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Question	Answer	Category
A 25 year old single full time student earned \$13,000. Lives at home with single parent. Does not self support. Is the student considered a dependent?	No. She is not a qualifying child because of her age and she is not a qualifying relative because her income is too high. There is an exception when the child is disabled and the only income is from a disabled workshop	Dependency
If an adult child (over the age of 24) is being financially supported by the parents (ex. the student is attending graduate school and parents are still helping pay for the education, housing etc), could that individual be a qualifying dependent?	An adult child could be a qualifying relative as a dependent on your income tax return. They must not have more than \$4,050 in income and you must provide more than half of their support for the year. The IRS has a worksheet to determine total support in Publication 17	Dependency
Under what circumstances would a married person be claimed as a dependent on a non-spouse's tax return?	A typical situation is where a college student is married and neither the student nor their spouse make enough to have a tax liability and are only filing to get the taxes withheld from their wages. Both spouses could be claimed on someone else's return and cannot claim the exemption on their joint return.	Dependency
For separated students without a separation agreement or maintenance decree, do they have to be separated, living apart, for the last 6 months of the tax year?	I am assuming this question is asking if they have to be living apart to file as a single person? If so then, they will be considered single if the state law in which they live says they are legally separated under a divorce or separate maintenance decree. The rule of living apart for six months is one requirement for filing as Head of Household status.	Filing status
If a student who is not married, but has filed Married filing jointly because their tax preparer advised them to since they are registered domestic partners in California, can we accept their 1040 taxes as is when they are a verified student?	You are considered married if you are married according to the laws of the state where you live. If a registered domestic partner is considered "married" for the laws of the State of California, then they are married for federal tax purposes and their return would be correct	Filing status
If someone is married and not living with their spouse, but do not have a legal separation document in place, can they file married filing jointly?	Yes. They are required to file as married filing jointly or married filing separately since they do not have a legal separation. One exception is if they may qualify for Head of Household status if either of them have a qualifying child or qualifying relative— but they are not required to do that although it may be to their advantage.	Filing status
Who issues the separate maintenance decree? Where does the student get this from?	An attorney or arbitrator in a divorce or separation would be the one to prepare this type of agreement. You may be able to prepare your own using some type of document from some online legal resources (rocket lawyer, legalzoom, etc.) However, keep in mind that some states do not recognize legal separations. It is usually best to seek legal counsel in these situations.	Filing status
Can we request a copy of the presentation?	The presentation is located at http://mappingyourfuture.org/Downloads/2017MappingYourFuture-Understanding-Taxes.pdf .	General
Will the webinar be recorded for future reference?	Yes, the webinar recording is available at http://mappingyourfuture.org/services/webinararchive.cfm .	General
Does one get a better tax break as filing Head of Household or qualifying widower with dependent child?	If a taxpayer qualifies as a Head of Household and a Qualifying widow or widower with child, the Qualifying widow or widower status gives the best tax advantages.	Head of household

<p>For married students who claim that they are separated but do not have a separation decree or separation maintenance, what are their filing status? Can they file head of household?</p>	<p>If they have a qualifying child or qualifying relative for head of household status, they may use that status if they meet all the requirements of head of household status. One key requirement is that they must have lived apart for the last six months of the year.</p>	<p>Head of household</p>
<p>If a married couple lives in separate residences (for example, for employment reasons), and each pay more than 50% of expenses for a dependent living in their resident, can they both file head of household?</p>	<p>If there are two dependents and each spouse has one that they are supporting more than 50%, then they could each claim head of household status. However, if there is only one dependent, then both spouses could not be paying more than 50% - the key is MORE THAN 50% - then only one can claim Head of Household status assuming they meet all the requirements.</p>	<p>Head of household</p>