

CPA Firm Responsibilities

It is our duty to prepare your returns based on the same standard of care that a reasonable tax return preparer would exercise in this type of engagement. Unless otherwise noted, the applicable standard of care for a “reasonable tax return preparer” shall be based upon the following pronouncements:

- the Statements on Standards for Tax Services (“SSTS”) issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“AICPA”);
- U.S. Treasury Department Circular 230 (“Circular 230”); and
- the Internal Revenue Code, Treasury Regulations, and any applicable state/local corollaries (collectively, “the Code”).

As tax return preparers, these pronouncements restrict our ability to sign a tax return when the tax positions you report do not comply with tax law. We will be unable to sign your return and may terminate this Agreement if you:

- request that we report a tax position on your return which we feel is contrary to published guidance, frivolous, or a willful attempt to evade tax;
- request that we include a deduction, credit or refund on your return that we believe you do not qualify for; or
- decline to disclose a position where in our professional judgment tax law requires disclosure.

For Individual income tax returns only: Absent any direction from you, we will prepare your tax returns based upon your filing status (single, married filing jointly, married filing separately, head of household or qualifying widow[er] with dependent child) as reflected in your income tax returns for last year. Your filing status may be affected by any addition or subtraction to the members of your immediate household, a change in your marital status, or a change to the support you provide to individuals not in your immediate household. ***If your filing status has changed, you wish to change your filing status, or you have questions about your filing status, please contact us immediately.***

Once our services have concluded, we shall have no obligation to notify you of future tax law developments affecting your return(s) except as may be required by Circular 230 or the SSTS related to errors we identify. We will not update your return after the conclusion of the engagement for any reason unless further engaged.

Andrea L. Campbell, P.C. will not make any management decisions or perform management functions on your behalf.

Arguable positions

If there are conflicting interpretations of tax law, or if tax law is unclear, we will explain the possible positions that may be taken in order for us to sign your return. We will follow the position you request, provided it is consistent with our understanding of tax reference materials and our professional standards. Tax reference materials include, but are not limited to, the Code, Revenue Rulings, Revenue Procedures, court cases, and similar state and local guidance. If the IRS, state or local tax authorities later contest the position you select, additional tax, penalties, and interest may be assessed.

We shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur to respond to the tax authority.

Bookkeeping assistance

We may deem it necessary to provide you with limited accounting and bookkeeping assistance solely for the purpose of helping you organize your information. This assistance is intended to be nominal and is not a separate accounting or bookkeeping service. In the event we conclude that bookkeeping or accounting assistance is necessary to prepare your tax returns, we will advise you in writing before proceeding. Any assistance will be billed at our standard hourly rates and will be subject to the terms of this Agreement.

Tax planning services

Our engagement does not include tax advice which affects the calculation of tax due or the filing of tax forms and schedules for previous or future tax years. However, we may communicate potential tax strategies to you, and you may ask high-level questions of us. It is your responsibility to communicate to us, in writing, any interest in pursuing a tax strategy identified, or if you require more than a cursory response to your question. If you do not request our assistance in writing, we will infer that you do not wish to pursue any suggestion made to you. If you do request our assistance and we agree, we will confirm our understanding with you in a separate written agreement prior to proceeding.

We shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur if you fail to advise us of your desire to investigate or pursue any tax strategy communicated to or by us. Any tax advice described in this paragraph and provided to you shall be governed by this Agreement and billed at our standard hourly rates.

Government inquiries

This engagement does not include responding to inquiries by any governmental agency or tax authority. If you are contacted by a tax authority, either for an examination or other inquiry, you may request our assistance in responding.

Third party requests

Our services are not intended to benefit or influence any third party, including any entity or investment which may seek to evaluate your creditworthiness or financial strength. We will not respond to any request from banks, mortgage brokers or others for verification of any information reported on these tax returns. Except where compelled by court order or subpoena, we do not communicate with third parties or provide them with copies of tax returns.

Reliance on others

If you wish to take a tax position based upon the advice of another advisor, before we are able to sign your tax return, we must comply with the applicable provisions of the Code and the SSTs.

We will review the other advisor's work and may require a written statement from the advisor describing the statutory basis for the position and the suggested disclosure needed to appropriately report the position. If we believe additional research is required, we will discuss the matter with you and obtain your written consent to perform such research. You agree to pay for the additional charges necessary to complete the disclosure or research as this is not included in the scope of our service.

Moreover, you understand that the IRS, state or local tax authority may disagree with the position taken on the return. If this occurs, we shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur.

If, after review of the work prepared by your other advisor, we determine that we are unable to sign the tax return, we will be unable to proceed.

Substantial understatement penalties

The IRS and many states impose harsher accuracy-related penalties (20% for federal) for substantial understatement of tax. Substantial understatement of tax may be found where the tax that should be reported on your return is less than what is actually reported on your return, based on a statutory formula which defines when an understatement is “substantial”. In some cases, avoiding substantial understatement penalties can be achieved if the tax position is adequately disclosed in a method approved by the IRS. Similar rules may apply at the state level.

While the decision to disclose or not disclose is yours, if we conclude that your return contains a tax position which we believe you are required to disclose, we will ask that you consent to include a disclosure in a method approved by the IRS. If you decline to disclose the tax position, we will be unable to proceed.

Abusive tax strategies

Certain tax positions or strategies, while not currently identified as “abusive” by the IRS, may ultimately be determined to be so in the future. Consequently, you agree to advise us of any transaction you have entered into that entitles you to disproportionate tax benefits (deductions, credits, or refunds), that generates significant income deferral or non-recognition, or that generates significant tax losses without corresponding cash impacts (“abusive tax strategy”). If you fail to timely notify us, in writing, of any abusive tax strategy you have entered into, we shall not be liable for any tax, penalties, interest, related professional fees, or other expenses you may incur if the anticipated benefits of the strategy are not realized.

Reportable transactions

The law imposes substantial penalties on taxpayers and tax advisors for failure to disclose listed and other reportable transactions on Form 8886, Reportable Transaction Disclosure Statement and, in some cases, extends the statute of limitations tax authorities have to contest any tax return claiming those tax positions. In general, reportable transactions are potentially abusive transactions identified by the IRS that have a primary purpose of tax avoidance, including but not limited to listed transactions, confidential transactions, transactions with contractual protection, loss transactions, and transactions of interest (a definition of “reportable transactions” is located at <https://www.irs.gov/instructions/i8886> and includes a link to a summary of listed transactions).

If we conclude that your return contains a reportable transaction that we believe you are required to disclose, we will ask that you consent to include a disclosure, either on Form 8886 or other method approved by the IRS. If you decline to disclose the reportable transaction, we will be unable to proceed.