



TAX SEASON CONCERNS

Questions to Ask When Choosing a Tax Accountant

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Do I need to consult a professional tax accountant? How much do I want to pay for professional tax services? What tax laws are going to affect me? What can I deduct on my taxes? These questions, among many others may be swarming around in your head as you prepare for another tax season.

The need to enlist the services of a professional tax accountant grows stronger as an individual's tax situation becomes more complicated. "It is definitely a good idea," says this Rapid City tax professional, "for individuals who claim multiple incomes, investment accounts or properties, are self-employed, lived in more than one state during the year, made large charitable contributions, or anything else that would complicate their tax situation, to consider using a tax accountant."

The tax accountant should also be able to answer questions about their qualifications - don't be afraid to ask for references.

A few questions to be sure to ask:

- **What kind of formal tax training to do you have?**
- **How are you keeping up on the new tax laws?**
- **Have you ever prepared a tax return for someone with my situation before?**
- **How does the preparer check the accuracy of their work?**
- **Do you e-file?**

"Make sure that the accountant understands and is up-to-date with all state and federal tax laws, and which of them will affect you," advises this tax accounting expert. "The accountant should also be able to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of maximizing tax deductions and write offs. They should be able to advise and lay out a system to make tax season less hectic and more productive for you".