

What makes a Licensed CPA in Illinois different from a Registered Tax Return Preparer?



# The value of a CPA really **adds up.**

Get the facts and make an informed decision **when choosing a tax professional.**

	Illinois Licensed CPA	Registered Tax Return Preparer
<b>Education</b>	College Graduate 150 Hours Required to Sit for the CPA Exam	College Degree NOT Required (Must Be at Least 18 Years of Age and Have a GED)
<b>Assessment of Knowledge</b>	Must Pass a Rigorous CPA Exam	Must Pass an IRS Competency Test
<b>Licensing</b>	Must be Licensed by the State Regulatory Body	None
<b>Licensing Updates</b>	License Reviewed and Renewed Every Three Years by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation	No Review by the State
<b>PTIN Requirement</b>	Must Have PTIN	Must Have PTIN
<b>Continuing Education</b>	120 Hours of Required Education Every Three Years (Including 4 Hours of Ethics)	15 Hours of Required Education Per Year
<b>Professional Standards</b>	Subject to CPA Code of Professional Conduct and IRS Standards	Must Adhere to IRS Ethics Standards
<b>Ethics Oversight</b>	Subject to State Ethics Oversight and Enforcement	IRS Oversight
<b>Handling IRS Matters</b>	Unlimited Ability to Represent Tax Payers Before the IRS	Can't Represent Tax Payers Before the IRS Beyond Returns Prepared and Signed
<b>Relationship</b>	Generally a Long Term Trusted Advisor, Beyond Preparing and Annual Tax Return	Might be Hired Just to Complete the Tax Return for a Particular Year
<b>Quality Control</b>	Required System of Quality Control in Place in Most Firms	No Requirement for Quality Control

Choose the credential you can count on. | Choose a CPA.

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Enhancing the value of  
**the CPA profession.**