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Governor

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION CABINET
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JONATHAN MILLER
Secretary

THOMAS B. MILLER
Commissioner

In the matter of:

██████████ & ██████████

Contact:

██████████ & ██████████
████████████████████
████████████████████

FINAL RULING NO. 2010-81
November 22, 2010

FINAL RULING

The Kentucky Department of Revenue ("DOR") currently has an outstanding assessment of accrued interest against ██████████ & ██████████ ("██████████") for the period August 1, 2006 through August 31, 2006 as depicted in the chart below:

| Tax Period | Outstanding Tax Due | Interest As of 11-22-2010 | Outstanding Penalty Due | Total Due As of 11-22-2010 |
|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 08/01/06-08/31/06 | \$ ██████████ | \$ ██████████ | \$ ██████████ | \$ ██████████ |

The DOR discovered in 2010 that the ██████████ had not remitted Kentucky use tax for an August 30, 2006 purchase of lumber from Canada for a cabin that was built in Kentucky.

The DOR waived the 20% penalty it had assessed as a result of the ██████████' failure to report and pay the tax due in a timely manner. See generally KRS 131.180; KRS 131.175; 103 KAR 1:040. Also assessed by DOR was the interest that had accrued pursuant to KRS 139.650 and 131.183 prior to ██████████' payment of the tax. This accrued interest remains unpaid.

The ██████████ have protested the DOR's assessment of this accrued interest. The ██████████' argument is that this interest should be waived because they did not know that use tax was due and no interest should be charged.

This argument is without merit. KRS 139.650 plainly and unambiguously states:

In every case, any tax not paid on or before the due date shall bear interest at the tax interest rate as defined in KRS 131.010(6) from the date due until the date of payment.

(Emphasis added.)

It is further provided in KRS 131.175:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of KRS Chapter 131 to 143A, for all taxes payable directly to the Department of Revenue, the sheriff or the county clerk, the commissioner shall have authority to waive the penalty, but not interest, where it is shown to the satisfaction of the department that failure to file or pay timely is due to reasonable cause.

(Emphasis added.)

Under the foregoing statutory provisions, interest must accrue on any unpaid taxes and this interest cannot be waived by the DOR. Penalties can be waived upon a showing of reasonable cause, which the DOR has done with respect to the penalty that was assessed to the ██████████. See also 103 KAR 1:040. On the other hand, the law clearly and specifically denies the DOR the authority to go further and waive interest that accrues on unpaid taxes or tax assessments.

For the reasons stated above, the outstanding liability totaling \$██████████ set forth above is a legitimate liability of ██████████ & ██████████ due to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

This letter is the final ruling of the Department of Revenue.

APPEAL

You may appeal this final ruling to the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals pursuant to the provisions of KRS 131.110, KRS 131.340-131.365, 103 KAR 1:010 and 802 KAR 1:010. If you decide to appeal this final ruling, your petition of appeal must be filed at the principal office of the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals, 128 Brighton Park Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-3714, within thirty (30) days from the date of this final ruling. The rules of the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals, which are set forth in 802 KAR 1:010, require that the petition of appeal must:

1. Be filed in quintuplicate;
2. Contain a brief statement of the law and facts in issue;
3. Contain the petitioner's or appellant's position as to the law and facts; and
4. Include a copy of this final ruling with each copy of the petition of appeal.

The petition of appeal must be in writing and signed by the petitioner or appellant. Filings by facsimile or other electronic means shall not be accepted.

Proceedings before the Kentucky Board of Tax Appeals are conducted in accordance with 103 KAR 1:010, 802 KAR 1:010 and KRS 131.340-131.365 and KRS Chapter 13B. Formal hearings are held by the Board concerning the tax appeals before it, with all testimony and proceedings officially reported. Legal representation of parties to appeals before the Board is governed by the following rules set forth in Section 3 of 802 KAR 1:010:

1. An individual may represent himself in any proceedings before the Board where his individual tax liability is at issue or he may obtain an attorney to represent him in those proceedings;
2. An individual who is not an attorney may not represent any other individual or legal entity in any proceedings before the Board;
3. Any party appealing a final ruling to the Board other than an individual, such as a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, estate or other legal entity, shall be represented by an attorney in all proceedings before the Board, including the filing of the petition of appeal; and
4. An attorney who is not licensed to practice in Kentucky may practice before the Board only if he complies with Rule 3.030(2) of the Rules of the Kentucky Supreme Court.

You will be notified by the Clerk of the Board of the date and time set for any hearing.

Sincerely,



E. Jeffrey Mosley
Interim Executive Director
Office of Legal Services for Revenue