



Important Customer Information

Automatic Exchange of Church Taxes Information

Since January 2015, we as a credit institution are required by law to transfer church taxes on the capital gains of church members directly to the tax authorities automatically. This applies only, if your capital gains exceed the annual lump-sum savings allowance (EUR 801,00 for single persons, EUR 1.602,00 for married couples) and you have not submitted an exemption order. The rate of church tax amounts to eight percent in Baden-Wuerttemberg and Bavaria and nine percent in the remaining federal states as addition to the capital gains tax of 25 percent.

Capital gains have always been taxable as part of the income; thus, it is not a new tax. Only the process of tax collection has changed.

In order to carry out the deduction of church tax, we are required by law¹ to request your religious confession in the form of an encrypted badge from the Federal Central Tax Office [Bundeszentralamt für Steuern]. The badge for deduction of church tax [Kirchensteuerabzugsmerkmal (KiStAM)] indicates your belonging to a tax collecting religious body and the applicable rate of church tax. The request takes place once a year between September 1st and October 31st.

Your advantage: Your church tax liability is fully discharged. No further statement in your tax declaration is necessary.

Objection directly to the Bundeszentralamt für Steuern

If you do not want the Federal Central Tax Office passes on your data concerning church tax, you can object to the passing of data until June 30th of any year. Please address your objection directly to the Bundeszentralamt für Steuern.

The official default form can be found at www.formulare-bfinv.de as “Erklärung zum Sperrvermerk“ (in German) under the keyword “Kirchensteuer“. The Bundeszentralamt für Steuern then suspends the transfer of passing of data concerning your badge for deduction of church tax.

If you already objected to the passing of data, you do not need to object again. An objection is valid until its recall. We will not discharge any church tax for you.

The Bundeszentralamt für Steuern will report your objection to the tax authority. Church members will then be prompted to issue a declaration for the collection of church taxes on capital gains.

¹ The legal basis for this procedure: Section 51a para. 2c, 2e Income Tax Act [Einkommensteuergesetz]; respective Church Tax Acts of the federal states.