

Paid Family and Medical Leave latest news

Two specific pieces of information you will want to pay close attention to:

* The first contribution for PFML is due on January 31, 2020 and
* Businesses will report contributions in Box 14 (Other) for Form W-2 and Box 16 (State tax withheld) for Form 1099-MISC. The contribution line for both should read MAPFML.

We continually update the [PFML information page](file:///\\DOR-BOS3\GROUPS\atc%20exec\Communications%20Office\DOR%20NEWS\How%20should%20businesses%20report%20year-end%20PFML%20contributions%20on%20IRS%20Forms%20W-2%20and%201099-MISC%3f), be sure to visit this often. A screenshot with further clarification on where to insert information on the W-2 and 1099-MISC was recently added, video tutorials are available and an extensive list of FAQs are updated as information is known.

Submit a Power of Attorney (POA) through MassTaxConnect

New! You can now upload a completed and signed [Form-2848](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/07/24/dor-misc-form-m-2848.pdf?_ga=2.39750435.1284568584.1573586083-1273691387.1558367997) (PDF) through MassTaxConnect. That adds to the options already available for getting a POA to DOR including submitting it to a specific person you are working with, like a collector or auditor, or sending to us by fax at 617-660-3995. Allow a couple of business days for the POA to get connected to the taxpayer’s account. Remember that unless DOR knows the taxpayer, either because s/he is registered with DOR or has filed a tax return in Massachusetts, it will not be possible to attach the POA to an account.

Just a quick security reminder - we strongly recommend that a taxpayer be encouraged to choose their username and password *and* add that information to MassTaxConnect to control access to their confidential information. Username and password are very important to a taxpayer’s security and should be closely guarded. You can always find more [information on POAs](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/power-of-attorney-poa-and-third-party-authorization) on the website.

60-day E-File shutdown beginning November 16

As you may remember last year, the IRS shuts down MeF for a maintenance period in the fall. We wanted to alert you that the maintenance period for this year will take place from November 16 through mid-January. When the IRS shuts down the electronic system, no forms can be filed electronically, either state or Federal. They can be filed on paper during this interim period or electronically when the IRS reopens.

Reduce the chances for fraud during tax season - by being proactive

Fraudsters don’t rest. We have too many examples of their handiwork. What we can do is take some steps toward prevention. DOR has an [opt-in program](https://www.mass.gov/news/new-fraud-prevention-program) for taxpayers to request that a refund not be issued in their name unless they confirm that they filed the return. It’s an online confirmation that’s done by answering a few questions. Sign up now. Thieves hope to beat legitimate taxpayers by filing early. Stay ahead of them by learning how to [protect yourself against tax identity theft](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/protect-yourself-against-tax-identity-theft).

Contact Center winter hours

Just a note that the Contact Center has adopted winter hours of 8:30 - 4:00 (from 8:30 - 4:30) which will remain in effect until just before tax filing season begins.

You can find previous [DOR News](https://www.mass.gov/lists/dor-news) on the DOR website.

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