

Married Couples and Misconceptions about their Taxes

Word is circulating that a large percentage of people in the United States actually pay more taxes than they are required to. Many people disagree with this scenario because this is like throwing away your hard-earned money. Good thing that any taxpayer is given full control to avoid being trapped in this situation. Similar to many other facets in life, it's best to have a sound offensive plan. The more money you will save and the better advantage you will have if you're more informed about your rights as a tax payer.

As individual taxpayers, people have a clear idea of their tax requirements and benefits. But when they acquire a 'married status,' people overlook the benefits and requisites that they are qualified for. More often than not, they do not take the time to learn about these needed data, more so, they hold [misconceptions](#) that they have obtained from people who also didn't know the real score.

Married individuals suppose that they should only pay for half the taxes due in their joint income tax return. Although this makes sense, the reverse is true in this situation. Once you have filed a joint income tax return, you are bound by the stipulations in that contract. That contract includes joint and several legal responsibilities for you and your spouse. This basically means that if one party, that is, you or your spouse, decides to leave, then the remaining party is obliged to pay 100% of the total amount of taxes due.

Another common myth is that when you marry someone who already owes money from the IRS, that debt is considered separate property debt and you are not responsible for it. This is partly correct, but if you live in one of the nine community property states in the country, then it's absolutely not true. Once you get married, all of your assets and incomes are considered community property. In other words, fifty percent of your spouse's income is yours, and vice versa. If for some unfortunate reason the debt is never paid, the IRS has the right to [levy](#) half of your paycheck to shoulder the remaining tax bill. Also, if you later decide to file a joint income tax return, any refund that you are entitled to will simply be kept by the IRS in order to pay the old and remaining debt.

Along with commonly-held beliefs regarding taxes and marriage, there is also a great deal of misunderstanding pertaining taxes and divorce. They believe that the divorce will protect them simply because any tax due will be completely shouldered by the [ex-spouse](#). Actually, although you and your spouse may have signed a divorce decree, the IRS does not and will not honor any divorce decree contracts. The IRS can still pursue the individual who is easier to locate and whom they deem has more money in cases when tax debts are not completely settled. In a positive light, the divorce contract enables you to take some recourse against your ex-husband or ex-wife but you would have to refer to a lawyer to bring any proceedings towards that effort.