

2017

Individual Income Tax Preparation

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you. To minimize the possibility of a misunderstanding between us, we are setting forth pertinent information about the services we will perform for you.

We will prepare your 2017 federal and Missouri state individual income tax returns from information you furnish us and we may process them with an outside computer service. We will not audit or otherwise verify the data you submit, although we may ask you to clarify some of the information. We will furnish you with a tax organizer that should help you to gather and organize the necessary information required for the preparation of your individual tax returns. Providing us with the completed tax organizer will help to ensure that you are not overlooking important information that may be necessary for complete and accurate returns, as well as may help to minimize our fees.

We must receive all information to prepare your returns by March 16, 2018, to ensure that your returns will be completed by April 15, 2018. If we have not received all of your information by March 16, 2018, we cannot guarantee that your returns will be completed before the deadline. If we are unable to complete the returns, we will assume that you want us to prepare an extension of time to file your returns; however, you will need to provide us with an authorization before we can file the extension on your behalf. You can obtain an extension by going to www.Tedsmithcpa.com and picking the Make Appointment Tab. Once going to our calendar system you will see 1040 Individual Tax Return Extension. Click on this and follow the instructions. You should keep in mind that this would be an extension of time to file the returns; however, any tax estimated to be due would need to be paid with the extension request. We assume no liability for late filing or late payment penalties.

It is your responsibility to maintain, in your records, the documentation necessary to support the data used in preparing your tax returns, including but not limited to the auto, travel, entertainment, and related expenses and the required documents to support charitable contributions. If you have any questions as to the type of records required, please ask us for advice in that regard. It is also your responsibility to carefully examine and approve your completed tax returns. We are not responsible for the disallowance of deductions or inadequately supported documentation, nor for resulting taxes, penalties, and interest.

We will use our professional judgment to resolve questions in your favor where a tax law is unclear if there is a reasonable justification for doing so. Whenever we are aware that a possibly applicable tax law is unclear or that there are conflicting interpretations of the law by authorities (e.g., tax agencies and courts), we will explain the possible positions that may be taken on your return. In accordance with our professional standards, we will follow whatever position you request, as long as it is consistent with the codes, regulations, and interpretations that have been promulgated. If a taxing authority should later contest the position taken, there may be an assessment of additional tax plus interest and penalties. Currently, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and state taxing agencies are aggressive in assessing penalties. We assume no liability for any such additional penalties or assessments. In the event, however, that you ask us to take a tax position that in our professional

judgment will not meet the applicable laws and standards as promulgated, we reserve the right to stop work and shall not be liable for any damages that occur as a result of ceasing to render services.

The law provides for a penalty to be imposed where a taxpayer makes a substantial understatement of their tax liability. For individual taxpayers, a substantial understatement exists when the understatement for the year exceeds the greater of 10% of the tax required to be shown on the return or \$5,000. The penalty is 20% of the tax underpayment. Taxpayers may seek to avoid all or part of the penalty by showing (1) that they acted in good faith and there was reasonable cause for the understatement based on substantial authority or (2) that the relevant facts affecting the item's tax treatment were adequately disclosed on the return. You agree to advise us if you wish disclosure to be made in your returns or if you desire us to identify or perform further research with respect to any material tax issues for the purpose of ascertaining whether, in our opinion, there is "substantial authority" for the position proposed to be taken on such issue in your returns.

Taxing authorities now require us to electronically file all federal and Missouri state individual income tax returns ("e-filing"). However, you do have the right to "opt out" of the e-filing program. Please notify our firm immediately should you desire not to have your returns e-filed, so that we may provide you with the form(s) necessary for opting out of the e-file program. Please note that unless you notify us of your desire to not e-file your returns, we will prepare your returns to be e-filed.

Although e-filing requires both you and our firm to complete additional steps, the same filing deadlines will apply. You must therefore ensure that you complete the additional requirements well before the due dates in order for our firm to be able to timely transmit your returns. We will provide you with a paper copy of the income tax returns for your review prior to electronic transmission. After you have reviewed the returns, you must provide us with a signed authorization indicating that you have reviewed the returns and that, to the best of your knowledge, you feel they are correct. We cannot transmit the returns to the taxing authorities until we have the signed authorization. Therefore, if you have not provided our firm with your signed authorization and paid your tax preparation fee to us by April 13, 2018, we will not file your returns and you will be responsible for following the extension process listed above, even though they might already have been completed. In that event, you will be responsible for ensuring that any payment due with the extension is timely sent to the appropriate taxing authorities. You will also be responsible for any additional costs our firm incurs arising from the extension preparation.

Finally, please note that although our firm will use our best efforts to ensure that your returns are successfully transmitted to the appropriate taxing authorities, we will not be financially responsible for electronic transmission or other errors arising after your returns have been successfully submitted from our office.

You are responsible for notifying our office at the time of completing your tax intake forms if you have any ownership of a foreign bank account or foreign trust.

You agree we may add your email address provided on tax documents to our email database and you may receive email marketing, useful information and other firm information from us. We will not share your email address with anyone else.

Federal law has extended the attorney-client privilege to some, but not all, communications between a client and the client's CPA. The privilege applies only to non-criminal tax matters that are before the IRS or brought by or against the U.S. Government in a federal court. The communications must be made in connection with tax advice. Communications solely concerning the preparation of a tax return will not be privileged.

In addition, your confidentiality privilege can be inadvertently waived if you discuss the contents of any privileged communication with a third party, such as a lending institution, a friend, or a business associate. We recommend that you contact us before releasing any privileged information to a third party.

If we are asked to disclose any privileged communication, unless we are required to disclose the communication by law, we will not provide such disclosure until you have had an opportunity to argue that the communication is privileged. You agree to pay any and all reasonable expenses that we incur, including legal fees, that are a result of attempts to protect any communication as privileged.

Our services in connection with this engagement are not designed to address the legal or regulatory aspects of your compliance with the Affordable Care Act. In preparing your individual tax returns, we will rely solely on the information you provide us regarding the ACA mandates and you agree to accept full responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of this information, as well as your compliance with the ACA. As such, we will not be responsible for any taxes, penalties, or interest that may be assessed.

Fees for our services will be at our standard rates plus computer charges and out-of-pocket expenses. Payment for service is due when rendered and interim billings may be submitted as work progresses and expenses are incurred. We reserve the right to stop work on any account that is 20 days past due, in accordance with our firm's stated collection policy.

We are responsible for preparing only the returns listed above. Our fee does not include responding to inquiries or examination by taxing authorities. However, we are available to represent you. Our fees for such services are at our standard rates and would be covered under a separate engagement letter.

It is our policy to keep records related to this engagement for seven years. However, Ted Smith CPA LLC does not keep any original client records, so we will return those to you at the completion of the services rendered under this engagement. When records are returned to you, it is your responsibility to retain and protect your records for possible future use, including potential examination by any government or regulatory agencies.

By your signature below, you acknowledge and agree that upon the expiration of the seven-year period, Ted Smith CPA LLC shall be free to destroy our records related to this engagement.

If any dispute arises among the parties hereto, the parties agree to first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation administered by the Association of Missouri Mediators under its applicable rules for resolving professional accounting and related services disputes before resorting to litigation. Costs of any mediation proceeding shall be shared equally by all parties.

Client and accountant both agree that any dispute over fees charged by the accountant to the client will be submitted for resolution by arbitration in accordance with the applicable rules for resolving professional accounting and related services disputes of the Association of Missouri Mediators, except that under all circumstances the arbitrator must follow the laws of Missouri. Such arbitration shall be binding and final. IN AGREEING TO ARBITRATION, WE BOTH ACKNOWLEDGE THAT, IN THE EVENT OF A DISPUTE OVER FEES CHARGED BY THE ACCOUNTANT, EACH OF US IS GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO HAVE THE DISPUTE DECIDED IN A COURT OF LAW BEFORE A JUDGE OR JURY AND INSTEAD WE ARE ACCEPTING THE USE OF ARBITRATION FOR RESOLUTION. The prevailing party shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection with the arbitration of the dispute in an amount to be determined by the arbitrator.

If the above fairly sets forth your understanding, please sign the enclosed copy of this letter and return it to us. Please note that you are affirming to Ted Smith CPA LLC your understanding of, and agreement to, the terms and conditions of this engagement letter by any one of the following actions: returning your signed engagement letter to our firm; returning your income tax information to us for use in the preparation of your returns; the submission of the tax returns we have prepared for you to the taxing authorities; or the payment of our return preparation fees.

We are pleased to have you as a client and look forward to a long and mutually satisfying relationship.

Sincerely,

Ted Smith

Ted Smith
Ted Smith CPA LLC

Approved:

Signed: _____
Taxpayer Spouse

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____