

Which Filing Status is Right for You?



Single



- ▶ Single (Not Married)
- ▶ No dependents
- ▶ Your standard deduction is \$12,000

Head of Household



- ▶ Single (Not Married)
- ▶ Provided over 50% of household expenses
- ▶ Have a qualifying dependent (can be a child or parent)

- This status allows a number of the same deductions and credits as Married Filing Jointly.
- Your standard deduction also increases from **\$12,000** (single) to **\$18,000**.

Married Filing Jointly



- ▶ Married (by December 31)

- By filing jointly, you may qualify for deductions and credits not available to other filing statuses.
- Your standard deduction doubles to **\$24,000**.

Married Filing Separately



- ▶ Married (by December 31)

- Most couples don't benefit from filing Married Filing Separately, but there are certain circumstances where filing separately might make sense, such as:
 - You and your spouse are separated and/or divorcing and no longer wish to file jointly.
 - You want to distance yourself from your spouse's risky and potentially unethical approach to filing taxes.
 - You want to protect your refund against seizure for back taxes or child support owed by your spouse.

Qualifying Widow(er)



- ▶ Did not remarry
- ▶ Provided over 50% of household expenses
- ▶ Home is principal home for the qualifying child
- ▶ Claim exemption for the qualifying child
- ▶ Qualified to file Married Filing Jointly with your spouse in the year your spouse died

- You're eligible for the same standard deduction as Married Filing Jointly - **\$24,000**.