

Tax Reduction Letter

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Internal Revenue Code Section 72(t)(2)(A)

Annuities; certain proceeds of endowment and life insurance contracts

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- (t) 10-percent additional tax on early distributions from qualified retirement plans.
 - (1) Imposition of additional tax.

If any taxpayer receives any amount from a qualified retirement plan (as defined in section 4974(c)), the taxpayer's tax under this chapter for the taxable year in which such amount is received shall be increased by an amount equal to 10 percent of the portion of such amount which is includible in gross income.

(2) Subsection not to apply to certain distributions.

Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4), paragraph (1) shall not apply to any of the following distributions:

- (A) In general. Distributions which are-
 - (i) made on or after the date on which the employee attains age 591/2,
 - (ii) made to a beneficiary (or to the estate of the employee) on or after the death of the employee,
 - (iii) attributable to the employee's being disabled within the meaning of subsection (m)(7),
 - (iv) part of a series of substantially equal periodic payments (not less frequently than annually) made for the life (or life expectancy) of the employee or the joint lives (or joint life expectancies) of such employee and his designated beneficiary,
 - (v) made to an employee after separation from service after attainment of age 55,
 - (vi) dividends paid with respect to stock of a corporation which are described in section 404(k),
 - (vii) made on account of a levy under section 6331 on the qualified retirement plan, or

- (viii) payments under a phased retirement annuity under section 8366a(a)(5) or 8412a(a)(5) of title 5, United States Code, or a composite retirement annuity under section 8366a(a)(1) or 8412a(a)(1) of such title.
- (B) Medical expenses. Distributions made to the employee (other than distributions described in subparagraph (A), (C), or (D)) to the extent such distributions do not exceed the amount allowable as a deduction under section 213 to the employee for amounts paid during the taxable year for medical care (determined without regard to whether the employee itemizes deductions for such taxable year).
- (C) Payments to alternate payees pursuant to qualified domestic relations orders. Any distribution to an alternate payee pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order (within the meaning of section 414(p)(1)).
- (D) Distributions to unemployed individuals for health insurance premiums.
 - (i) In general. Distributions from an individual retirement plan to an individual after separation from employment-
 - (I) if such individual has received unemployment compensation for 12 consecutive weeks under any Federal or State unemployment compensation law by reason of such separation,
 - (II) if such distributions are made during any taxable year during which such unemployment compensation is paid or the succeeding taxable year, and
 - (III) to the extent such distributions do not exceed the amount paid during the taxable year for insurance described in section 213(d)(1)(D) with respect to the individual and the individual's spouse and dependents (as defined in section 152, determined without regard to subsections (b)(1), (b)(2), and (d)(1)(B) thereof).
 - (ii) Distributions after reemployment. Clause (i) shall not apply to any distribution made after the individual has been employed for at least 60 days after the separation from employment to which clause (i) applies.
 - (iii) Self-employed individuals. To the extent provided in regulations, a self-employed individual shall be treated as meeting the requirements of clause (i)(I) if, under Federal or State law, the individual would have received unemployment compensation but for the fact the individual was self-employed.
- (E) Distributions from individual retirement plans for higher education expenses. Distributions to an individual from an individual retirement plan to the extent such distributions do not exceed the qualified higher education expenses (as defined in paragraph (7)) of the taxpayer for the taxable year. Distributions shall

not be taken into account under the preceding sentence if such distributions are described in subparagraph (A), (C), or (D) or to the extent paragraph (1) does not apply to such distributions by reason of subparagraph (B).

- (F) Distributions from certain plans for first home purchases. Distributions to an individual from an individual retirement plan which are qualified first-time homebuyer distributions (as defined in paragraph (8)). Distributions shall not be taken into account under the preceding sentence if such distributions are described in subparagraph (A), (C), (D), or (E) or to the extent paragraph (1) does not apply to such distributions by reason of subparagraph (B).
- (G) Distributions from retirement plans to individuals called to active duty.
 - (i) In general. Any qualified reservist distribution.
 - (ii) Amount distributed may be repaid. Any individual who receives a qualified reservist distribution may, at any time during the 2-year period beginning on the day after the end of the active duty period, make one or more contributions to an individual retirement plan of such individual in an aggregate amount not to exceed the amount of such distribution. The dollar limitations otherwise applicable to contributions to individual retirement plans shall not apply to any contribution made pursuant to the preceding sentence. No deduction shall be allowed for any contribution pursuant to this clause.
 - (iii) Qualified reservist distribution. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "qualified reservist distribution" means any distribution to an individual if-
 - (I) such distribution is from an individual retirement plan, or from amounts attributable to employer contributions made pursuant to elective deferrals described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 402(g)(3) or section 501(c)(18)(D)(iii),
 - (II) such individual was (by reason of being a member of a reserve component (as defined in section 101 of title 37, United States Code)) ordered or called to active duty for a period in excess of 179 days or for an indefinite period, and
 - (III) such distribution is made during the period beginning on the date of such order or call and ending at the close of the active duty period.
 - (iv) Application of subparagraph. This subparagraph applies to individuals ordered or called to active duty after September 11, 2001. In no event shall the 2-year period referred to in clause (ii) end on or before the date which is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph.

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