

2022 Tax Engagement Letter – Estate Tax

Tax Return Preparation, Tax Planning, and Tax Authority Compliance

Jodee Paape CPA is pleased to have the opportunity to prepare your estate tax returns and provide you with professional advice this year. This process places responsibilities on both of us. The IRS and other taxing authorities impose penalties on taxpayers and tax preparers for failure to observe due care in reporting on income tax returns.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY: We will prepare your 2022 federal and resident state estate tax returns from information that you furnish to us. We will discuss with you any possible non-resident state estate tax returns that may be required and prepare those you specifically request.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY: You represent that the information you are supplying to us is accurate and complete to the best of your knowledge and that you have disclosed to us all relevant facts affecting the returns. We will not verify the information you give us; however, we may ask for additional clarification of some information. It is your responsibility to provide all the information required for the preparation of complete and accurate returns. The final responsibility for the estate tax returns is yours, so it is imperative that you review them carefully before you sign the actual tax returns.

LIMITATIONS: Our work in preparing your estate tax returns does not include procedures designed to detect improper entries or other irregularities, should any exist. However, we will render such accounting assistance we find necessary to prepare your estate taxes properly. We will use our best judgment in resolving questions where the tax law is unclear, or where there may be conflicts between the taxing authority's interpretation of the law and other supportable positions. Unless you tell us otherwise, we will resolve such questions in your favor, whenever possible.

AUDIT BY TAX AUTHORITIES: It is important that you understand the law imposes various penalties when taxpayers understate their tax liability. You also should know that taxing authority audit procedures will likely include questions on deductions that require strict documentation. In preparing your returns, we rely on your representations that you understand and have complied with the documentation requirements for your expenses and deductions. We are not responsible for taxing authority disallowance of doubtful deductions or deductions unsupported by adequate documentation, or the resulting taxes, penalties and interest.

It is possible your returns may be selected for review by the taxing authorities. Any proposed adjustments by the examining agent are subject to certain rights of appeal. In the event of such an examination, we will be available upon request to represent you and will render additional invoices for the time and expenses incurred.

TAX PLANNING & CONSULTING: You may need to consult with us regarding your tax situation separately from preparation of the estate tax return. Those services may be invoiced for the time and expenses incurred.

BREACH OF AGREEMENT: The parties agree that any legal action related to an alleged breach of duties of this agreement shall be commenced within one year of the date of the breach, without regard to the date the breach is discovered, except that this time requirement does not apply to collection of fees by Jodee Paape CPA. We reserve the right to collect our fees beyond one year, in conciliation court or by other legal means. If suit is brought to collect any amount due under this agreement, you agree to pay all related costs, disbursements, and reasonable attorney's fees.

If any dispute arises among the parties regarding a breach of duties, not including fees and collection of such fees, the parties agree first to try in good faith to settle the dispute, and then if no agreement is reached to attend binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Rules for Professional Accounting and Related Services Disputes before resorting to litigation. Costs of any such binding arbitration shall be divided equally between the parties, unless otherwise agreed or determined by the arbitrator. In the event that the client owes fees for services to Jodee Paape CPA at the time of binding arbitration, the client will be responsible for the full cost of binding arbitration.

THIRD PARTY AUTHORIZATION: The IRS and most state taxing authorities permit you to authorize us to discuss, on a limited basis, aspects of your return for one year after the return's due date. Your consent to such a discussion is evidenced by checking a box on the return. Unless you tell us otherwise, we will check that box authorizing those taxing authorities to discuss your return with us.

RECORD RETENTION: It is our policy to keep records related to this engagement for 5 years. However, we do not keep any of your original records, so will return those to you upon the completion of the engagement. When records are returned to you, it is your responsibility to retain and protect the records for possible future use, including potential examination by government or regulatory agencies. By signing this engagement letter, you acknowledge and agree that upon the expiration of the 5 year period, we are free to destroy our records related to this engagement.

OUR FEES: Fees for our tax return preparation service will be billed upon completion of your returns at the appropriate rate for the level and value of services rendered, plus out-of-pocket expenses. Our fees may include factors deemed relevant, including, but not limited to, the difficulty of the questions and the skill required to perform the tax services properly, time limitations imposed by either you or the circumstances, or additional time required to organize information. All fees and costs incurred to prepare your income tax returns are due and payable when the returns are released from

our office. We reserve the right to hold the completed returns until your account is paid in full. Should your return be released without full payment, a finance charge at an annual rate of 18% (1½ % per month) will be assessed on any amount not paid by the 15th of the month following the billing date. Collection costs may also be assessed in certain circumstances.

DUE DATES: The due date for an estate tax return is nine months from the date of death. **In order to meet the filing deadline, the information needed to complete the estate return must be received in this office no later than 30 days prior to the filing due date.**

Having read and fully understood the engagement letter, I (we) agree to engage Jodee Paape CPA in accordance with the terms indicated. The information we have provided is complete and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge.

PRINTED NAME OF ESTATE

Signature – Trustee or Executor or Personal Representative

Date