

Form 990 Legalese and Disclosures for Use in Preparing 2018 Tax Returns

In December 2017, the President signed into law the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (“Tax Act” or “Act”) which introduces the most significant changes to the U.S. tax system since 1986. With a few exceptions, the provisions are generally effective starting in the 2018 tax year. If you have any questions regarding the application of the Tax Act regulations, please ask us for advice in that regard.

It is your responsibility to provide us with all the information required for preparing complete and accurate returns. You should retain all the documents, canceled checks, and other data that form the basis of the returns. These may be necessary to prove the accuracy and completeness of the returns to a taxing authority. You have the final responsibility for the tax returns and, therefore, you should review them carefully before you sign them.

We will not audit or otherwise verify the data you submit, although we may ask you to clarify some of it or furnish written or oral assurance that records or other evidence exist to substantiate deductions.

You are responsible for the proper recording of transactions in the books of accounts, the safeguarding of assets, the substantial accuracy of the financial records, and fully and accurately disclosing all relevant facts affecting the return(s) to us. Fiduciary accounting income is determined in accordance with the terms of the governing instrument and the fiduciary's interpretation under local law, which is purely a legal matter.

Please note that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) considers virtual currency (e.g., Bitcoin) as property for U.S. federal tax purposes. As such, any transactions in, or transactions that use, virtual currency are subject to the same general tax principles that apply to other property transactions. If there was virtual currency activity during the 2018 tax year, there may be tax consequences associated with such transactions, and there may be additional foreign reporting obligations.

You agree to provide us with complete and accurate information regarding any transactions in, or transactions that have used, virtual currency during the applicable tax year. Please ask us for advice if you have any questions regarding the type of records required for virtual currency transactions.

We may provide you with a questionnaire or other document requesting specific information. Completing those forms will assist us in making sure you are well served for a reasonable fee. 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.

We will use our professional judgment in preparing your return(s). Given the magnitude of the changes the Tax Act contains, as well as some new concepts introduced in the law, additional stated guidance from the IRS, and possibly from Congress in the form of technical corrections, may be forthcoming. We will use our professional judgment and expertise to assist you given the Tax Act guidance as currently promulgated. Subsequent developments issued by the applicable tax authorities may affect the information we have previously provided, and these effects may be material. 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 share our knowledge and understanding of the possible positions that may be taken on your return(s). We will adopt whatever position you request on your return(s) so long as it is consistent with our professional standards and ethics. If you desire a legal opinion before choosing among alternative tax positions, legal counsel should be separately retained for this purpose. We will work with you and your chosen legal counsel to the best of our abilities in giving you whatever information we have that may help you in your decision. You have the final responsibility for positions taken on the return(s). If the Internal Revenue Service should later contest the

position taken, there may be an assessment of additional tax liability plus interest and possible penalties. We assume no liability for any such additional penalties or assessments. Additional services will be subject to arrangements made in writing at the time requested.

Provisions of the Internal Revenue Code require you to have the necessary records to support your travel (including auto), entertainment, and related expenses. If you do not have the required records, including receipts, do not record the expenditure as a deductible item. If you have any questions as to the type of records required, please contact us for assistance.

If, during our work, we discover information that affects prior-year tax returns, we will make you aware of the facts. However, we cannot be responsible for identifying all items that may affect prior-year returns. If you become aware of such information during the year, please contact us to discuss the best resolution of the issue. We will be happy to prepare appropriate amended returns as a separate engagement.

Our work in connection with the preparation of the tax return(s) does not include any procedures designed to discover defalcations or other irregularities, should any exist. The returns will be prepared solely from information provided to us without verification by us.

The firm may from time to time, and depending on the circumstance, use third-party service providers to assist in preparing your return, but these preparers will not make substantive decisions concerning your return. We may share your tax return information with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information, and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. The firm will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

In accordance with federal law, in no case will we disclose your tax return information to any location outside the United States, to another tax return preparer outside of our firm for purposes of a second opinion, or to any other third party for any purpose other than to prepare your return without first receiving your consent.

The Internal Revenue Code and regulations impose preparation and disclosure standards with noncompliance penalties on both the preparer of a tax return and on the taxpayer. To avoid exposure to these penalties, it may be necessary in some cases to make certain disclosures to you and/or in the tax return concerning positions taken on the return that do not meet these standards. Accordingly, we will discuss tax positions that may increase the risk of exposure to penalties and any recommended disclosures before completing the preparation of the return. If we conclude that we are obligated to disclose a position and you refuse to permit the disclosure, we reserve the right to withdraw from the engagement, and you agree to compensate us for our services to the date of withdrawal. Our engagement with you will terminate upon our withdrawal.

The IRS permits 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 indicate otherwise, we will check the box that authorizes the IRS to discuss your return with us.

We do not keep any of your original records, so we 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 governmental or regulatory agencies.

Certain communications involving tax advice are privileged and not subject to disclosure to the IRS. By disclosing the contents of those communications to anyone, or by turning over information about those

communications to the government, you, your employees, or agents may be waiving this privilege. To protect this right to privileged communication, please consult with us or your attorney prior to disclosing any information about our tax advice. Should you decide that it is appropriate for us to disclose any potentially privileged communication, you agree to provide us with written, advance authority to make that disclosure.

If we receive any request for the disclosure of privileged information from any third party, including a subpoena or IRS summons, we will notify you. In the event you direct us not to make the disclosure, you agree to hold us harmless from any expenses incurred in defending the privilege, including, by way of illustration only, our attorney's fees, court costs, outside adviser's costs, or penalties or fines imposed as a result of your asserting the privilege or your direction to us to assert the privilege.

Your returns may be selected for examination by taxing authorities. In the event of an examination or other Internal Revenue Service or state taxing authority contact, we are available to represent you. Any proposed adjustments by the examining agent are subject to certain rights of appeal. In the event of such government tax examinations, we will be available upon request to represent you and will render additional invoices for the time and expenses incurred. Fees and services will be communicated in a separate engagement letter.

Please note that any person or entity subject to the jurisdiction of the United States (includes individuals, corporations, partnerships, trusts, and estates) having a financial interest in, or signature or other authority over, bank accounts, securities, or other financial accounts having an aggregate value exceeding \$10,000 at any time during the calendar year in a foreign country, shall report such a relationship. Although there are some limited exceptions, filing requirements also apply to taxpayers that have direct or indirect control over a foreign or domestic entity with foreign financial accounts, even if the taxpayer does not have foreign account(s). For example, a corporate-owned foreign account would require filings by the corporation *and* by the individual corporate officers with signature authority. Failure to disclose the required information to the U.S. Department of the Treasury may result in substantial civil and/or criminal penalties.

If you and/or your entity have a financial interest in, or signature authority over, any foreign accounts, you are responsible for providing our firm with all the information necessary to prepare the Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) required by the U.S. Department of the Treasury in order for the FBAR to be received by the Department on or before June 30th of each tax year. Effective July 1, 2013, electronic filing of FBAR reports is mandatory using the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) e-filing system for the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). If you would like our firm to submit your electronic FBAR report (FinCEN Form 114) on your behalf, we must receive a signed consent form (FinCEN Form 114a) from you prior to submitting the foreign reporting form. If you do not provide our firm with information regarding any interest you may have in a foreign account, or if we do not receive your signed authorization to file your foreign reporting form, we will not be able to prepare and file any of the required disclosure statements.

In addition, the Internal Revenue Service also requires information reporting under applicable Internal Revenue Code sections and related regulations, and the respective IRS tax forms are due when your income tax return is due, including extensions. The IRS reporting requirements are in addition to the U.S. Department of the Treasury reporting requirements stated above. Therefore, if you fall into one of the below categories, or if you have any direct or indirect foreign interests, you may be required to file applicable IRS forms.

- **You are an individual or entity with ownership of foreign financial assets and meet the specified**

criteria (Form 8938);

- You are an officer, director or shareholder with respect to certain foreign corporations (Form 5471);
- You are a foreign-owned U.S. corporation or foreign corporation engaged in a U.S. trade or business (Form 5472);
- You are a U.S. transferor of property to a foreign corporation (Form 926);
- You are a U.S. person with an interest in a foreign trust (Forms 3520 and 3520-A); or
- You are a U.S. person with interests in a foreign partnership (Form 8865).

Failure to timely file the appropriate forms with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service may result in substantial monetary penalties. By your signature below, you accept responsibility for informing us if you believe that you may have foreign reporting requirements with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and/or Internal Revenue Service and you agree to timely provide us with the information necessary to prepare the appropriate form(s). We assume no liability for penalties associated with the failure to file, or untimely filing, of any of these forms.

You acknowledge that you are responsible for management decisions and functions. That responsibility includes designating qualified individuals with the necessary expertise to be responsible and accountable for overseeing all the specific services we perform as part of this engagement, as well as evaluating the adequacy and results of the services performed. You are responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities.

We may from time to time, and depending on the circumstances and nature of the services we are providing, share your confidential information with third-party service providers, some of whom may be cloud-based, but we remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Although we will use our best efforts to make the sharing of your information to such third parties secure from unauthorized access, no completely secure system for electronic data transfer has yet been devised. As such, by your signature below, you understand that the firm makes no warranty, expressed or implied, on the security of electronic data transfers.

In addition, in the event our firm or any of its employees or agents is called as a witness or requested to provide any information whether oral, written or electronic in any judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative hearing or trial regarding information or communications that you have provided to this firm, or any documents and workpapers prepared by Cook & Company CPAs + Wealth Management, LLC in accordance with the terms of this agreement, you agree to pay any and all reasonable expenses including fees and costs for our time at the rates specified in our engagement letter, as well as any legal or other fees that we incur as a result of such appearance or production of documents.

It is our policy to keep records related to this engagement for seven years. However, Cook & Company CPAs + Wealth Management, 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.

You acknowledge and agree that upon the expiration of the seven year period Cook & Company CPAs + Wealth Management, LLC shall be free to destroy our records related to this engagement.

We have the right to withdraw from this engagement, in our discretion, if you do not provide us with any information we request in a timely manner, refuse to cooperate with our reasonable requests, or misrepresent any facts. Our withdrawal will release us from any obligation to complete your return and will constitute completion of our engagement. You agree to compensate us for our time and out-of-pocket expenses through the date of our withdrawal.

In the event that a dispute arises at any time between you and the firm that cannot be resolved through discussion or voluntary mediation, the parties agree to submit the entire dispute to binding, non-public arbitration. The arbitration shall take place in the offices of the arbitrator, or at a mutually agreeable location. The rules under which the arbitration shall take place shall be the rules of the American Arbitration Association or other such alternative dispute resolution procedures as may be agreed upon by the parties. Any statements made in preparation for or the conduct of the actual arbitration shall be confidential and the parties agree not to use any such statements in any other matter, including any litigation between the parties and other third-parties not a part to this engagement letter. Unless otherwise agreed, the parties agree that no depositions shall proceed in connection with the arbitration and that only requests for the production of documents shall be used as a discovery device in the arbitration. Moreover, unless otherwise agreed, the parties agree that an arbitration of the dispute shall take place no later than six (6) months after service of a demand for arbitration on the other party.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. Please note that you are affirming to Cook & Company CPAs + Wealth Management, LLC your understanding of, and agreement to, the terms and conditions of this letter along with the Legalese and Disclosures outlined on our website 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 payment of any portion of our return preparation fees.