

## What Tax Deductions Can You Legally Claim?

For many, especially those who are non-accountants and non-tax attorneys, tax time and understanding our deductions is a tall order. We ask ourselves if we should take the standard or itemized deductions. Let's try to explain what the common deductions are, how these are defined, how to identify if you qualify and how to take advantage of these. When the water gets murky, you can always refer to an accountant for more specific IRS assistance.

Tax deductions are useful in reducing your total taxable income as they are expenses subtracted from your gross income. Tax deductions are incurred by a taxpayer from a variety of reasons and purposes.

Standardized and Itemized deductions are the two types of tax deductions. Standard deductions, which are dependent on a person's civil status: single, married, head of household, are fixed amounts subtracted from the gross income. This article will, on the other hand, emphasize on itemized deduction, which is a corresponding amount for certain pre-determined expenses. When in doubt as to which type of deduction you are eligible for, IRS and private assistance are always available.

You can also take advantage of tax credits, which can be obtained from a variety of reasons like having children, adopting children, paying college tuition, earned income tax credit and energy efficiency. Unlike tax deductions, these are taken from your total taxable income. Guidelines in checking for your eligibility to some tax credits can be found in the tax forms and IRS site.

Here are a few of the most common tax deductions that we can avail of:

- \* Professional and business-related association fees
- \* Job-hunting costs
- \* Job agency fees
- \* Professional books and magazines
- \* Union fees
- \* Business attire and uniforms
- \* Expenses for the house and office
- \* Alimony and other legal fees to collect taxable income
- \* Tax preparation and advice charges
- \* Moving to a new job expenses
- \* Fees for IRS set-up and administration
- \* Some legal fees
- \* Charitable donations
- \* Business liability costs and insurance premiums
- \* Tuition fees for classes taken to perform better in your job

To avoid overpayment, it is important that you look for IRS assistance when calculating your taxes. If you want to do it on your own, make sure that you carefully gloss over the IRS booklet, go online for more data, contact the IRS, or use the online tax preparation service as these can help you in your itemization.

There are a number of options in knowing if you qualify for these deductions. Among these methods is using the instruction booklet. Also, the online tax preparation service guides you as you continue with the process. Obviously, an expert would prove to be of utmost assistance in your claims.

Claiming for your tax deductions and tax credits are lawful ways of reducing taxes and increasing refund. Many taxpayers actually pay more than they should, thus it is imperative that you have all the necessary information in computing for your taxes. IRS help, professional opinion and booklet guidelines are some of the forms of assistance available.

Darrin T. Mish is a Nationally recognized Attorney whose practice focuses on representing clients across the United States with IRS Problems. He is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbel and is a member of the American Society of IRS Problem Solvers and the Tax Freedom Institute. He has been honored by a listing in Martindale-Hubbel's Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers. His passion is providing IRS help to taxpayers with both individual and payroll tax problems. He also spends a great deal of time traveling the nation providing training to attorneys, CPAs and Enrolled Agents on how to handle their toughest cases with the IRS. If you would like more information about his services please visit <http://getirshelp.com>.