

What's New

Beginning October 16, 2007, electronic return originators (EROs) can sign the form by rubber stamp, mechanical device, or computer program. See Notice 2007-79 for more information.

Purpose of Form

Form 8879 is the declaration document and signature authorization for an e-filed return filed by an electronic return originator (ERO). Complete Form 8879 when the Practitioner PIN method is used or when the taxpayer authorizes the ERO to enter or generate the taxpayer's personal identification number (PIN) on his or her e-filed individual income tax return.



Do not send this form to the IRS. The ERO must retain Form 8879.

When and How To Complete

Use this chart to determine when and how to complete Form 8879.

IF the ERO is . . .	THEN . . .
Not using the Practitioner PIN method and the taxpayer enters his or her own PIN	Do not complete Form 8879.
Using the Practitioner PIN method and is authorized to enter or generate the taxpayer's PIN	Complete Form 8879, Parts I, II, and III.
Using the Practitioner PIN method and the taxpayer enters his or her own PIN	Complete Form 8879, Parts I, II, and III.
Not using the Practitioner PIN method and is authorized to enter or generate the taxpayer's PIN	Complete Form 8879, Parts I and II.

ERO Responsibilities

The ERO will:

1. Enter the name(s) and social security number(s) of the taxpayer(s) at the top of the form.
2. Complete Part I using the amounts (zeros may be entered when appropriate) from the taxpayer's 2007 tax return. Form 1040-SS filers leave lines 1 through 3 and line 5 blank.
3. Enter or generate, if authorized by the taxpayer, the taxpayer's PIN and enter it in the boxes provided in Part II.
4. Enter on the authorization line in Part II the ERO firm name (not the name of the individual preparing the return) if the ERO is authorized to enter the taxpayer's PIN.
5. After completing (1) through (4), give the taxpayer Form 8879 for completion and review. This can be done in person or by using the U.S. mail, a private delivery service, email, or an Internet website.
6. Enter the 14-digit Declaration Control Number (DCN) assigned to the tax return, after the taxpayer completes Part II. See Part I of Pub. 1346, Electronic Return File Specifications and Record Layouts for Individual Income Tax Returns. Pub. 1346 is available on the Internet at www.irs.gov.



You must receive the completed and signed Form 8879 from the taxpayer before the electronic return is transmitted (or released for transmission).

Taxpayer Responsibilities

Taxpayers have the following responsibilities: (a) to verify the accuracy of the prepared income tax return, including direct deposit information, (b) to check the appropriate box in Part II to authorize the ERO to enter or generate their PIN or to do it themselves, (c) to indicate or verify their PIN when authorizing the ERO to enter or generate it (the PIN must be five numbers other than all zeros), (d) to sign and date Form 8879, and (e) to return the completed Form 8879 to the ERO by hand delivery, U.S. mail, private delivery service, or fax. Your return will not be transmitted to the IRS until the ERO receives your signed Form 8879.

Refund information. You can check on the status of your 2007 refund if it has been at least 3 weeks from the date your return was filed. To check the status of your 2007 refund, do one of the following.

- Go to www.irs.gov and click on "Where's My Refund."
- Call 1-800-829-4477 for automated refund information and follow the recorded instructions.
- Call 1-800-829-1954.

Important Notes for EROs

- Do not send Form 8879 to the IRS unless requested to do so. Retain the completed Form 8879 for 3 years from the return due date or IRS received date, whichever is later. Form 8879 may be retained electronically in accordance with the recordkeeping guidelines in Rev. Proc. 97-22, which is on page 9 of Internal Revenue Bulletin 1997-13 at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-irbs/irb97-13.pdf.
- You should confirm the identity of the taxpayer(s). For additional guidance, see Pub. 1345, Handbook for Authorized IRS e-file Providers of Individual Income Tax Returns.
- Complete Part III only if you are filing the return using the Practitioner PIN method. You are not required to enter the taxpayer's date of birth, prior year adjusted gross income, or PIN in the Authentication Record of the electronically filed return.
- If you are not using the Practitioner PIN method, enter the taxpayer(s) date of birth and either the adjusted gross income or the PIN, or both, from the taxpayer's prior year originally filed return in the Authentication Record of the taxpayer's electronically filed return. **Do not** use an amount from an amended return or a math error correction made by the IRS.
- Enter the taxpayer's PIN(s) on the input screen only if the taxpayer has authorized you to do so. If married filing jointly, it is acceptable for one spouse to authorize you to enter his or her PIN, and for the other spouse to enter his or her own PIN. It is not acceptable for a taxpayer to select or enter the PIN of an absent spouse.

- Taxpayers must use a PIN to sign their e-filed individual income tax return transmitted by an ERO. Beginning in 2008, Form 8453, U.S. Individual Income Tax Transmittal for an e-file Return, is only used for transmitting documents to the IRS that cannot be electronically filed. Form 8453 cannot be used as a signature document.

- Provide the taxpayer with a copy of the signed Form 8879 for his or her records upon request.
- Provide the taxpayer with a corrected copy of Form 8879 if changes are made to the return (for example, based on taxpayer review).
- For more information, see Pub. 1345 and Pub. 1345A, Filing Season Supplement for Authorized IRS e-file Providers. Also, go to www.irs.gov/efile and select e-file For Tax Professionals.

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.

We ask for this information to carry out the Internal Revenue laws of the United States. Section 6061(a) of the Internal Revenue Code requires taxpayers to sign their tax returns. Section 6061(b) permits the IRS to accept electronic signatures under certain circumstances. Section 6109 requires you to provide your social security number. This form is to permit you to use a personal identification number (PIN) as your signature which will be your electronic signature for your individual income tax return, and for you to authorize an electronic return originator (ERO) to enter or generate the PIN on your behalf. You are not required to authorize your ERO to enter your PIN on your behalf; you may personally enter your PIN at the time of transmission. Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for use in civil and criminal litigation, and to cities, states, and the District of Columbia for use in administering their tax laws. We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism. Providing false or fraudulent information may subject you to penalties.

You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by Internal Revenue Code section 6103.

The average time and expenses required to complete and file this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. For the estimated averages, see the instructions for your income tax return.

If you have suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. See the instructions for your income tax return.