1730 East Northern Ave. Suite 120 Phoenix, Arizona 85020 www.rcthornton.com (602) 678-7067 FAX (602) 395-0299

January 2016

Dear Client:

COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED ORGANIZER - HELP US HELP YOU

The enclosed business tax organizer has been designed to assist in compiling the information needed to prepare your return. The following pages contain many of the common income items, expenses, deductions and credits as well as questions that determine the proper handling of these items. Please answer all questions and attach supporting documentation as necessary. If our firm does not prepare year-end financial statements for your organization, please attach a detailed trial balance, depreciation schedules, balance sheet and profit and loss statement.

We hope this organizer will make your task easier. It will help us properly prepare your return. We are happy to have this opportunity to assist you in preparing your tax returns. If you should have any questions, please contact us.

After finalizing the organizer, please return the entire organizer to us.

Sincerely,

R.C. THORNTON & ASSOCIATES, CPAs, LLC

Roy C. Thornton, CPA

Roy P. Thunter

R.C. THORNTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

2015 Entity Tax Return Organizer

Instructions for client and client's personnel.

No one likes to fill out forms, so we don't expect this questionnaire to be any different. However, since we are asking you to take the time to complete this, we thought it would be only fair to explain why we are asking for this information.

- 1) We want to **reduce the possibility of error and overlooked tax benefits** for you. You might think we already know the answers to these questions. Actually, we might, however, our experience is that when humans ASSUME, they can make errors. So even if you believe we know the answers, please respond anyway.
- 2) Why pay us to call and ask these questions? Questions on the organizer are the culmination of the types of questions that we find ourselves having to call clients to get answers for. By completing this organizer, you reduce the times we need to call, so you can help manage your fees with us, by providing complete and accurate information.
- 3) **You'll get your return quicke**r. What generally holds up returns is the "phone tag", calling to get information, waiting, clarifying, etc.

Summary: We really do need answers to these questions. If you marked the boxes "yes", please ensure that you provide the supplemental information as requested. If the answers are "no", then there is nothing more to do. When you are done completing the organizer, please check to ensure that all questions are addressed.

Please do not complete "CPA Firm Check". That is our input to review the information when you submit it to us.

R.C. THORNTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

When you have completed this organizer, please scan and return via email to erlene@rcthornton.com or mail to:

R.C. Thornton & Associates, LLC 1730 E Northern Ave Suite 120

Phoenix, Arizona 85020

Attn: Erlene

The Contents of this Tax Organizer are:

We ask for this information because:

Item
General Questionnaire
First Year Supplement
Entity Coverage Supplement
Electronic Trial Balance
Supplement
Vehicle Supplement
Long Term Asset Supplement
Retirement Plan Supplement
Multistate Supplement
Related Party Supplement
Insurance Supplement

Almost everyone has some of these items to answer. By letting us know where items are posted in your accounts, we take less time to find and adjust if necessary--and that saves you fees.

We want to make sure we have all basic information. Our goal is **not** to be asking you for this each year.

This is a time saver for you. You can do one of these organizers for each of your entities, or provide one for all. However, be sure to delineate any items for the entities. Feel free to include attachments to clarify.

If you provide us your trial balance in Excel, it will reduce our time and save you fees.

Most owners have vehicles in businesses. The IRS has a variety of rules, and we want to make sure everyone complies with them.

The purchase and sale of assets has significant tax results. We want to make sure we get all assets you may have acquired and/or disposed of. Pay particular attention to assets acquired at the end of the year, where some payments might still be due.

Types and styles of pension plans are limitless. It is easy to confuse last year's payments with this year. Please ensure this is all recorded correctly.

Do you operate in more than one state? If so, let us know, and we can discuss filing requirements for those states.

If you have more than one entity, you might have transactions between them. Another way you can save fees is if you are able to "tie out" intercompany transactions, and record interest. Let us know if you are doing this instead of having us do it.

Typically insurance proceeds are tax free. However, if the policy isn't handled correctly, it can have adverse tax consequences.

Business Entity Tax Organizer

e of Client			
ndar or Fiscal Year			
pleted by (Client Personnel)			
Date completed by client or client personnel			
ewed by CPA Firm Personnel			
Dates reviewed by CPA firm personnel			
	Cli	ent	CPA Fir
Questions	Resp	2121212121212121212121212121	Check
General Questionnaire			
ENTITY COVERAGE SUPPLEMENT. Does your completion of this organizer apply to more than one entity? If so, please realize that we will assume every answer to be the same for each entity, unless you			
specify to the contrary. If yes, please complete the ENTITY COVERAGE SUPPLEMENT.	☐ Yes	□No	☐ Firm C
FIRST YEAR TAX RETURN SUPPLEMENT. If this is the first time we have done your tax return,			
please complete the FIRST YEAR TAX RETURN SUPPLEMENT.	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Ch
EXTRA COPIES OF RETURNS. Would you like extra copies of returns? If yes, indicate total number of			
copies you wish	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm CI
Number of Copies Bound Unbound			
PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS. Do you have other professional advisors? If yes, please complete below unless you specifically would not want us to contact them.	Yes	l No	☐ Firm C
Profession Name Phone #			
Attorney			
Banker			
Broker			
Financial Planner			
Property Casualty Ins			
Life Insurance			
ADDRESS FOR TAX RETURN. Is the address shown on the return different from last year? If "yes"			
what address should be shown on the return?	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm C
New Address			
PENALTIES & FINES. Did the business pay penalties/fines during the tax year? If "yes", list amounts and			
indicate the reason for the penalty/fine. If "yes", provide copy of notice, and indicate which GL these	Yes	□ No	☐ Firm C
	Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Ch

Questions	Clie Respo	1404040404040404040404	CPA Firm Check
ENTERTAINMENT EXPENSE . Did the corporation have any meal and/or entertainment expenses? If yes, to which accounts were these items posted?	□ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
Meals & Entertainment AmountPosted to G/L			
CLUB DUES . Did the corporation pay any club dues? If "yes", to which account were these items posted?	Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
Club Dues Amount Posted to G/L			
LIFE AND DISABILITY INSURANCE. Does the corporation pay life insurance, disability, and/or long term care insurance premiums (other than group term life) for officers of the corporation? (Note, this question does not include any reference to health insurance.) If "yes", please complete the attached INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT.	☐ Yes	□ No	Firm Check
Life Insurance AmountPosted to G/L			
Disability Insurance AmountPosted to G/L			
Long Term Care Ins AmountPosted to G/L			
REMINDER - PLEASE COMPLETE INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT ATTACHED			
BUSINESS ACTIVITIES. Did the business engage in any new activities during the year which are different from the prior years? If "yes", describe new activities below:	□ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
Description of new activities			
HEALTH INSURANCE. Does the company pay any health insurance for any owner of the business? If "yes" please indicate the following item:	Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
Owner Name Health Ins Amount Posted to G/L Account ———————————————————————————————————			
GOVERNMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR CHANGES. Has the corporation received any			
notices or correspondence from the IRS or any other tax agency? If "yes", provide copies.	Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
OWNERSHIP CHANGE . Has there been any ownership changes during the year? If "yes", please provide a copy of the final signed agreement which changes the ownership.	Ll Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
CHANGES TO SHAREHOLDER BUY SELL AGREEMENTS. Have there been any changes to the shareholders' buy/sell agreement? If "yes", provide a copy of the new signed buy sell agreement.	Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
MINUTE BOOK. Has the business updated its minute book for the year? If there are any discussions concerning tax matters, please provide copies of that section.	□ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
BUSINESS SEGMENTS . Did the business purchase or sell a business or business segment during this year? If "yes", provide a copy of contract or agreement.	□ Yes	□ Na	☐ Firm Check
MULTI STATE BUSINESS. Does the business operate in states other than that listed in the address indicated on the return? If "yes", list the states that the corporation did business in during this year. If "yes" please complete the MULTI STATE SUPPLEMENT:	□ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check

Question	ıs						************	ent onses	CPA Firm Check
	r remaining				during the year, and wil erally only applies to C	l you be	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
Quarter	<u>Date</u>	<u>Federal</u>	Home State	Other State					
1 2									
3									
tax credit ba employer m requirement a determinal Requirements 1. Employ no employee) 2. Pay averag 3. Have a qu	ased on the coust meet the case please charten of eligibles for Small Error o more than 2 ge annual FTI alified health	cost of health in requirements leck the "yes" be bility. Imployer Health less full-time equirements l	asurance paid on be below. If you think ox and we will con Insurance Credit: valent (FTE) employ 000 or less for the tax or arrangement that r	chalf of employees. It your entity meets (tact you for addition) ees during the tax year equires the employer	nall employer may quali To qualify for the credit for is close to meeting) to nal information in order or (FTE based on 2,080 hou to make a nonelective cont mployees who enroll in th	, an he to make urs per	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
		·		any rental activity?		_	Yes.	□ No	☐ Firm Check
Provide proj			ints of rent. For ea days of personal us		lso provide the number of	of days		88888888	
Form 1099. return shoul	Currently, t d address the	there is no guid	dance as to the leve a true, correct and o	l of "matching" don	questions related to the fee by the IRS on this issu	ie. Each			
			ing the year that wo		Form(s) 1099? If unsu	re,	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
If yes to abo	ove, did or w	vill the entity fi	le all required Form	ns 1099?			Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
					ion and "lobbying"? If expenses were posted t		☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
Lobbying	& Political I	Exp Amount_	Posted to	G/L					
		S. Does the b	•	etirement plans? If	'yes" please complete th	ie	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check

Questions	Questions					CPA Firm Check
COMPANY AUTOM and any general use tru SUPPLEMENT.			any passenger vehicles, including SUV's complete the VEHICLE	☐ Yes	□ No	Firm Check
			o/from shareholders and other related parties PARTY LOAN SUPPLEMENT.	☐ Yes	□ No:	☐ Firm Check
			operty during the year, including, but not see complete the LONG TERM ASSET	Yes	No	Firm Check
	to have receipts for ar		ny charitable contributions this year? 250). If "yes", please complete below.	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Firm Check
Organization	Amount	Posted to G/L				
	d in the tax planning	letter? (If we did not o	year, are there any action items which you do tax planning, indicate "no"). If "yes", a not done.	Yes	EII No	Firm Check

First Year Return Supplement

this information. However, sometimes clients think we have information which we don't. In the event you believe we have some of this information, please call us first before assuming we do have it. If you have called to confirm that we have any information, please indicate with whom you discussed this. Discussed with: CPA Firm has them--you No such have called to confirm. items exist Please provide the following: **Enclosed** ☐ Enclosed ☐ Confirmed □ N/A Tax returns for the prior three years. Depreciation Schedules □ N/A ☐ Confirmed ☐ Enclosed Copies of Shareholder Agreements ☐ Enclosed Confirmed □ N/A Enclosed Confirmed □ N/A For corporations, copies of Articles of Incorporation. For partnerships or LLC, copies of agreements. Enclosed Confirmed □ N/A For S Corporations, copies of IRS approval of S election. □ N/A ☐ Enclosed ☐ Confirmed Provide a list of all business owners and the following information. ☐ Confirmed □ N/A Enclosed (Please use additional pages for additional information.) Name Address Social Security Number/EIN Type of Entity Position in company Ownership Percentage Name Address Social Security Number/EIN Position in company Type of Entity Ownership Percentage Name Address Social Security Number/EIN Position in company Type of Entity Ownership Percentage Name Address Social Security Number/EIN Position in Company Type of Entity Ownership Percentage

Instructions: If this is the first year we will do a tax return for an entity, please provide us the following: We realize we may have some of

Entity Coverage Supplement

Instructions: If you opt to complete this organizer for a variety of different business entities, please list the ones that this organizer applies to. Please note, we will assume any answer to any question to be the same for each entity below, <u>unless</u> you provide information to the contrary. Do not complete "Client Number", we will do.

Name of Business Entity	If not calendar year, indicate Fiscal Year	Client number (we will provide)

Please attach additional pages if necessary.

Electronic Trial Balance Supplement

You can provide your "core" accounting information in many forms. We define "core" as a trial balance or a QuickBooks or Quicken file.

We will need to get these numbers into our software. There are cost effective and/or costly ways to do this. This is an area where you can save additional accounting fees. If you have a QuickBooks file there is little to do, other than send it to us with your password.

If you are not using a QuickBooks file there are several ways for you to send us your trial balance. We are listing these options in the order of the most efficient (least costly) to the most inefficient (most costly) way.

- 1. The trial balance can be an electronic file which you print out from your software in an Excel format. In our experience, almost all current software allows you to do this. When we get your Excel file, we will import it into our own software, thereby avoiding repetitive input. You can usually get information from your technical software support, if necessary.
- 2. An alternative is for us to create an Excel file for you from last year's file, and have you manually input your information into Excel. This is less efficient, since we need to spend time in creating the file, and you need to spend time doing manual input. This works for older software when you cannot do an Excel file and when there are over 50 accounts.
- 3. You can send a hard copy or PDF file. If you do this, we will manually input this into our trial balance software. This way is the most expensive for you. Usually individuals with old software and no time use this option.

Please review below and check the approach you would like to use.

1 We have enclosed a QuickBooks disk.	Check only one
Your Password	
Software Version	
2 We have enclosed an Excel trial balance. We have checked the appropriate trial balance and that it balances.	d to ensure it is
3 You have provided us an Excel file. We have updated it thi new accounts and amounts. We have checked to ensure the	I Yes I
4 We are enclosing a hard copy or PDF file for you to use. Ver that you will input this manually into your software, and it expensive way to do this.	

Vehicle Supplement

Instructions: Please complete questionnaire if you have any automobiles or trucks. Be sure to include documents on sales and purchases (including leases) of automobiles.

	Auto #1	Auto #2	Auto #3	Auto #4	Auto #5
Vehicle description					
Date placed in service					
Business miles					
Commuting miles			-		
Other Personal Miles					
Total miles					
Average Daily round trip commute mileage					
Does the business have evidence to support the claimed business use?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
If "yes", is the evidence written?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
Were the vehicles available for personal use during off- duty hours?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
Were the vehicles used primarily by a more than 5% owner or related person?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
Is another vehicle available for personal use?	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No
Have you acquired or disposed of (including a trade) any a	utomobile or truck w	vith financing or as	a lease?		Yes No

If "yes", please provide a copy of any purchase, sale, lease and/or financing contracts.

Vehicle Supplement

Regarding business policy for vehicles:

Does the business maintain a written policy statement that prohibits all personal use of vehicles, <u>including</u> commuting, by employees?	Yes No
Does the business maintain a written policy statement that prohibits personal use of vehicles, <u>excluding</u> commuting, by employees?	Yes No
Does the business treat all use of vehicles by employees as personal use?	Yes No
Does the business provide more than five vehicles to employees and retain the information received from employees concerning the use of vehicles?	Yes No
Does the business require or maintain copies of vehicle logs?	Yes No

Fixed Asset & Disposition Supplement--Non Vehicles.

Instructions: Utilize this Fixed Asset during the year. However, do not use	& Disposition Supplement for any <u>assets</u> acquired or dispose this supplement for vehicles.	ed of
Note: If you have numerous acquisiting please call our firm before process.	ions and dispositions or if you keep your own depreciation so eeeding.	chedule,
List any special instructions:		
Tax Free Exchanges & Installm	ent sales (selling price collected over several years).	
If you believe you have a tax from	ee exchange or installment sale, please call us first before sul	bmitting this organizer to us.
We'll discuss what information	is necessary.	
	We have no tax free exchanges or installment sales	Not applicable
	We have a tax free exchange, and we have called you.	info requested is enclosed

The information is enclosed.

	tions (exclude installm	ent sale, and/or tax	free exchanges):	
(Use Addition	nal pages if necessary)				
Date Acquired	Asset Description	Purchase Price	Approx. Cash Payment before end of year	Approximate Loan Balance at end of year	Check if you did not receive or place this item in service by the end of the year.
					☐ Not in Service End of Year
					☐ Not in Service End of Year
					Not in Service End of Year
					Not in Service End of Year
					Not in Service End of Year
					Not in Service End of Year
					Not in Service End of Year
					☐ Not in Service End of Year
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					Not in Service End of Year
					Not in Service End of Year
					Not in Service End of Year
					Not in Service End of Year
					Not in Service End of Year

depreciation s components o	schedule we have, pl of the depreciation so	ease call use to get a chedule if you do not a trisfied with it, with the	copy. We will ask us to send y	assume you ar ou a copy. Or,	e satisfied with the if you have received	
	Please check to ack	knowledge that you ha	ve <u>noted</u> this co	omment.	☐ Noted	
Disposition (Pleace Dep Schedule Line #if you have reviewed the schedule	ease attach additiona Description	Date Sole/Abandoned	Sales Price		Comments (if any)	

Asset Disposition (excludes installment sales and/or tax free exchanges):

Review of Depreciation Schedule. You should review the depreciation schedule at least every other year. Some clients prefer to review them every year. If there are assets on the schedule which are no longer in place, it is possible there are deductions that might be taken this year. If you would like to review any

Retirement Plan Supplement

information. If you have any questions, please call first before submitting. Indicate the type of plan below. Simple Plan Check if this plan 401(k) Plan (with or without other components of retirement plan) Check if this plan Check if this plan Pension Plan Check if this plan SEP Plan Other Describe:__ What is the name of the organization that prepares the pension plan's returns (if any required) (Note: R. C. Thornton & Associates, LLC, CPA's, does not prepare these types of returns.) Name: Contribution Expense for the current year. What will be the total employer contribution expense for the current year? Total Contribution expense for year: Check if you do not know what the total contribution expense for the year will be and would like to discuss this with us. ☐ Please call to discuss Payments made in current year. What G/L (s) have you posted your pension amounts to: G/L Account Amount

Instructions: Please complete the following information. Please don't assume we have the

List your paymo	ents in the pension	on plan below.			
Date Payment made/or automatic payment made	Check Number	Check if for last year	Check if for this year	Check if you don't know which year these payments apply?	
		Last Yr Payment Last Yr Payment	Curr Yr Payment Curr Yr Payment	Don't Know	
as of the end of Have you entered	of the year amo	unts withheld from employees	?		
If answer is "no Item Employee Withholdings	Check if "unsure"	f answer is "yes", complete an Dollar Amount	d no further action is neces G/L Account if posted	sary.	
Employer Match Accrual Other Employer Accruals	Unsure Unsure				

Multi-State Supplement

Please list states where you do business and the components listed below:

State		Sales	Labor	Assets	Not sure? Do you want to discuss this with us?
					Please call to discuss
					Please call to discuss
					Please call to discuss
					Please call to discuss
					Please call to discuss
					Please call to discuss
					☐ Please call to discuss
					Please call to discuss
					Please call to discuss
State: If you	do busine	ess in more than one	state, list all the states	which you do bus	iness.
					ch subject you to their jurisdiction. yees in that state, or you have assets in
Sales exclud	ded: Interr	net sales, sales shipp	ped from your resident	state where you ha	ve no employees or assets in that
Labor: Incl	udes emplo	oyees working in th	at state.		
Assets: Inc	ludes equip	oment and/or real es	state.		
If you have	any questi	ons, please call us b	efore you submit this t	ax organizer.	
We will assistate.	ume you o	nly need to file a re	esident state return, unl	ess you tell us that	you have any activities in another

Related Party Transactions

The purpose of this section is to make sure you have properly accounted for transactions between various entities and owners. A related party is any owner of the business or another entity which has some ownership by an owner of the present entity.

Our goal in this section is to ensure all related party transactions agree to other entities and individuals. You may reduce our time and fees, if you are wiling to take the responsibility for this. If you do, we have a series of questions for you to answer in assisting you.

Most clients have us do this. But with many multiple entities, you can reduce our time and your fees if the entity's personnel do this. If you want to do this work yourself, please consider us a resource, and call us if you need some assistance.

If you do not wish to do work related to intercompany transactions, or are not comfortable in doing so, we will be glad to do so for you. However, please realize that this will probably cause you to incur more professional fees.

Do you want to have us handle and resolve all intercompany balance sheet items and any related interest? If yes, there is no further action necessary on your part. (UNLESS, of course, we call you for more additional information)





If you answered "no" to the above, the following list will help you check yourself. Please call if you have any questions. However, we will assume that all items are handled correctly by your accounting personnel.

Note these are helpful tips for you if you are going to resolve all intercompany transactions.

If one related party pays expenses to the other related party, ensure that the amount recorded as an expense on one book equals the same amount on the other set of books of the other entity.

<u>Interest expense for accrual basis entity taxpayers--for</u> <u>intercompany loan balances with stated interest on notes.</u>

If there are any related party loans, ensure that interest expense and income has been posted on both sets of books.

Owners' books (In most cases owners do not keep books.) Please provide a separate schedule listing any amounts accrued or paid to owners during the year.

Life Insurance Supplement

Instructions: Life insurance has different tax treatments depending on ownership, beneficiaries, and insured. A few definitions:

Insured: The person whose life is insured.

Beneficiary: The person who will get the proceeds upon death of the insured.

Owner: The person who has the right to change the beneficiary on the policy.

If you acquired a new insurance policy this year, please provide us a copy of the cover page which shows owner, insured, and beneficiary.

Your insurance agent might be able to help you complete this section.

Check if New Policy this Year	Only for New policies acquired this year. Please attach cover page.	Name of Insurance Company	Face amount (i.e. death benefit)	Premium paid	Owner	Insured	Beneficiary	Premium Paid	Posted to Which G/L Account	Cash Surrender Value	Loan Balance on Policy	Interest Paid on Policy Loan	Posted to Which G/L Account?

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Charitable Giving Acknowledgement and Substantiation

Americans donate millions of dollars to charities every year. The Tax Code encourages charitable giving by allowing a deduction. However, there are strict acknowledgement/substantiation rules that must be followed in order for you to claim your deduction.

Acknowledgements

You must have an acknowledgement from the charity by the time you file your return for the contribution year to claim your deduction. In the event that you file your return late, you can claim a deduction only if you can prove you had the written acknowledgement in hand by the filing deadline or filing extension date.

Here's what you need from charitable organizations to claim your deductions:

- 1. If your contribution is an outright donation of \$250 or more made in cash or by check, the organization must indicate the amount that you gave and state that you received nothing in return (or designate that a certain amount did benefit you, in which case that portion is not deductible).
- 2. If your contribution is an outright donation of \$250 or more of property, or cash and property, the organization must describe the property and state that you received nothing in return. It does not have to put a value on the property it received.

Cash donations of less than \$250. All donors of charitable contributions by cash, check or other monetary gift must retain records that each charitable contribution was actually made, regardless of the amount. To fulfill this burden, a donor has two choices on what paperwork to retain:

- 1. A bank record; or
- 2. A receipt, letter or other written communication from the donee indicating the name of the donee organization, the date the contribution was made and the amount of the contribution.

Donations of clothing and household goods. All donations of clothing and household goods are subject to all of the regular rules on substantiation, plus the taxpayer must prove that they are items in at least good condition. Only clothing and household goods in good condition or better qualify for a deduction.

Keep in mind that the fair market value of used clothing and household goods is usually much lower than the price paid when new. Valuation of these items does not lend itself to fixed formulas or methods.

Other donations, such as vehicles and boats, contributions through payroll deduction or larger gifts of property have special rules and/or record keeping requirements. If you should have any questions regarding these requirements or any of the other requirements noted above, please do not hesitate to call.



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Travel and Entertainment Documentation Requirements

The Internal Revenue Service requires that in the event of an audit, entertainment expenditures must be documented in the following manner:

- 1. Amount,
- 2. Who was entertained (name of person being entertained),
- 3. The business purpose of the meeting,
- 4. The date and place of the entertainment,
- 5. The business relationship of the person being entertained (customer, vendor, employee, etc.).

In the absence of the above documentation, your entertainment expenditures, upon audit, will be disallowed.

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 also requires:

- 1. The entertainment directly precedes or follows a substantial business meeting, or substantial business must be conducted at the time the expense occurs.
- 2. The people in attendance are the taxpayer, business associates and spouses only. (The taxpayer or the taxpayer's representative must be in attendance).
- 3. An expectation of a specific business benefit is derived from the meeting.

Adequate documentation is also required for auto and travel expenses. The Internal Revenue Service requires written documentation of miles driven and their business purpose. These requirements may be met by maintaining a mileage log or an appointment book.

Cellular phones purchased after December 31, 1989 and before January 1, 2010 are subject to the substantiation requirements. The amount, purpose and date of use need to be documented for business usage. For cell phones purchased after December 31, 2009, employers may deduct the cost of providing cell phones to employees for business-related use without having to satisfy the former strict substantiation requirements.

It is important that you review your records to ensure that you have the documentation for these expenses. If you find that the documentation is not available, please notify our office to discuss the propriety of deducting these expenses.

If you should have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to call.

R.C. THORNTON & ASSOCIATES, LLC

