

Beginning Monday May 8, 2006 the Ohio Department of Taxation will change the way it allocates estimated payments. Previously the Department split the estimated payments 50/50 between the primary taxpayer and the spouse on married filing separate returns (MFS). While this took care of approximately 70% of all taxpayers who split their estimated payments, it still created a problem for the other 30% of the taxpayers who filed married filing separate returns and did not split their payments equally. The new policy will split the payments as requested. The split is based on the first return processed, not primary SSN.

...I think I just heard a collective CHEER

E.G.

A taxpayer and spouse sends \$2000 of Ohio estimated payments on joint vouchers:

- If the taxpayers file an MFJ return they may claim \$2000 estimated payments on their Ohio income tax return.
- If the taxpayers file an MFS return and the 1st return processed claims \$1250 on the Ohio income tax return, the spouse is entitled to the remainder \$750.
- If the taxpayers file an MFS return and the 1st return processed claims \$2000 on the Ohio income tax return, the 2nd return may not claim any portion of the estimated payment.

In the MFS scenarios above, if the 2nd return processed claims an amount greater than what they are entitled to, the estimated payment claimed will be reduced and the taxpayer will receive a variance notice.

The Department will not split estimated payments that are remitted on a voucher with only one SSN.

You will find more information about this update on our web site at

[http://tax.ohio.gov/divisions/communications/information\\_releases/index.stm#Individual](http://tax.ohio.gov/divisions/communications/information_releases/index.stm#Individual)

#### **Estimated payments - Vouchers**

It is important to remember that the Department scans preprinted estimated vouchers.

- Please do not send a preprinted estimated voucher for any client other than the SSN identified on the voucher.
- Please do not write someone else's SSN or name on a preprinted estimated voucher.
  - The SSN is printed on the scan line on the bottom of the voucher. If you send the preprinted voucher with someone else's SSN, the scan equipment will pick up the SSN on the bottom of the voucher and the payments will be applied erroneously.

You will find non preprinted vouchers on our web site at [tax.ohio.gov](http://tax.ohio.gov) under tax forms.