TAX DEDUCTIONS A to Z[®]

New Guidebooks give Professionals —From Military to Teachers to Priests and Writers—a single source for finding relevant, money-saving tax deductions.

For Immediate Release (July, 2006, Lawrenceville, NJ)

Supplanting confusing technical jargon with practical and easy-to-follow listings, these specialized guidebooks provide expert research in a user-friendly, alphabetical format in order to maximize deductions on tax returns.

No ones likes to pay taxes. But everyone likes to take tax deductions. After twenty years of preparing tax returns for clients from all walks of life, Anne Skalka, CPA, has seen how many taxpayers would routinely overpay their taxes because they simply don't take advantage of the deductions they're entitled to.

But can you blame the average taxpayer? Anyone who's tried to read the tax code will quickly realize that it's nearly impossible to translate the myriad regulations, restrictions, references, and sub-references to come to a clear understanding of what is a legal and allowable tax deduction.

Anne Skalka's clients have asked her hundreds (maybe thousands) of times whether something is deductible. Health insurance for pets? Special hosiery for a waitress job? Money given to a parent? Lottery tickets? The home computer? Music lessons? Diet pills? Conventions on Cruise Ships?

ANNE SKALKA has gathered together the key deductions for the typical taxpayer and presented them in plain-English. In addition to TAX DE-DUCTIONS A TO Z[®], there are ten additional titles in the series that address taxpayers who are in the following fields: Clergy, Military, Education, Trades and Unions, Home Office and Self-Employed, Arts, Public Safety, Health Care, Contractors and Freelancers, Sales, etc. (For complete 2006 list of titles, see over.)

Each book includes a handy log to get folks in the habit of recording their deductible expenses, such as Travel and entertainment, automobile, etc. But there's also a separate log book, that accompanies the series, for those who choose to be diligent about tax deductions.

About the Author

Anne Skalka, CPA, is the president of Anne Skalka and Associates, an accounting and tax-consulting firm near Princeton, New Jersey. She is the Secretary of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants and a member of Zonta International, a worldwide service organization of executives working to advance the status of women.



Series Information

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TAX DEDUCTIONS A to Z®

Tax Deductions A to Z[®] Tax Deductions A to Z[®] for Educators Tax Deductions A to Z[®] for Fire, Police and EMT Professionals Tax Deductions A to Z[®] for Home Office & Self Employed Tax Deductions A to Z[®] for Military and Reservists Tax Deductions A to Z[®] for Health Care Professionals Tax Deductions A to Z[®] for Freelance and Contract Workers Tax Deductions A to Z[®] for Writers, Artists, and Performers Tax Deductions A to Z[®] for Trades People and Union Members Tax Deductions A to Z[®] for Sales Professionals Tax Deductions A to Z[®] for Sales Professionals

SAMPLE ENTRIES

ADVERTISING (REVENUE-PRODUCING)

Advertising costs associated with business activity or a revenue-producing hobby are tax deductible. Promotional costs as well as goodwill advertising qualify for this deduction. Advertising in events programs or newsletters associated with political organizations or candidates is not tax deductible. Advertising costs are categorized as a miscellaneous expense, subject to the 2% AGI threshold. Self-employed individuals can deduct this expense directly from self-employment income.

AIRLINE CLUBS

Membership fees for airline benefits clubs are not tax deductible, even if the services and facilities are used in business travel.

ALCOHOLISM TREATMENT See Medical Expense

The cost of alcoholism treatment at a residential facility or as an inpatient at a hospital is tax deductible as a medical expense if it meets the criteria of a qualified medical expense, and your medical expenditures for the tax year have reached the required threshold of 7.5% of your AGI. The cost of transportation to and from local AA meetings can be included in this deduction if attendance is doctor-recommended.

ALIMONY

Alimony, spousal support, and spousal maintenance are tax deductible as adjustments to gross income. To qualify for this deduction, the payments must be legally required, they must be cash payments, including checks and money orders, and the separated spouses must live apart. There is no dollar limit on this deduction.

MEDICAL EXPENSE

Medical expenses can be deducted for you, your spouse, and your dependents with no dollar limit after meeting a deduction threshold based on your income level. In order to calculate the deduction available to you, total your qualified medical expenses for the tax year, subtract 7.5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI) from that total, and the amount in excess represents the deductible portion of your medical costs. Here's an example:

Sam and Audrey file a joint return and their adjusted gross income is \$100,000. They incurred \$10,000 of medical expenses not reimbursed by health insurance. Their tax deductible medical expenses and total itemized deductions would be computed as follows:

Total out-of-pocket medical expense	\$10,000
Subtract 7.5% of AGI (100,000 x 7.5%)	(\$7,500)
Deductible medical expense	\$2,500

To qualify for this deduction, the expenses must be for the diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, cure, or prevention of disease, and for the cost of treatment affecting any part or function of the body.