

## The system of church tax in Germany

The church tax will be 9% (or 8% in Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg) from the income tax. The churches, who have the status of a public body have the legal right to raise taxes. This based upon the German Constitution in conjunction with the federal church laws. These are the protestant, roman-kath., old-kath., some jewish and other small churches.

The churches conclude whether they raise taxes and about the percentage. The administration itself is carried over to IRS because here is the established administration. This based on a bilateral contract. The IRS will get fees between 2% and 4% (according to the federal state).

The churches have the legal right to get the data of their members from the IRS to fulfill their own tax-systems. At the time they did not need them because the IRS administers the tax levy.

The church tax is the most important part of the churches household. It will be about 70% to 80% of it. Other incomes: funds, fees, accomplishments (benefits) from the state (very old legal title; based on a treaty of 1804), other revenues.

Income tax will be raised from income and salary a.s.o.

The church tax from the income-tax will collect in conjunction with the income-tax (tax bill).

The church tax of salary will be retained by the employer and he refers them to the appropriate IRS. This refers it to the local church. Whether the employee is member of a church the employer will check out from the tax-card (Lohnsteuerkarte). Hereon is remarked the individual church (f.e. protestant = ev).

The church tax on capital income (f.e. interest; dividend) is retained by the bank and refers to the appropriate IRS. This refers it to the local church. paid to the churches.

In admitting people moving from abroad, they explain their church affiliation at registration opposite to the state register authority (f.e.: a member of the protestant Church in Denmark explain at "ev" = evangelisch).

See the different computations in accordance with the faith of the persons as follows:

1. Church tax from a single person or when both partners have the same faith (protestant/protestant):

income tax	100
church tax 9%	9

2. Church tax from an inter-denomination mixed married couple (protestant./roman-catholic)

income tax	100
church tax 9%	9
each of the churches (protestant./roman-catholic) will get 50%	4,50

### 3. Church tax from an faith-divorced couple (prot./none)

Example 1: The partners have nearly the same income

	partner 1 prot.	partner 2 none	total
several income	140	110	250
income tax lt. Grundtabelle	14	11	
part of it	56 %	44 %	
income tax Splittingtabelle			20
part of partner 1 56 % =	11,20		
church tax partner 1 (9%) =	1,01		

Grundtabelle = taxrate for a single person; Splittingtabelle = taxrate for couples.

Example 2: Only the partner who is not member of the church has an income. The other - the prot. partner - has none or a very small income. The church tax (besonderes Kirchgeld) of the prot. partner will be:

	income-tax base (assessable income of both partners § 2 Abs. 5 EStG)	besonderes Kirchgeld per year
Stufe	EURO	EURO
1	30.000 - 37.499	96
2	37.500 - 49.999	156
3	50.000 - 62.499	276
4	62.500 - 74.999	396
5	75.000 - 87.499	540
6	87.500 - 99.999	696
7	100.000 - 124.999	840
8	125.000 - 149.999	1.200
9	150.000 - 174.999	1.560
10	175.000 - 199.999	1.860
11	200.000 - 249.999	2.220
12	250.000 - 299.999	2.940
13	300.000 and more	3.600

The partners have an assesable income of about 83.000 €. They have two children. The prot. partner has even paid 250 € church tax for his origin income. The church tax (besonderes Kirchgeld) will be computed as follows:

assessable income of both partners	83.000 €
./. children tax allowance for 2 childs	11.616 €
income-taxe base for the besonderes Kirchgeld	71.384 €
church tax (bes. Kirchgeld) as per chart	396 €
./. even paid church tax	250 €
remaining church tax	146 €

The reason for the besonderes Kirchgeld is that the prot. partner, even though he has no or a small origin income, has an ability (to pay tax) derived from the income of his partner.

#### 4. Church tax on capital income (simplified)

Interest or dividend	2.000
./. allowance	801
taxable	1.199
Income tax 25%	299
church tax 9%	26,91