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**2020 TRUST TAX RETURN ENGAGEMENT LETTER**

Dear Client,

We are pleased to confirm and specify the terms of our engagement with you and to clarify the nature and extent of the services we will provide regarding the preparation of your income tax return(s).

We will prepare your **2020** federal Trust income tax return. This engagement pertains only to the **2020** tax year, and our responsibilities do not include preparation of any other tax return years that may be due to any taxing authority. We are responsible for preparing only the returns referenced above. If you have taxable activity in a state or local municipality other than that referenced, you are responsible for providing our firm with all the information necessary to prepare any additional applicable state and local income tax returns as well as informing us of the applicable states and local municipalities. If you have income tax filing requirements in a given state or local municipality but do not file that return, there could be possible adverse ramifications such as an unlimited statute of limitations, penalties, etc.

The law provides various penalties that may be imposed when taxpayers understate their tax liability. You acknowledge that any such understated tax, and any imposed interest and penalty thereon, are your responsibility, and that we have no responsibility in that regard. If you would like information on the amount or the circumstances of these interest and penalties, please contact us. Your returns may be selected for review by the taxing authorities or you may receive a notice requesting a response to certain issues on your tax return. Any proposed adjustments by the examining agent are subject to certain rights of appeal. In the event of such government tax examination or inquiry, we will be available upon request to represent you or respond to such inquiry. At that time, we will provide you a subsequent engagement letter to clarify the nature and extent of services we will provide regarding the tax examination or inquiry response and will render additional invoices for these services and expenses incurred.

We will prepare the returns from information, which you will furnish to us. It is your responsibility to provide all the information required for the preparation of complete and accurate returns. If applicable, we have included a checklist from the prior year to aid you in the collection of data.

The timeliness of your cooperation is essential to our ability to complete this engagement. Specifically, we must receive sufficient information from which to prepare your returns within a reasonable period of time prior to the applicable filing deadline. Accordingly, if we do not receive this information from you, as noted above, by **March 25th, 2021**, it may be necessary for us to pursue extensions of the due date of your returns. Various penalties and interest are imposed when taxpayers fail to pay the full amount of taxes owed by the filing due date. Furthermore, additional penalties and interest are imposed when taxpayers fail to remit the proper amount of subsequent year tax estimates. Based on information you have provided to us, we can assist you in determining the correct amount of taxes owed for the current year and subsequent year tax estimates. You acknowledge that any such penalties and interest that arise due to the underestimation of current year taxes owed or subsequent year tax estimates remitted are your responsibility, and that we have no responsibility in that regard. If you would like information on the amounts or the circumstances of these penalties and interest, please contact us.

We will not audit or otherwise verify the data you submit. Accordingly, our engagement cannot be relied upon to disclose errors, fraud, or other illegal acts that may exist. However, it may be necessary to ask you for clarification of some of the information you provide, and we will inform you of any material errors, fraud or other illegal acts that come to our attention.

You are responsible for maintaining an adequate and efficient accounting system, for safeguarding assets, for authorizing transactions, and for retaining supporting documentation for those transactions, all of which will, among other things, help assure the preparation of proper returns. Furthermore, you are responsible to review all of the information presented on your tax return for correctness.

We may encounter instances where the tax law is unclear, or where there may be conflicts between the taxing authorities' interpretations of the law and other supportable positions. In those instances, we will outline in a written communication each of the reasonable alternative courses of action, including the risks and consequences of each such alternative. In the end, we will adopt, on your behalf the alternative, which you select after having considered the information provided by us. Pursuant to standards prescribed in IRS Circular 230 and IRC 6694, we are forbidden from signing a tax return unless we have a reasonable belief that a tax position taken on the return will have a more likely than not probability of being sustained on its merits unless we disclose this tax position on a separate attachment to the tax return. However, under no circumstances may we sign a tax return with a tax position that has no reasonable basis.

Our fees for this engagement are not contingent on the results of our service. Rather, our fees for this engagement will be based on a number of factors including, but not limited to, the time spent as well as the complexity of the services we will perform. In addition, you agree to reimburse us for any out of pocket costs incurred in connection with the performance of our services.

Our fees and costs will be billed and are due when the return is complete unless other prior arrangements are made. Invoices unpaid past the due date may be deemed delinquent and are subject to an interest charge of 1% per month. We reserve the right to suspend our services or to withdraw from this engagement in the event that any of our invoices are deemed delinquent. In the event that any collection action is required to collect unpaid balances due us, you agree to reimburse us for the costs of collection including attorneys' fees.

You should retain all the documents, canceled checks, mileage logs and other data that form the basis of income and deductions. These may be necessary to prove the accuracy and completeness of the returns to a taxing authority. You have the final responsibility for the income tax returns and, therefore, you should review them carefully before you sign them.

A copy of your tax return will be provided to you in your own SmartVault® client portal for review before electronic filing. A hardcopy of your return will be provided for you at the end of the engagement. Please retain these copies for your future reference. Requests for additional return copies will be considered billable.

It is our policy to retain engagement documentation for a period of seven years, after which time we will commence the process of destroying the contents of our engagement files. To the extent we accumulate any of your original records during the engagement those documents will be returned to you promptly upon completion of the engagement.

In the event we are required to respond to a subpoena, court order or other legal process for the production of documents and/or testimony relative to information we obtained and/or prepared during the course of this engagement, you agree to compensate us, as set forth above, for the time we expend in connection with such response at our normal consulting rate of **\$95/hour**, and to reimburse us for all of our out of pocket costs incurred in that regard.

In the event that we become obligated to pay any judgment or similar award, you agree to pay any amount in settlement, and any costs incurred as a result of any inaccurate or incomplete information that you provided to us during the course of this engagement. You agree to indemnify us, defend us, and hold us harmless against such obligations, agreements, and/or costs.

You agree that any dispute that may arise regarding the meaning, performance or enforcement of this engagement will, prior to resorting to litigation, be submitted to mediation, and that you will engage in the mediation process in good faith once a written request to mediate has been given by either party to the engagement. A law firm specializing in the mediation process, not associated with either party, and

selected by us, according to its mediation rules, shall administer any mediation initiated as a result of this engagement. Any ensuing litigation shall be conducted within the County of Hillsborough, Florida, according to Florida law. The results of any such mediation shall be binding only upon agreement of each party to be bound. The participating parties shall share the costs of any mediation proceeding equally.

Any litigation arising out of this engagement, except actions by us to enforce payment of our professional invoices, must be filed within one year from the completion of the engagement, notwithstanding any statutory provision to the contrary. In the event of litigation brought against us, any judgment you obtain shall be limited in amount, and shall not exceed the amount of the fee charged by us, and paid by you, for the services set forth in this engagement letter.

This engagement letter is contractual in nature and includes all of the relevant terms that will govern the engagement for which it has been prepared. The terms of this letter supersede any prior oral or written representations or commitments by or between the parties. Any material changes or additions to the terms set forth in this letter will only become effective if evidenced by a written amendment to this letter, signed by all of the parties.

**If, after full consideration and consultation with counsel if so desired, you agree to authorize us to prepare your trust income tax return pursuant to the terms set forth above, please execute this letter on the line(s) below designated for your signature(s), initial each page, and return the this executed letter to my office along with your official tax documents so that preparation of your return can begin. You should keep a copy of this fully executed letter for your records.**

Thank you for your attention in this matter, and please contact us with any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

Sandy L. Payne, CPA

**ACCEPTED AND AGREED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Trustee Printed Name

Name of Trust: \_\_\_\_\_