

## TAX YEAR 2023 FILING STATUSES AT A GLANCE

| Filing status determines:                 | 1. Taxpayer's filing requirements  | 2. Taxpayer's standard deduction  | 3. Eligibility for specific credits   | 4. Eligibility for specific deductions  | 5. The rate at which income is taxed   |
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| <b>Single (S):</b>                        | 1. Unmarried or considered unmarried as of the last day of the tax year, or  | 2. Legally separated under a decree of divorce or separate maintenance agreement as of the last the tax year  | A separation must be by <b>legal degree</b> , and an annulment would also establish an unmarried status | <b>Standard Deduction:</b><br>\$13,850  | A single filing status does not limit credits or deduction.  |
| <b>Married filing jointly (MFJ):</b>      | Taxpayers that are legally married on the last day of the tax year, and both agree to file a joint return  | This includes:<br>1. Married taxpayers who live apart but do not have a divorce or separation agreement<br>2. Taxpayers who are considered common-law married by the state where the marriage began<br>3. Taxpayers whose spouse died during the year who did not remarry |   | <b>Standard Deduction:</b><br>\$27,700  | A MFJ filing status does not limit credits or deductions   |
| <b>Married filing separately (MFS):</b>   | Married taxpayers can elect to file separately, even if they live together.  | Requirements:<br>1. Each spouse must file a separate tax return that reports his or her own income and deductions<br>2. If MFS and one spouse itemizes, the other must as well.<br>3. MFS makes all social security subject to taxation                                   |   | <b>Standard Deduction:</b><br>\$13,850<br><br>*MFS filing threshold is \$5, regardless of age | In most cases, MFS disallows EIC, PTC, AOTC, LLC, child and dependent care credit, adoption credit, the exclusion for US Savings Bond Interest. Other benefits are reduced to half – capital loss deduction, CTC AGI phaseout, and Saver's Credit AGI levels |
| <b>Head of Household (HOH):</b>           | 1. Taxpayer was unmarried or considered unmarried at the end of the tax year.<br><b>Unmarried:</b> single, divorced, annulled, separated by legal decree.<br><b>Considered Unmarried:</b> legally married individual who plan on filing a separate return, pays more than ½ the cost of maintaining their home, and taxpayer cannot have a spouse live in the home during the last 6 months of the tax year.<br>2. Taxpayer provided more than half the cost for maintaining their home. There cannot be more the one HOH taxpayer at one address, at any time!<br>3. Taxpayer must have qualifying child or qualifying relative live with them for more than ½ of the tax year<br><b>Qualifying child:</b> son, daughter, stepchild, foster child, sibling, halfsiblings, or a descendent of these<br><b>Qualifying relative:</b> children, grandchildren, parents(whether they live with you or not as long as they are dependents – this includes stepparents and grandparents), siblings, halfsiblings, stepsiblings, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, half-nieces, half-nephews, and in-laws (child, parent, or sibling) |   |   | <b>Standard Deduction:</b><br>\$20,800  | An HOH filing status does not limit credits or deductions  |
| <b>Qualifying surviving spouse (QSS):</b> | Taxpayers can file as a qualifying spouse if:<br>1. They filed a joint return with their spouse the year the spouse passed away<br>2. They have not remarried<br>3. Are filing the return in the 2 years following their spouse's death<br>4. They have a dependent child, stepchild, or adopted child, cannot be foster child<br>5. Paid more than half the cost of keeping up the household<br><br>In the year of death, the taxpayer would file MFJ with the deceased taxpayer, as long as they have not remarried. In the 2 subsequent years the taxpayer can file with QSS filing status, if the requirements are met.  |   |   | <b>Standard Deduction:</b><br>\$27,700  | A QSS filing status does not limit credits or deductions   |