



Personal Exemptions

Exemptions		6a <input type="checkbox"/> Yourself. If someone can claim you as a dependent, do not check box 6a				Boxes checked on 6a and 6b
		b <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse				No. of children on 6c who:
		c Dependents:				• lived with you
		(1) First name	Last name	(2) Dependent's social security number	(3) Dependent's relationship to you	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> if child under age 17 qualifying for child tax credit (see instructions)
						• did not live with you due to divorce or separation (see instructions)
If more than four dependents, see instructions and check here <input type="checkbox"/>						<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>
		d Total number of exemptions claimed				Dependents on 6c not entered above
						Add numbers on lines above <input type="checkbox"/>

About Personal Exemptions

- TaxSlayer: Basic Information section, Exemptions
- Additional resources listed in L< “References” tab
- Review all tips and cautions
- Read all examples and sample interviews
- We will review answers to each exercise in the lesson

p. Totally and permanently disabled Yes No c. Legally blind Yes No

10. Can anyone claim you or your spouse on their tax return? Yes No Unsure

11. Have you or your spouse:

a. Been a victim of identity theft? Yes No b. Adopted a child? Yes No

Part II – Marital Status and Household Information

1. As of December 31, 2016, were you:

Unmarried (This includes registered domestic partnerships, civil unions, or other formal relationships under state law)

Married a. If Yes, Did you get married in 2016? Yes No

Divorced b. Did you live with your spouse during any part of the last six months of 2016? Yes No

Legally Separated Date of final decree _____

Widowed Date of separate maintenance agreement _____

Year of spouse's death _____

2. List the names below of:

- everyone who lived with you last year (other than your spouse)
- anyone you supported but did not live with you last year

If additional space is needed check here and list on page 3

To be completed by a Certified Volunteer Preparer

Name (first, last) Do not enter your	Date of Birth	Relationship	Number of U.S.	Resident	Single or	Full-time	Totally and	Is this	Did this	Did this	Did the	Did the
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Objectives – Personal Exemptions

- Distinguish between personal and dependency exemptions.
- Determine if a taxpayer can claim a personal exemption.
- Determine how many personal exemptions a taxpayer can claim.
- Time Required: 10 minutes

Exemptions

6a Yourself. If someone can claim you as a dependent, do not check box 6a

b Spouse

c Dependents:		(2) Dependent's social security number	(3) Dependent's relationship to you	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> if child under age 17 qualifying for child tax credit (see instructions)
(1) First name	Last name			<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>
				<input type="checkbox"/>

If more than four dependents, see instructions and check here

d Total number of exemptions claimed

Boxes checked on 6a and 6b

No. of children on 6c who:

- lived with you
- did not live with you due to divorce or separation (see instructions)

Dependents on 6c not entered above

Add numbers on lines above

How many should I claim?

Topics



- Personal exemptions
- Rules for taxpayers
- Rules for taxpayer's spouse
- Entering personal exemptions

Key Terms

Definitions are always available in the L< online Glossary.

- **Exemptions (Personal or Dependency):** Amount that taxpayers can claim for themselves, their spouses, and eligible dependents. An exemption is a dollar amount that can be deducted from an individual's total income, thereby reducing the taxable income.



Personal Exemptions

- Questions on the L< landing page – check your understanding of personal exemptions
- What are exemptions?
 - A dollar amount that can be deducted from a taxpayer's total income, thereby reducing their taxable income.
- Personal exemptions
 - Claimed for self (and possibly spouse)
- Dependency exemptions
 - Claimed for qualifying dependents

Rules for Taxpayer

- Can anyone claim you or your spouse as a dependent on their tax return?
 - Answer must be “no” to claim personal exemption
- Resources:
 - Pub 4012, Exemptions/Dependency tab, [Personal Exemption Interview Tips](#)
 - Interactive Tax Assistant: [Personal and Spousal Exemptions](#)

 Personal Exemptions Probe/Action: Ask the taxpayer.		
step 1	Were you married during any part of the tax year? (Answer YES if state common law rules were met.)	If YES, go to Step 2. If NO, go to Step 7.
step 2	Were you still married on December 31 of the tax year?	If YES, go to Step 5. If NO, go to Step 3. Note: Abandonment doesn't change marital status—answer YES if the taxpayer's responses to Steps 3 and 4 are NO.
step 3	Did you obtain a final decree of divorce or separate maintenance by December 31 of the tax year?	If YES, you can't claim a personal exemption for your former spouse. Go to Step 7 to determine if you can claim your own personal exemption. If NO, go to Step 4.
step 4	Did your spouse die during the tax year?	If YES, go to Step 5. If NO, go back through Steps 1–3 and clarify answers.

Rules for Spouse

- A spouse may be claimed as a personal exemption if:
 - Married as of December 31 of the tax year, and
 - Spouse cannot be claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return, and
 - Taxpayer files a joint return, or files a separate return *and* the spouse had no income and is not filing
- Resources:
 - Pub 4012, Exemptions/Dependency tab, [Personal Exemption Interview Tips](#)
 - Interactive Tax Assistant: [Personal Exemptions for Spouse](#)

Spouses (continued)

- Divorced, Separated, and Common Law
 - Taxpayers cannot claim an exemption for a (former) spouse from whom they are divorced or legally separated
 - Rules for common law marriages vary by state
- Deceased spouse can be claimed as a personal exemption if taxpayer:
 - Did not remarry by December 31 of the tax year, and
 - Was not divorced or legally separated from their spouse on the date of death, and
 - Would have been able to claim the exemption under the rules for a joint or separate return
- [Pub 17](#), Chapter 3, Personal Exemptions and Dependents

Entering Personal Exemptions

- Lines 6a and 6b of Form 1040
- TaxSlayer automatically:
 - Fills in the entries and “Number of boxes checked on 6a and 6b”
 - Checks the Exemptions box for the taxpayer (and spouse if Married Filing Jointly)

The image shows a screenshot of the 'Part II - Marital Status and Household Information' section of a tax form. The form includes the following fields and options:

- 10. Can anyone claim you or your spouse on their tax return? Yes No Unsure
- 11. Have you or your spouse:
 - a. Been a victim of identity theft? Yes No
 - b. Adopted a child? Yes No
- Part II - Marital Status and Household Information**
- 1. As of December 31, 2016, were you:
 - Unmarried (This includes registered domestic partnerships, civil unions, or other formal relationships under state law)
 - Married
 - a. If Yes, Did you get married in 2016? Yes No
 - b. Did you live with your spouse during any part of the last six months of 2016? Yes No
 - Divorced
 - Date of final decree _____
 - Legally Separated
 - Date of separate maintenance agreement _____
 - Widowed
 - Year of spouse's death _____
- 2. List the names below of:
 - everyone who lived with you last year (other than your spouse)
 - anyone you supported but did not live with you last year

If additional space is needed check here and list on page 3

To be completed by a Certified Volunteer Preparer

Name (first, last)	Date of Birth	Relationship	Number of U.S.	Resident	Single or	Full-time	Totally and	Is this	Did this	Did this	Did this	Did this
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Summary

- Two types of exemptions: Personal and Dependency
 - Exemptions reduce taxable income
- Taxpayers can claim a personal exemption for:
 - Themselves, if they are not another taxpayer's dependent
 - Their spouse, if filing jointly and the spouse is not another taxpayer's dependent
 - Their spouse, if filing separately and the spouse had no income, is not filing, and is not another taxpayer's dependent
- Claims for incorrect number of exemptions is a very common error