The “marriage penalty” is now a concern for many same-sex couples. A couple filing jointly could end up paying more in taxes than each would have paid as a single person combined.

A signer of a joint return is fully responsible for every number that's in it – including mistakes.

The real tax advantages of marriage lie in gift and estate tax areas. Before, every exchange of assets between two partners would be a taxable transaction. Marriage brings with it the unlimited marital deduction, meaning that spouses may freely transfer assets between them during life and at death.

#talkB4Uwalk

Everyone needs a financial plan. The sooner you take control of your finances, the better your chances are of realizing your financial goals and being prepared for retirement.

The best thing you can do is meet with an LGBT-friendly lawyer to discuss your situation. She or he will help you interpret the laws in your state, and they can create wills and other documents to protect you and your spouse.