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When you have a sales tax problem,
we are the solution!

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Valentine's Day - Do You Love Sales Tax?

This Valentine's Day, while you're styling your hair, ironing your shirt, and thinking about all the things you want to say to the one you love, don't forget to ask yourself the most important question of all: Did I pay the right amount of sales tax?

Well, that might not be the most important question, but it is still something to consider. This time of year, between the start of income tax season and your "social obligations", it is easy to neglect your sales tax responsibilities, or forget them altogether. For example, the perfect Valentine's Day date in New York City would have many sales tax matters to consider.

First, you definitely want to look your best so buy a new outfit. In New York State, each item of clothing costing under \$110 is exempt from sales tax. This means that if you were to buy suit pants for \$75 and a jacket for \$75, the items would be exempt from sales tax. However, if you were to buy an entire suit for \$150, the sales tax exemption would not apply.



You might also want to get your hair styled or get a manicure. These services are also exempt from New York State sales tax but not New York City sales tax. Only NYC imposes a tax on personal services. So if you get a manicure in New York City, be prepared to pay just a little extra to cover the local sales tax.

Now that you're dressed to impress, it's time to hail a cab and pick up your date. Unfortunately, as of November 1, 2009, there is now a 50 cent tax on each cab ride in New York City and much of downstate New York. The 50 cents is a flat rate no matter the distance or time, so you'll never have to calculate the amount of sales tax due.

Here's a dating suggestion: When your date answers the door and you give her the candies you bought her, don't complain about the sales tax you paid on them because it was rightly due. Just give her the candies, give her a compliment, and move on with the evening. However, if you bought her cookies, instead of candy, you would have saved the tax.

Dinner is the highlight of the night. So, unless you bought deli meat by the pound because you're taking her on a picnic, or enjoy prepackaged ice cream in front of the TV, plan on paying sales tax on the meal at a restaurant. As a general rule, prepared foods are subject to sales tax but most foods purchased in a grocery store are not.

At least you can catch a tax break on the tickets for the show that night. Theatrical performances and musical concerts are not subject to sales tax in New York State. Alternatively, if you're just the flower-sending type know that both the flowers and the delivery charge are subject to sales tax. However, making someone smile and a kiss good night is not (yet) taxable...

Happy Valentine's Day from all of us at Sales Tax Defense LLC.

Success Stories

A company was recently refused the renewal of a Certificate of Authority because it owed sales tax which was not remitted to New York State. Without a Certificate of Authority, a company cannot collect sales tax on the taxable items it sells and therefore, cannot do business in this state.

Working with the company, Sales Tax Defense LLC requested a payment plan, allowing the company to pay the sales tax due over several years. However, while the request was under review, New York State instituted collection action and put a lien on the company's bank accounts.

Sales Tax Defense was able to get the enforcement unit to release the liens. The State agreed that once the payment plan was approved they would renew the certificate of authority.

About Us

We are a dedicated team of sales and use tax professionals who have committed our careers to helping businesses and fellow professionals with sales and use tax problems. Since the only work we are focused on is sales tax consulting, businesses never have to be concerned that we will try to sell them other services they do not need. And professionals never have to be concerned with us encroaching on their client relationships, because we view you, our fellow professional, as our client.