can I file my 2022 individual income tax return?

The Comptroller's Office will begin accepting and processing 2022 Maryland individual income tax returns on Monday, January 23, 2023, the same date the IRS will begin accepting and processing federal individual income tax returns. State returns submitted through the IRS's Free File program or through tax software companies will begin to be transmitted to the Comptroller on January 23.

Fraud Warnings - How to Protect Your Refund

Refund fraud is more prevalent than ever. Remain diligent in protecting your personal identifying information, including your social security number, income, and withholding amounts. Beware of scammers who call, text, or email about needing your personal information for a refund or a federal stimulus payment. The Comptroller's Office will not initiate a text, email, or call seeking this information. Also, watch the Comptroller's [website](#) and social media channels ([YouTube](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#)) for scam alerts.

Beware of email scams that may target businesses, schools, or local governments that ask for personal information of employees, such as W-2 forms. If you receive an email asking for these forms, call the person using a verified phone number and make sure it is a legitimate request. The agency will be sharing fraud prevention tips throughout the filing season.

How do I make sure my tax preparer is legitimate?

Check the Comptroller's website for [warning signs of suspicious preparers](#).

Warning signs to look for:

- You pay your preparer, but they do not sign your return.
 - Paid preparers must sign the return and have a PTIN, which is a number that starts with "P" and includes numbers. Ex. P00012345
- You never see your prepared final return or you are asked to sign a blank one.
- Your preparer promises you a certain refund amount.
- Your preparer tells you that you do not need documentation for something claimed on your return or shares documentation that is not yours that belongs to another taxpayer.
- Your preparer insists the refund go into the preparer's bank account.

Electronic Filing is Fast and Efficient!

The Comptroller's Office urges taxpayers to file electronically with direct deposit. Maryland offers free filing of state returns to all taxpayers, regardless of income, through [iFile](#) on marylandtaxes.gov. Taxpayers with an income of \$73,000 and below can use [IRS Free File](#) to file federal returns for free. Some IRS Free File offers also include state tax filing.

Electronic filing also remains the most efficient way to file Maryland business tax returns. [bFile](#) allows you to file many business tax returns online for free.

Taxpayer Assistance – Online, Phone, and Email

You can search our interactive website marylandtaxes.gov to find answers to many of your questions about Maryland taxes. If you need additional information you may contact Taxpayer Service at [410-260-7980](tel:410-260-7980) from Central Maryland or at 1-800-MD TAXES from elsewhere. Assistance is available Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Beginning February 1, 2023 through April 18, 2023 telephone assistance is extended till 6:00 p.m. **As an alternative, you can send an email to taxhelp@marylandtaxes.gov** and receive an answer in 2-3 business days.

Taxpayer Assistance – In Person

Due to continuing efforts to keep state employees and the customers they serve safe, we encourage you to schedule a virtual appointment by visiting our website and clicking on branch office locations. In-person assistance is available [by appointment](#). Limited services are provided with no scheduled appointment:

- We provide blank Maryland state tax forms and/or tax booklets.
- We answer general tax questions.
- We accept completed Maryland tax returns and/or requested documents.
- We provide additional IFTA decals to carriers in good standing and new carriers whose applications have been approved.
- We provide certified copies of previously filed Maryland tax returns for individuals with identification.