

Federated Phone Facts

February 2008 Insert



SECURITY



Why Does Federated Telephone Need My Social Security Number?

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to provide your correct Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), Social Security Number for individuals or Federal Tax ID number for businesses, to persons who must file information returns with the IRS to report interest dividends and certain other income paid to you.

As a Cooperative, Federated Telephone must complete the Form 1099 to the IRS for members receiving capital credits and/or dividends per IRS requirements. The IRS uses these numbers for identification purposes and to help verify the accuracy of your tax return.

You must provide your TIN whether or not you are required to file a tax return. If you refuse to provide us with your taxpayer identification number (TIN), you could be subject to the following:

1. Backup withholding to the IRS in the amount of 28% of your refund.
2. Additional penalties from the IRS in the amount of \$50.00 for each refusal to provide a TIN.
3. Willfully falsifying your TIN may result in an IRS penalty of \$500.00 or more.

Federated Telephone does not share your TIN with any other individual or entity except the IRS.

If you have already returned your Password/Authorized Account Representative form without providing your TIN, please use the following form and return to Federated's office as soon as possible:

Name on Account: _____ Tele. # _____

Taxpayer Identification #: _____ (SS# for Individuals - Federal Tax Id for Businesses)



Stay Safe with STRONG Passwords

Passwords are one of the oldest and most common methods of security. It keeps authorized users in and unauthorized ones out. To help keep your system and online accounts secure, you should make sure you have a strong password. Use strong passwords that combine upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. An effective and easy way to do this is to think of a word that is at least 8 characters long like "elephant". Then think of alternative numbers and symbols to spell out that word, so that "elephant" will then be encrypted as something like "313ph@nt", which is much more secure.

Here are a few DO's and DONT's of setting strong passwords:

DO....

1. Do make passwords at least 8 characters.
2. Do use numbers and symbols, and not just at the end.

DON'T....

1. Don't use plain dictionary words.
2. Don't use personal information such as a spouse's name or birthday.
3. Don't use the most common password, "Password", which is obvious and one to avoid.
4. Don't give your password to anyone and remember to keep them in a safe place.