

Media Style Guide: Referring to Enrolled Agents

To ensure accurate reporting, journalists are encouraged to use the following guidance when referencing Enrolled Agents.

First Reference: Spell out the full credential on first mention:

Enrolled Agent (EA)

Example:

“Tammy Washington, an Enrolled Agent (EA), advises small business owners on tax compliance.”

Subsequent References: Use **EA** after the first full reference.

Example:

“Washington, an EA, represents taxpayers before the IRS.”

Credential Placement

Enrolled Agents may list their credential after their name:

Tammy Washington, EA

Do not use periods in the abbreviation.

Correct: EA

Incorrect: E.A.

Capitalization

Capitalize **Enrolled Agent** when referring to the federally recognized credential.

Accurate Description

Enrolled Agents are federally licensed tax professionals authorized to represent taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service. They specialize exclusively in taxation and have unlimited representation rights before the IRS.

Suggested descriptive phrases:

- “federally licensed tax professional”



- “tax expert licensed by the IRS”
- “federally authorized tax practitioner”

What to Avoid

- **Do not refer to Enrolled Agents as “IRS agents”** (which implies employment by the IRS).
- **Do not identify an EA as a CPA** unless they separately hold that credential.
- **Do not omit Enrolled Agents** when listing professionals authorized to represent taxpayers before the IRS (attorneys, CPAs, and Enrolled Agents).

Suggested Boilerplate for Media Use

“Enrolled Agents (EAs) are federally licensed tax professionals specializing in taxation and authorized to represent taxpayers before the IRS.”