



The Bloomington office serves tax clients statewide and non-tax clients in Bartholomew, Brown, Clay, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Monroe, Morgan, Orange, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Sullivan, and Vigo Counties.

If you have a non-tax problem and are located in a county outside of our service area, please visit our website or call our toll free number to find the office that serves you.

[www.indianalegalservices.org](http://www.indianalegalservices.org)

**1-800-869-0212**

TO APPLY FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE WITH A TAX PROBLEM, CONTACT:

**Indiana Legal Services, Inc.**

College Square  
214 S. College Ave.  
Bloomington, IN 47404  
(812)339-7668  
1-800-822-4774  
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Member Agency



Indiana Legal Services does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, or age.



## Determining Your Tax Filing Status

Indiana Legal Services  
LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

# What you need to know...

Choosing the right filing status is very important, as each filing status carries with it a different standard deduction and can impact what credits you may be eligible to claim.

Your marital status on the last day of the year determines your marital status for the entire year.

If more than one filing status applies to you, choose the one that gives you the lowest tax obligation.

Single filing status generally applies to anyone who is unmarried, divorced or legally separated according to state law.

A married couple may file a joint return together. The couple's filing status would be Married Filing Jointly.

If your spouse died during the year and you did not remarry, usually you may still file a joint return with that spouse for the year of death.

A married couple may elect to file their returns separately. Each person's filing status would generally be Married Separately (this filing status may make you ineligible for certain credits).

Head of Household generally applies to taxpayers who are unmarried or have lived apart from their spouse for the last half of the year. You must also have paid more than half the cost of maintaining a home for you and a qualifying person to qualify for this filing status.

You may be able to choose Qualifying Widow(er) with Dependent Child as your filing status if your spouse recently died, you have a dependent child, have not remarried and you meet certain other conditions.



## LOW INCOME TAXPAYER CLINIC

The Indiana Legal Services Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) provides free legal assistance to Indiana taxpayers involved in disputes with IRS.

Examples of disputes with IRS include whether you qualify for Child Tax Credits, the Earned Income Tax Credit, the ability to claim Head of Household or dependents, whether you should be responsible for your spouse's or ex-spouse's tax problems, and whether you owe tax on the amount of a debt that is forgiven.

We can also help you if you have received a notice from the IRS or the IRS has already started collection actions, you're facing an audit or exam, or you are a victim of identity theft.

The Low Income Taxpayer Clinic is not part of the IRS, but does receive funds from the IRS through the LITC grant program. Participation in an LITC program does not impact your rights before the IRS. Also, while the LITC can help you file a tax return as part of a dispute with the IRS, we are not a tax preparation service and we do not generally prepare tax returns. To find a free tax preparation site near you, please call 1-800-906-9887.