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arizona form 2017 a 4 employee s arizona withholding election

Published: September 19, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Understanding Arizona Form 2017 A: The Arizona Withholding Election for Small Employers

When you start a business in Arizona, one of the first tax responsibilities you'll encounter is the Arizona State Withholding Election. This election determines how much state income tax must be deducted from your employees' wages each pay period. For a small employer—especially one with only four employees—completing and filing the correct form is essential to avoid penalties, maintain compliance, and keep payroll running smoothly. The form you'll be working with is Arizona Form 2017 A, also known as the "Arizona Withholding Election" or "Arizona Withholding Election for Employers." In this article we'll break down what the form looks like, why it matters, how to fill it out, and what steps to take once you've submitted it.

What Is Arizona Form 2017 A?

Arizona Form 2017 A is the official state document used by employers to indicate the amount of Arizona income tax to withhold from their employees' wages. The form is issued by the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) and must be filed annually by most employers. It is essentially the state's version of the federal Form W 4, but it includes additional fields for Arizona-specific withholding allowances, exemptions, and adjustments.

Employers who fail to file Form 2017 A or who file incorrect information may face penalties ranging from $25 per failure to $250 per failure, depending on the severity and duration of the non compliance. Additionally, if an employer fails to withhold the correct amount of tax, the state may levy interest and penalties on the unpaid amounts.

Key Features of the Form

Below are the main components you'll encounter on the Arizona Withholding Election form:

- Employer Information – Name, address, and employer identification number (EIN).
- Employee Information – Employee name, Social Security number, and the number of withholding allowances claimed.
- Withholding Amounts – The dollar amount to be withheld each pay period, calculated based on the employee's wages and allowances.
- Adjustments – Additional amounts to withhold for special circumstances, such as a one time bonus or a correction of a previous under withholding.
- Signature and Date – The employer's signature confirms that the information is accurate and that the employer will comply with Arizona withholding laws.

While the form may seem intimidating at first glance, the Arizona Department of Revenue provides clear instructions and an online withholding calculator to simplify the process.

Why Does This Matter for a Small Employer With Only Four Employees?

Even if your payroll consists of just four employees, the withholding election is still mandatory. Small employers

often overlook this requirement because they assume that “small” means “no tax obligations.” That’s simply not true. The state requires all employers, regardless of size, to withhold Arizona income tax from employees’ wages and to remit those amounts to the ADOR on a regular basis.

Failing to file Form 2017 A or to withhold correctly can lead to:

1. Penalties and interest on unpaid taxes.
2. Potential audits by the ADOR.
3. Complications when employees file their own state tax returns.
4. Damage to your business’s reputation if employees complain about incorrect withholding.

For a small business, these consequences can be disproportionately damaging. That’s why it’s crucial to understand the process and complete the form accurately.

When Is the Form Due?

The Arizona Withholding Election must be filed with the ADOR at the beginning of the tax year. In most cases, this means before your first payroll run for the new year. The ADOR accepts filings electronically via the Arizona Taxpayer Portal or by mailing a paper copy to:

Arizona Department of Revenue\\nP.O. Box 12000\\nPhoenix, AZ 85012 2000

Even if you file electronically, you should keep a paper copy for your records. The form is valid for the entire calendar year, but if you experience significant changes—such as hiring new employees, changing payroll schedules, or adjusting withholding allowances—you may need to submit a revised election.

Step by Step Guide to Completing the Form

1. Gather Employer and Employee Information

Before you even open the form, compile:

- Your business’s EIN and legal name.
- Employee names, addresses, and Social Security numbers.
- Wage details for each employee (gross pay, overtime, bonuses).
- Number of withholding allowances each employee claims (usually based on their personal Form W 4).

2. Use the Arizona Withholding Calculator

The ADOR provides an online withholding calculator that takes your employee’s wages and allowances as input and outputs the exact amount to withhold each pay period. This tool eliminates guesswork and ensures compliance with the current tax tables.

3. Enter the Data on the Form

Fill out the employer section first, then proceed to each employee’s section. Pay special attention to the “Withholding Amount” field—enter the dollar amount calculated by the online tool. If you have any adjustments (e.g., a one time bonus), add them in the appropriate box.

4. Review and Double Check

Before signing, double check:

- All Social Security numbers and EIN are correct.
- Withholding amounts match the calculator results.

- Any adjustments are accurately reflected.
- No fields are left blank.

5. Sign and Date

The employer must sign and date the form. If you're filing electronically, you'll need to use a digital signature that meets ADOR requirements.

6. Submit the Form

Submit the completed form electronically through the Arizona Taxpayer Portal or mail a paper copy to the address above. Keep a copy in your payroll records for at least seven years.

Special Considerations for a Four Employee Business

With a small payroll, the process is streamlined, but there are unique factors to keep in mind:

- Frequent Adjustments – If one of your employees changes marital status or claims additional allowances, you'll need to update the election quickly to avoid over or under withholding.
- Payroll Frequency – Whether you pay weekly, bi weekly, or monthly, the withholding amount should be recalculated for each period.
- Bonus Payments – One time bonuses can significantly alter withholding. The calculator can handle these, but double check the final amounts.
- State Tax Credits – Small businesses may qualify for certain state tax credits. Ensure that your withholding election reflects any changes that could impact your eligibility.

How to File Amendments or Corrections

Life happens, and you may need to amend your withholding election. The ADOR allows amendments at any time during the tax year. To file an amendment, simply:

1. Complete a new Form 2017 A with the corrected information.
2. Mark the form as an amendment.
3. Submit it electronically or by mail.
4. Include a brief explanation of the changes in the attached cover letter.

Keep the original form and the amendment in your records. If you discover a mistake after the payroll period has already run, you can adjust the withholding in the next pay period to correct the error.

Record Keeping Requirements

Arizona law requires employers to keep payroll records, including withholding elections, for a minimum of seven years. These records should include:

- All completed Form 2017 A documents.
- Payroll registers showing wages, withholding amounts, and adjustments.
- Any correspondence with the ADOR regarding withholding elections.
- Electronic backups of all payroll data.

Proper record keeping not only helps you comply with state law but also protects you during audits.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even seasoned payroll professionals can slip up. Here are the most frequent errors and tips to prevent them:

- Using Outdated Tax Tables – Arizona's tax brackets and withholding tables change annually. Always use the current tables or the ADOR's online calculator.
- Miscounting Allowances – Employees may incorrectly estimate how many allowances to claim. Encourage them to use the IRS and ADOR calculators.
- Failing to Update Employee Status – Marital status, dependents, or job changes affect withholding. Set up a system to track these changes.
- Missing the Filing Deadline – Late filings incur penalties. Schedule a reminder for the first of January (or the date your payroll begins).
- Incorrect Signatures – A missing or illegible signature can invalidate the form. Ensure the signature is clear and legible.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1: Can I file Form 2017 A electronically?

A: Yes. The Arizona Department of Revenue offers an online filing system through the Arizona Taxpayer Portal. Electronic filing is faster and reduces the risk of lost paperwork.

Q2: What happens if I don't file the form?

A: The ADOR may impose penalties ranging from $25 to $250 per failure. Additionally, you may be required to pay the withheld amounts retroactively, plus interest.

Q3: How do I calculate withholding for a bonus?

A: Use the online calculator and input the bonus as part of the gross wages for that period. The calculator will adjust the withholding accordingly.

Q4: Do I need a separate form for each employee?

A: Form 2017 A is a single form that can contain multiple employee sections. However, if you prefer, you can file separate forms for each employee to keep records more organized.

Q5: Can I change withholding amounts mid year?

A: Yes. Submit a revised election to the ADOR at any time. The new withholding amounts will apply from the next payroll period.

Resources for Further Assistance

Baca Juga (Artikel Terkait)

- **advanced engineering electromagnetics solution manual edition hardcover by balanis constantine a published by wiley**
  URL: http://denniswildberger.com/advanced-engineering-electromagnetics-solution-manual-edition-hardcover-by-balanis-constantine-a-published-by-wiley.pdf
- **advanced engineering electromagnetics solutions manual**
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