

Engagement Letter & Privacy Disclosure Notice

To Starr Cochran & Associates, Inc.:

I have engaged your firm to prepare my Individual (1040) federal and state of _____ income tax returns for the year ended _____. I understand that it is my responsibility to provide you with all of the information required to complete my tax return. In that regard, I state that, to the best of my knowledge and belief:

1. I have provided true, correct, and complete information regarding my income as listed on the attached Forms W-2, 1099 and/or attached written summaries. I understand that it is my responsibility to provide all the information necessary to complete the returns. I will retain for four (4) years all the documents, receipts, cancelled checks, and other records required to substantiate the items of income and expenses claimed on my return.
2. I have provided true, correct, and complete information regarding amounts I have presented to you to claim as tax deductions, and I have maintained written documentation supporting all amounts, including logbooks and receipts. I understand that if a question arises regarding the interpretation of tax law, and a conflict exists between the tax authorities' interpretation of the law and other supportable positions, that you will use your professional judgment in resolving the issues.
3. I understand because taxing authorities may examine (audit) the returns, that documentation should be retained to support the information provided to you, especially business travel and entertainment deductions, business use percentage of autos and other business assets and barter activities, and that penalties may be imposed on returns that are late, underpaid, or incorrect.
4. I understand that you will not audit or otherwise verify any information, that you may require clarification or additional information, that you are not responsible for disallowed deductions, the inclusion of additional unreported income or any resulting taxes, penalties or interest.
5. ***I understand that I will be charged an additional fee if you are asked to assist or represent me in a tax audit examination or inquiry.*** I understand that, in the event of preparer error, I am responsible for additional tax that may be due, but that the extent of your responsibility is to pay for any penalties and interest that the IRS or the above state revenue department may assess.
6. I will contact you immediately if I discover additional information that will lead to a change in my return or if I receive any letters from the IRS or state taxing authorities.
7. ***I understand that your bill will be due and payable upon completion of these returns and that additional services, including electronic filing, will not be performed until the bill for these services is paid in full.*** There may be circumstances with a new client or an existing client, who has had payment issues, that we may request a retainer in advance. I understand your bill will be based upon a schedule of tax forms prepared and that your pricing schedule is available upon request.

Privacy Policy

It has always been the policy of Starr Cochran & Associates, Inc. to keep all information we collect from you confidential from all sources. We restrict access to all nonpublic personal information about you to members of our firm who need to know that information to provide services to you. We do collect nonpublic personal information about you from the following sources:

- Information we receive from you on tax preparation organizers, worksheets, Federal and State tax reporting forms, and from other documents we use in tax preparation or related services.
- Information about your transactions with us and others.
- Information we may receive from outside agencies such as banks and brokerage houses.

We do not disclose any nonpublic personal information about our clients or former clients, except as permitted, required or approved by you in writing as listed below:

- Requirements to comply with federal, state or local law.
- Requirements to comply with national, state, or local licensing rules.
- Requirements to disclose information in response to legal subpoenas.
- Items you permit or request us to disclose, as authorized by you in writing.
- Information that you authorize us to disclose by signing this engagement letter to electronically file your tax return.
- Information that you authorize us to disclose by signing this engagement letter, which discloses that you are our client, without disclosure of financial or other personal information.

I have read, understand, and accept the conditions of the engagement letter and the privacy policies discussed above.

Client Signature _____

Date _____

Client Printed Name _____