

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE OPENS INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX SEASON FOR ELECTRONIC FILING

The Arizona Department of Revenue announces the start of the 2016 electronic tax filing season the week of January 19, 2016. Improving the customer experience is the a major objective of the Department, and the items below are intended to help taxpayers more easily and securely file income taxes during the 2016 tax season.

Electronic Filing and Direct Deposit

Choosing electronic filing and direct deposit is the most secure way to get your refund. Last year, over 2.5 million Arizona taxpayers used electronic software to file their taxes. Visit our website to see the list of software providers that are certified to submit electronically-filed returns with the department.

Direct deposit is an easy and convenient way to get your refund. You can put your banking information on your tax return and get your refund deposited into your bank account and not have to worry about receiving your refund check in the mail. Direct deposit is available to you whether you file your return electronically or by mail.

Arizona also offers fillable forms that are online versions of tax forms designed for taxpayers who prefer to prepare their own returns. Arizona forms and instructions are available to print at www.azdor.gov.

Free File Alliance

If your income is \$62,000 or less, the Arizona Free Alliance program may be for you. Arizona Free File Alliance allows taxpayers to choose from multiple free file offerings and directs them to a private company's website where they can use the free service to prepare and file their returns electronically. Free File brand-name software does the work for you with free tax preparation and free e-filing. To take advantage of this program you must start by using the link <http://www.azdor.gov/EServices/Individuals.aspx> on the Arizona Department of Revenue website.

Fraud Prevention

Due to the constant threat of tax fraud and refund theft, the Arizona Department of Revenue is taking additional fraud prevention measures this filing season to ensure tax refunds are issued to the correct individuals. The Department takes protecting your personal information and your tax refund very seriously.

Since 2009, the Department's Criminal Investigations Unit has stopped more than \$200 million in fraudulent refunds. Visit our website to learn more about identity theft, www.azdor.gov/IdentityTheft.aspx.

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