

BEST TAX PRACTICE -

Getting Married / Got Married

Congratulations on your recent marriage (or announcement of your upcoming marriage)!

IN THE YEAR WHICH YOU GET MARRIED, YOUR TAX FILING STATUS HAS (likely) CHANGED.

Many people think that because they were **single** - *at some point during the same year in which they got married* - that they can file that year's tax return as SINGLE. **This is incorrect.**

Per the IRS, *no matter when you get/got married, even on December 31, you're considered to have been married for the entire year for tax purposes.*

There is no “yeah but” or “even if” to this issue.

Most married people will file their tax return as

- **MARRIED FILING JOINT (MFJ)**

or

- **MARRIED FILING SEPARATE (MFS)**

Note: There may be another filing option if one or both of you have dependents. Discuss this with your preparer.

Here are some additional points the IRS wants you to know or consider as a result of your marriage:

- **Name Change** – If either or both of you changed any part of your name(s), you will want to ensure that your name(s) match the name(s) on file with the Social Security Administration (SSA). If the name on your Social Security card does not match your married name, you will want to notify the SSA to your name change. **You will want to do this well before you file your next tax return.**
- **Withholding and or Estimated (Quarterly) Payments** – You may want to consider changing your withholding calculations/amounts on your W-2 jobs or other income streams where you have withholding (i.e., retirement & pension accounts, investment & brokerage accounts, etc.) as well as any estimated (Quarterly) payments you already make or may now want to make.

FINAL: A person's marital status on December 31 determines their filing status. Regardless any other considerations, for the year in which you did/will get married - filing as SINGLE is not a legal option for you.

We wish you well in your future!