



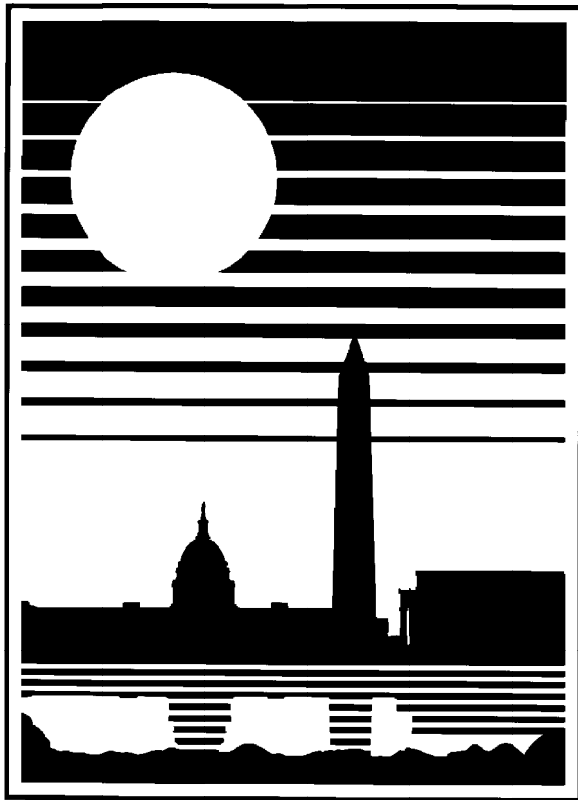
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Internal  
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# Survivors, Executors, and Administrators

For use in preparing  
**1996** Returns



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## Important Changes

**Individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN).** The IRS will issue an ITIN to a nonresident or resident alien who does not have and is not eligible to get a social security number (SSN). To apply for an ITIN, file Form W-7 with the IRS. It usually takes 30 days to get it. The ITIN is entered wherever an SSN is requested on a tax return.

An ITIN is for tax use only. It does not entitle the holder to social security benefits or change the holder's employment or immigration status under U.S. law.

**Death benefit exclusion repealed.** The death benefit exclusion does not apply with respect to employees dying after August 20, 1996.

**Basis of inherited S corporation stock.** The basis of inherited S corporation stock must be reduced if there is income in respect of a decedent attributable to that stock. This provision is effective with respect to decedents dying after August 20, 1996.

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## Introduction

This publication is designed to help those in charge of the property (estate) of an individual who has died. It shows them how to complete and file federal income tax returns and points out their responsibility to pay any taxes due.

A comprehensive example, using tax forms, is included near the end of this publication. Also included at the end of this publication are:

- 1) A checklist of the forms you may need and their due dates, and
- 2) A worksheet to reconcile amounts reported in the decedent's name on information Forms W-2, 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, etc. The worksheet will help you correctly determine the income to report on the decedent's final return and on the returns for either the estate or a beneficiary.

## Useful Items

You may want to see:

### Publication

- 950** Introduction to Estate and Gift Taxes

### Form (and Instructions)

- 1040** U.S. Individual Income Tax Return
- 1041** U.S. Income Tax Return for Estates and Trusts
- 706** United States Estate (and Generation-Skipping Transfer) Tax Return

See *How To Get More Information*, near the end of this publication for information about getting these publications and forms.

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## Personal Representatives

A **personal representative** of an estate is an executor, administrator, or anyone who is in charge of the decedent's property. Generally, an **executor** (or executrix) is named in a decedent's will to administer the estate and distribute properties as the decedent has directed. An **administrator** (or administratrix) is usually appointed by the court if no will exists, if no executor was named in the will, or if the named executor cannot or will not serve.

In general, an executor and an administrator perform the same duties and have the same responsibilities.

For estate tax purposes, if there is no executor or administrator appointed, qualified, and acting within the United States, the term "executor" includes anyone in actual or constructive possession of any property of the decedent. It includes, among others, the decedent's agents and representatives; safe-deposit companies, warehouse companies, and other custodians of property in this country; brokers holding securities of the decedent as collateral; and the debtors of the decedent who are in this country.

Because a personal representative for a decedent's estate can be an executor, administrator, or anyone in charge of the decedent's property, the term "personal representative" will be used throughout this publication.

## Duties

The primary duties of a personal representative are to collect all the decedent's assets, pay the creditors, and distribute the remaining assets to the heirs or other beneficiaries.

The personal representative also must:

- 1) File any income tax return and the estate tax return when due, and
- 2) Pay the tax determined up to the date of discharge from duties.

Other duties of the personal representative in federal tax matters are discussed in other sections of this publication. If any beneficiary is a nonresident alien, get Publication 515, *Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Corporations*, for information on the personal representative's duties as a withholding agent.

**Penalty.** There is a penalty for failure to file a tax return when due unless the failure is due to reasonable cause. Relying on an agent (attorney, accountant, etc.) is not reasonable cause for late filing. It is the personal representative's duty to file the returns for the decedent and the estate when due.

**Identification number.** The first action you should take if you are the personal representative for the decedent is to apply for an **employer identification number** for the estate. You should apply for this number as soon as possible because you need to enter it on returns, statements, and other documents that you file concerning the estate. You must also

give the number to payers of interest and dividends and other payers who must file a return concerning the estate. You must apply for the number on **Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number**, available from IRS and Social Security Administration offices.

Payers of interest and dividends report amounts on Forms 1099 using the identification number of the person to whom the account is payable. After a decedent's death, the Forms 1099 must reflect the identification number of the estate or beneficiary to whom the amounts are payable. As the personal representative handling the estate you must furnish this identification number to the payer. For example, if interest is payable to the estate, the estate's identification number must be provided to the payer and used to report the interest on Form 1099-INT, *Interest Income*. If the interest is payable to a surviving joint owner, the survivor's identification number must be provided to the payer and used to report the interest.

The deceased individual's identifying number must not be used to file an individual tax return after the decedent's final tax return. It also must not be used to make estimated tax payments for a tax year after the year of death.

**Penalty.** If you do not include the employer identification number on any return, statement, or other document, you are liable for a penalty for each failure, unless you can show reasonable cause. You are also liable for a penalty if you do not give the employer identification number to another person, or if you do not include the taxpayer identification number of another person on a return, statement, or other document.

**Notice of fiduciary relationship.** The term "fiduciary" means any person acting for another person. It applies to persons who have positions of trust on behalf of others. A personal representative for a decedent's estate is a fiduciary.

If you are appointed to act in any fiduciary capacity for another, you must file a written notice with the IRS stating this. **Form 56, Notice Concerning Fiduciary Relationship**, can be used for this purpose. The instructions and other requirements are given on the back of the form.

**Filing the notice.** File the written notice (or Form 56) with the IRS service center where the returns are filed for the person (or estate) for whom you are acting. You should file this notice as soon as all of the necessary information (including the employer identification number) is available. It notifies the IRS that, as the fiduciary, you are assuming the powers, rights, duties, and privileges of the decedent, and allows the IRS to mail to you all tax notices concerning the person (or estate) you represent. The notice remains in effect until you notify the appropriate IRS office that your relationship to the estate has terminated.

**Termination notice.** When you are relieved of your responsibilities as personal representative, you must advise the IRS office where you filed the written notice (or Form 56) either that the estate has been terminated or that your successor has been appointed. If the

estate is terminated, you must furnish satisfactory evidence of the termination of the estate. Use Form 56 for the termination notice by completing the appropriate part on the form and attaching the required evidence. If another has been appointed to succeed you as the personal representative, you should give the name and address of your successor.

**Request for prompt assessment (charge) of tax.** The IRS ordinarily has 3 years from the date an income tax return is filed, or its due date, whichever is later, to charge any additional tax that is due. However, as a personal representative you may request a prompt assessment of tax after the return has been filed. This reduces the time for making the assessment to 18 months from the date the written request for prompt assessment was received. This request can be made for any income tax return of the decedent and for the income tax return of the decedent's estate. This may permit a quicker settlement of the tax liability of the estate and an earlier final distribution of the assets to the beneficiaries.

**Form 4810.** Form 4810, *Request for Prompt Assessment Under Internal Revenue Code Section 6501(d)*, can be used for making this request. It must be filed separately from any other document. The request should be filed with the IRS office where the return was filed. If Form 4810 is not used, you must clearly indicate that it is a request for prompt assessment under section 6501(d) of the Internal Revenue Code.

As the personal representative for the decedent's estate, you are responsible for any additional taxes that may be due. You can request prompt assessment of any taxes (other than federal estate taxes) for any open years for the decedent, even though the returns were filed before the decedent's death.

**Failure to report income.** If you or the decedent failed to report substantial amounts of gross income (more than 25% of the gross income reported on the return) or filed a false or fraudulent return, your request for prompt assessment will not shorten the period during which the IRS may assess the additional tax. However, such a request may relieve you of personal liability for the tax if you did not have knowledge of the unpaid tax.

**Insolvent estate.** If a decedent's estate is insufficient to pay all the decedent's debts, the debts due the United States must be paid first. Both the decedent's federal income tax liabilities at the time of death and the estate's income tax liability are debts due the United States. The personal representative of an insolvent estate is personally responsible for any tax liability of the decedent or of the estate if he or she had notice of such tax obligations or had failed to exercise due care in determining if such obligations existed before distribution of the estate's assets and before being discharged from duties. The extent of such personal responsibility is the amount of any other payments made before paying the debts due the United States. The income tax liabilities need not be formally assessed for the personal representative to be liable if he or she

was aware or should have been aware of their existence.

## Fees Received by Personal Representatives

All personal representatives must include in their gross incomes fees paid to them from an estate. If paid to a professional executor or administrator, self-employment tax also applies to such fees. For a nonprofessional executor or administrator (a person serving in such capacity in an isolated instance, such as a friend or relative of the decedent), self-employment tax only applies if a trade or business is included in the estate's assets, the executor actively participates in the business, and the fees are related to operation of the business.

## Final Return for Decedent

The personal representative (defined earlier) must file the final income tax return of the decedent for the year of death and any returns not filed for preceding years. A surviving spouse, under certain circumstances, may have to file the returns for the decedent. See *Joint Return*, below.

**Return for preceding year.** If an individual died after the close of the tax year, but before the return for that year was filed, the return for the year just closed will not be the final return. The return for that year will be a regular return and the personal representative must file it.

**Example.** Samantha Smith died on March 21, 1996, before filing her 1995 tax return. Her personal representative must file her 1995 return by April 15, 1996. Her final tax return is due April 15, 1997.

## Filing Requirements

The income, age, and filing status of a decedent generally determine the filing requirements. In general, filing status depends on whether the decedent was considered single or married at the time of death. Gross income usually means money, goods, and property an individual received on which he or she must pay tax. It includes gross receipts from self-employment minus any cost of goods sold. It does not include nontaxable income. See Publication 501, *Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information*.

## Refund

A return should be filed to obtain a refund if tax was withheld from salaries, wages, pensions, or annuities, or if estimated tax was paid, even if a return is not required to be filed. Also, the decedent may be entitled to other credits that result in a refund. These advance payments of tax and credits are discussed later under *Credits, Other Taxes, and Payments*.

**Form 1310.** Generally, a person who is filing a return for a decedent and claiming a refund must file a Form 1310, *Statement of Person*

*Claiming Refund Due a Deceased Taxpayer*, with the return. However, if the person claiming the refund is a surviving spouse filing a joint return with the decedent, or a court-appointed or certified personal representative filing an original return for the decedent, Form 1310 is not needed. The personal representative must attach to the return a copy of the court certificate showing that he or she was appointed the personal representative.

**Example.** Assume that Mr. Green died on January 4, 1996, before filing his tax return. On April 3 of the same year, you were appointed the personal representative for Mr. Green's estate, and you filed his Form 1040 showing a refund due. You do not need Form 1310 to claim the refund if you attach a copy of the court certificate showing you were appointed the personal representative.

## Nonresident Alien

If the decedent was a nonresident alien who would have had to file Form 1040NR, *U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return*, you must file that form for the decedent's final tax year. See the instructions for Form 1040NR for the filing requirements, due date, and where to file.

## Joint Return

Generally, the personal representative and the surviving spouse can file a joint return for the decedent and the surviving spouse. However, the surviving spouse alone can file the joint return if no personal representative has been appointed before the due date for filing the final joint return for the year of death. This also applies to the return for the preceding year if the decedent died after the close of the preceding tax year and before the due date for filing that return. The income of the decedent that was includible on his or her return for the year up to the date of death (see *Income To Include*, later) and the income of the surviving spouse for the entire year must be included in the final joint return.

A final joint return with the deceased spouse cannot be filed if the surviving spouse remarried before the end of the year of the decedent's death. The filing status of the deceased spouse in this instance is "married filing separate return."

For information about tax benefits a surviving spouse may be entitled to, see *Tax Benefits for Survivors*, later under *Other Tax Information*.

## Personal representative may revoke joint return election.

A court-appointed personal representative may revoke an election to file a joint return that was previously made by the surviving spouse alone. This is done by filing a separate return for the decedent within one year from the due date of the return (including any extensions). The joint return made by the surviving spouse will then be regarded as the separate return of that spouse by excluding the decedent's items and refiguring the tax liability.

## Income To Include

The decedent's income includible on the final return is generally determined as if the person were still alive except that the taxable period is usually shorter because it ends on the date of death. The method of accounting regularly used by the decedent before death also determines the income includible on the final return. This section explains how some types of income are reported on the final return.

For more information about accounting methods, get Publication 538, *Accounting Periods and Methods*.

### Under the Cash Method

If the decedent accounted for income under the cash method, only those items actually or constructively received before death are accounted for in the final return.

**Constructive receipt of income.** Interest from coupons on the decedent's bonds was constructively received by the decedent if the coupons matured in the decedent's final tax year, but had not been cashed. Include the interest in the final return.

Generally, a dividend was constructively received if it was available for use by the decedent without restriction. If the corporation customarily mailed its dividend checks, the dividend was includible when received. If the individual died between the time the dividend was declared and the time it was received in the mail, the decedent did not constructively receive it before death. Do not include the dividend in the final return.

### Under an Accrual Method

Generally, under an accrual method of accounting, income is reported when earned.

If the decedent used an accrual method, only the income items normally accrued before death are to be included in the final return.

### Partnership Income

The death of a partner generally does not close the partnership's tax year before it normally ends. It continues for both the remaining partners and the deceased partner. Even if the partnership has only two partners, the death of one does not terminate the partnership or close its tax year, provided the deceased partner's estate or successor continues to share in the partnership's profits or losses. If the surviving partner terminates the partnership by discontinuing its business operations, the partnership tax year closes as of the date of termination. If the deceased partner's estate or successor sells, exchanges, or liquidates its entire interest in the partnership, the partnership's tax year for the estate or successor will close as of the date of the sale or exchange or the date the liquidation is completed.

On the decedent's final return include the decedent's distributive share of partnership income for the partnership's tax year ending within or with the decedent's last tax year (the year ending on the date of death).

Do not include on the final return the distributive share of partnership income for a

partnership's tax year ending after the decedent's death. In this case, partnership income earned up to and including the date of death is income in respect of the decedent, discussed later. Income earned after the date of death to the end of the partnership's tax year is income to the estate or successor in interest.

**Example.** Mary Smith was a partner in XYZ partnership and reported her income on a tax year ending December 31. The partnership uses a tax year ending June 30. Mary died August 31, 1996, and her estate established its tax year ending August 31.

The distributive share of taxable income from the partnership based on the decedent's partnership interest is reported as follows:

- 1) Final Return for the Decedent — January 1 through August 31, 1996, includes income from the XYZ partnership year ending June 30, 1996.
- 2) Income Tax Return of the Estate — September 1, 1996, through August 31, 1997, includes income from the XYZ partnership year ending June 30, 1997. The portion of income from the partnership for the period July 1, 1996, through August 31, 1996, is income in respect of a decedent.

### S Corporation Income

If the decedent was a shareholder in an S corporation, you must include on the final return the decedent's share of S corporation income for the corporation's tax year that ends within or with the decedent's last tax year (year ending on the date of death). The final return must also include the decedent's pro rata share of the S corporation's income for the period between the end of the corporation's last tax year and the date of death.

The income for the part of the S corporation's tax year after the shareholder's death is income to the estate or other person who has acquired the stock in the S corporation.

### Self-Employment Income

Include self-employment income actually or constructively received or accrued, depending on the decedent's accounting method. For self-employment tax purposes only, the decedent's self-employment income will include the decedent's distributive share of a partnership's income or loss through the end of the month in which death occurred. For this purpose only, the partnership's income or loss is considered to be earned ratably over the partnership's tax year.

### Community Income

If the decedent was married and was domiciled in a community property state, half of the income received and half of the expenses paid during the decedent's tax year by either the decedent or spouse may be considered to be the income and expense of the other. For more information, get Publication 555, *Community Property*.

## Interest and Dividend Income (Forms 1099)

A Form 1099 should be received for the decedent reporting interest and dividends that were includible on his or her return before death. A separate Form 1099 should be received showing the interest and dividends includible on the returns of the estate or other recipient after the date of death and payable to the estate or other recipient. You can request corrected Forms 1099, if these forms do not properly reflect the right recipient or amounts.

The amount reported on Form 1099-INT or Form 1099-DIV, *Dividends and Distributions*, may not necessarily be the correct amount that should be properly reported on each income tax return. For example, a Form 1099-INT reporting interest payable to a decedent may include income that should be reported on the final income tax return of the decedent, as well as income that the estate or other recipient should report, either as income earned after death or as income in respect of the decedent (discussed later). For income earned after death, you should ask the payer for a Form 1099 that properly identifies the recipient (by name and identification number) and the proper amount. If that is not possible, or if the form includes an amount that represents income in respect of the decedent, include an explanation, such as that shown under *How to report*, next, describing the amounts that are properly reported on the decedent's final return.

**How to report.** If you are preparing the decedent's final return and you have received a Form 1099-INT or a Form 1099-DIV for the decedent that includes amounts belonging to the decedent and to another recipient (the decedent's estate or another beneficiary), report the total interest shown on Form 1099-INT on Schedule 1 (Form 1040A) or on Schedule B (Form 1040). Next, enter a "subtotal" of the interest shown on Forms 1099, and the interest reportable from other sources for which you did not receive Forms 1099. Show any interest (including any interest you receive as a nominee) belonging to another recipient separately and subtract it from the subtotal. Identify the amount of this adjustment as "Nominee Distribution" or other appropriate designation. Report dividend income on the appropriate schedule using the same procedure.

**Note.** If the decedent received amounts as a nominee, you must give the actual owner a Form 1099, unless the owner is the decedent's spouse.

## Exemptions and Deductions

Generally, the rules for exemptions and deductions allowed to an individual also apply to the decedent's final income tax return. Show on the final return deductible items the decedent paid before death (or accrued, if the decedent reported deductions on an accrual method). This section contains a detailed discussion of medical expenses because, under

certain conditions, the tax treatment can be different for the medical expenses of the decedent. See *Medical Expenses*, below.

## Exemptions

You can claim the personal exemption in full on a final income tax return. If the decedent was another person's dependent (i.e., a parent's), you cannot claim the personal exemption on the decedent's final return.

## Standard Deduction

If you do not itemize deductions on the final return, the full amount of the appropriate standard deduction is allowed regardless of the date of death. For information on the appropriate standard deduction, get Publication 501, *Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information*.

## Medical Expenses

Medical expenses paid before death by the decedent are deductible on the final income tax return if deductions are itemized. This includes expenses for the decedent as well as for the decedent's spouse and dependents.

**Election for decedent's expenses.** Medical expenses that are not deductible on the final income tax return are liabilities of the estate and are shown on the federal estate tax return (Form 706). However, if medical expenses for the decedent are paid out of the estate during the 1-year period beginning with the day after death, you can elect to treat all or part of the expenses as paid by the decedent at the time they were incurred.

If you make the election, you can claim all or part of the expenses on the decedent's income tax return rather than on the federal estate tax return (Form 706). You can deduct expenses incurred in the year of death on the final income tax return. You should file an amended return (Form 1040X) for medical expenses incurred in an earlier year, unless the statutory period for filing a claim for that year has expired.

**Making the election.** You make the election by filing with the decedent's income tax return, or amended return, a statement in duplicate that you have not claimed the amount as an estate tax deduction, and that the estate waives the right to claim the amount as a deduction. This election applies only to expenses incurred for the decedent, not to expenses incurred to provide medical care for dependents.

**Deduction.** The amount you can deduct on the income tax return is the amount above 7.5% of adjusted gross income. The amounts not deductible because of this percentage cannot be claimed on the federal estate tax return.

**Example.** Richard Brown used the cash method of accounting and filed his income tax return on a calendar year basis. Mr. Brown died on June 1, 1996, after incurring \$800 in medical expenses. Of that amount, \$500 was incurred in 1995 and \$300 was incurred in 1996. Richard filed his 1995 income tax return

before April 15, 1996. The personal representative of the estate paid the entire \$800 liability in August 1996.

The personal representative may then file an amended return (Form 1040X) for 1995 claiming the \$500 medical expense as a deduction. The \$300 of expenses incurred in 1996 can be deducted on the final income tax return, although it was paid after Richard's death. The personal representative must file a statement in duplicate with each return stating that these amounts have not been claimed on the federal estate tax return (Form 706), and waiving the right to claim such a deduction on Form 706 in the future.

**Medical expenses not paid by estate.** Medical expenses for the care of the decedent paid by a survivor who can claim the decedent as a dependent are deductible on the survivor's income tax return for the tax year in which paid, whether or not they are paid before or after the decedent's death. If the decedent was a child of divorced or separated parents, the medical expenses are usually deductible by both the custodial and noncustodial parent to the extent paid by each parent during the year. See Publication 502, *Medical and Dental Expenses*, for more information.

**Insurance reimbursements.** Insurance reimbursements of previously deducted medical expenses due a decedent at the time of death and later received by the decedent's estate are includible in the income tax return of the estate (Form 1041) for the year the reimbursements are received. The reimbursements are also includible in the decedent's gross estate.

## Deduction for Losses

You can deduct a decedent's net operating loss from prior-year business operations and any capital losses (capital losses include capital loss carryovers) only on the decedent's final income tax return. You cannot deduct any unused net operating loss or capital loss on the estate's income tax return. However, a net operating loss carryback resulting from a net business loss on the decedent's final income tax return can be carried back to prior years.

**At-risk loss limits.** Special at-risk rules apply to most activities that are engaged in as a trade or business or for the production of income.

These rules limit the amount of deductible loss to the amount for which the decedent was considered at risk in the activity. A decedent generally will be considered at risk to the extent of the cash and the adjusted basis of property that he or she contributed to the activity and any amounts the decedent borrowed for use in the activity. However, a decedent will be considered at risk for amounts borrowed only if he or she was personally liable for the repayment or if the amounts borrowed were secured by property other than that used in the activity. The decedent is not considered at risk for borrowed amounts if the lender has an interest in the activity or if the lender is related to the decedent. For more information,

get Publication 925, *Passive Activity and At-Risk Rules*.

**Passive activity rules.** A passive activity is any trade or business activity in which the taxpayer does not materially participate. To determine material participation, get Publication 925. Rental activities are also passive activities regardless of the taxpayer's participation, unless the taxpayer meets certain eligibility requirements.

Individuals, estates, and trusts can offset passive activity losses only against passive activity income. Passive activity losses or credits that are not allowed in one tax year can be carried forward to the next year.

In general, if a passive activity interest is transferred because of the death of a taxpayer, the accumulated unused passive activity losses are allowed as a deduction against the decedent's income in the year of death. Losses are allowed only to the extent they are greater than the excess of the transferee's (recipient of the interest transferred) basis in the property over the decedent's adjusted basis in the property immediately before death. The portion of the losses that is equal to the excess is not allowed as a deduction for any tax year.

Use Form 8582, *Passive Activity Loss Limitations*, to summarize losses and income from passive activities and to figure the amounts allowed. For more information, get Publication 925.

## Credits, Other Taxes, and Payments

This section includes brief discussions of some of the tax credits, types of taxes that may be owed, income tax withheld, and estimated tax payments that are reported on the final return of a decedent.

### Credits

You can claim on the final income tax return any tax credits that applied to the decedent before death.

**Earned income credit.** You can claim the refundable earned income credit on the decedent's final return even though the return covers less than 12 months. If the allowable credit is more than the tax liability for the year, the excess is refunded.

For more information, get Publication 596, *Earned Income Credit*.

**Credit for the elderly or the disabled.** This credit is allowable on a decedent's final income tax return if the decedent was age 65 or older or had retired before the end of the year on permanent and total disability.

For more information, get Publication 524, *Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled*.

**Business tax credit.** The general business credit available to a taxpayer is limited. Any unused credit generally is carried back 3 years and then carried forward for up to 15 years. After the 15-year period, a deduction may be allowed for any unused business credit. If the

taxpayer dies before the end of the 15-year period, the deduction generally is allowed in the year of death.

For more information, get Publication 334, *Tax Guide for Small Business (For Individuals Who Use Schedule C or C-EZ)*.

## Other Taxes

Taxes other than income tax that may be owed on the final return of a decedent include self-employment tax and alternative minimum tax, which are reported in the *Other Taxes* section of Form 1040.

**Self-employment tax.** If the decedent had net earnings from self-employment of \$400 or more in the year of death, self-employment tax may be owed on the final return.

**Alternative minimum tax (AMT).** The tax laws give special treatment to some kinds of income and allow special deductions and credits for some kinds of expenses. So that taxpayers who benefit from these laws will pay at least a minimum amount of tax, a special tax has been enacted—the “alternative minimum tax” (AMT). In general, the AMT is the excess of the tentative minimum tax over the regular tax shown on the return.

**Form 6251.** Use Form 6251, *Alternative Minimum Tax—Individuals*, to figure this tax on the decedent’s final income tax return. See the form instructions for information on when you must attach the form to the tax return.

## Payments of Tax

The income tax withheld from the decedent’s salary, wages, pensions, or annuities, and the amount paid as estimated tax, for example, are credits (advance payments of tax) that you must claim on the final return.

If you need information on claiming the tax withheld or estimated tax paid, get Publication 505, *Tax Withholding and Estimated Tax*.

## Maximum Tax Rate on Capital Gains

The highest tax rate on taxable income is 39.6%. However, the highest tax rate on a net capital gain is 28%. A net capital gain is the excess of net long-term capital gains over net short-term capital losses. The maximum 28% rate applies if a long-term capital gain is shown on line 17, Schedule D (Form 1040), and a net gain is shown on line 18, Schedule D (Form 1040). See the *Capital Gain Tax Worksheet* in the Form 1040 instructions for line 38.

## Name, Address, and Signature

The word “DECEASED,” the decedent’s name, and the date of death should be written across the top of the tax return. In the name and address space you should write the name and address of the decedent and the surviving spouse. If a joint return is not being filed, the decedent’s name should be written in the name space and the personal representative’s name and address should be written in the remaining space.

**Signature.** If a personal representative has been appointed, that person must sign the return. If it is a joint return, the surviving spouse must also sign it. If no personal representative has been appointed, the surviving spouse (on a joint return) should sign the return and write in the signature area “Filing as surviving spouse.” If no personal representative has been appointed and if there is no surviving spouse, the person in charge of the decedent’s property must file and sign the return as “personal representative.”

## When and Where To File

The final individual income tax return is due at the same time the decedent’s return would have been due had death not occurred. A final return for a decedent who was a calendar year taxpayer is generally due on April 15 following the year of death, regardless of when during the year death occurred. However, when the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, you can file on the next business day.

The tax return must be prepared on a form for the year of death regardless of when during the year death occurred.

You can mail the final income tax return of the decedent to the Internal Revenue Service center for the place where you live. You also may handcarry the return to any office of the district director within your district.

## Tax Forgiveness for Deaths Due to Military or Terrorist Actions

If the decedent was a member of the Armed Forces or a civilian employee of the United States, the decedent’s income tax liability may be forgiven if his or her death was due to service in a combat zone or to military or terrorist actions.

### Combat Zone

If a member of the Armed Forces of the United States dies while in active service in a combat zone or from wounds, disease, or injury incurred in a combat zone, the decedent’s income tax liability is abated (forgiven) for the entire year in which death occurred and for any prior tax year beginning with the year before the wounds, disease, or injury occurred. The tax liability is also forgiven for any earlier year in which the decedent served at least 1 day in a combat zone.

If the tax (including interest, additions to the tax, and additional amounts) for these years has been assessed, the assessment will be forgiven. If the tax has been collected (regardless of the date of collection), that tax will be credited or refunded.

Any of the decedent’s income tax for tax years before those mentioned above that remains unpaid as of the actual (or presumptive) date of death will not be assessed. If any unpaid tax (including interest, additions to the tax, and additional amounts) has been assessed, this assessment will be forgiven. Also, if any tax was collected after the date of death, that amount will be credited or refunded.

The date of death of a member of the Armed Forces reported as missing in action or as a prisoner of war is the date his or her name is removed from missing status for military pay purposes. This is true even if death actually occurred earlier.

## Military or Terrorist Actions

The decedent’s income tax liability is forgiven if, at death, he or she was a military or civilian employee of the United States who died because of wounds or injury incurred:

- 1) While a U.S. employee, and
- 2) In a military or terrorist action outside the United States.

The forgiveness applies to the tax year in which death occurred and for any prior tax year in the period beginning with the year before the year in which the wounds or injury occurred.

**Example.** The income tax liability of a civilian employee of the United States who died in 1996 because of wounds incurred while a U.S. employee outside the United States in a terrorist attack that occurred in 1987 will be forgiven for 1996 and for all prior tax years in the period 1986–1995. Refunds are allowed for the tax years for which the period for filing a claim for refund has not ended.

**Military or terrorist action defined.** Military or terrorist action means:

- 1) Any terrorist activity that most of the evidence indicates was directed against the United States or any of its allies, and
- 2) Any military action involving the U.S. Armed Forces and resulting from violence or aggression against the United States or any of its allies, or the threat of such violence or aggression.

Military action does not include training exercises. Any multinational force in which the United States is participating is treated as an ally of the United States.

## Claim for Credit or Refund

If any of these tax-forgiveness situations applies to a prior year tax, any tax paid for which the period for filing a claim has not ended will be credited or refunded; if any tax is still due, it will be canceled. The normal period for filing a claim for credit or refund is 3 years after the return was filed or 2 years after the tax was paid, whichever is later.

**Special rules.** Some of the rules for filing a claim for credit or refund differ depending on:

- 1) Whether the decedent’s death was due to service in a combat zone or to military or terrorist action, and
- 2) Whether a joint return was filed.

**Combat zone death.** If death occurred in a combat zone, the period for filing the claim is extended by:

- 1) The amount of time served in the combat zone (including any period in which the individual was in missing status); plus
- 2) The period of continuous qualified hospitalization for injury from service in the combat zone, if any; plus
- 3) The next 180 days.

Qualified hospitalization means any hospitalization outside the United States, and any hospitalization in the United States of not more than 5 years.

You can get the refund by filing Form 1040X, *Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return*.

**Joint returns.** If a joint return was filed, you must determine the part of the joint income tax liability that is for the decedent and eligible for the refund. Determine the decedent's tax liability as follows:

- 1) Figure the income tax for which the decedent would have been liable if a separate return had been filed.
- 2) Figure the income tax for which the spouse would have been liable if a separate return had been filed.
- 3) Multiply the joint tax liability by a fraction. The numerator (top number) of the fraction is the amount in (1), above. The denominator (bottom number) of the fraction is the total of (1) and (2).

The amount in (3) above is the decedent's tax liability that is eligible for the refund.

**Military or terrorist action death.** If the earlier discussion under *Military or Terrorist Actions* applies to a decedent, you must do the following:

- 1) If a U.S. individual income tax return (Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) has not been filed, you should make a claim for refund of any withheld income tax or estimated tax payments by filing Form 1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ. Form W-2, *Wage and Tax Statement*, must accompany all returns.
- 2) If a U.S. individual income tax return has been filed, you should make a claim for refund by filing Form 1040X. You must file a separate Form 1040X for each year in question.

You must file these returns and claims with the Internal Revenue Service, Management Support Branch, P.O. Box 267, Covington, KY 41019, Attn: KITA Coordinator, Stop 28.

Identify all returns and claims for refund by writing "KITA" in bold letters on the top of page 1 of the return or claim. On the Form 1040 or Form 1040A write the phrase "KITA—see attached" on the line for "Total tax" ("Tax" on Form 1040EZ). On the Form 1040X, write the phrase on the line for "Total tax liability."

The attachment should include a computation of the decedent's tax liability (before figuring any amount to be forgiven) and a computation of the amount that is to be forgiven. On joint returns reporting taxable income of the surviving spouse, you must make an allocation

of the tax as described earlier under *Joint returns*. If you cannot make a proper allocation, you should attach a statement of all income and deductions allocable to each spouse and the IRS will make the proper allocation.

The following **necessary documents** must accompany all of these returns and claims for refund under these procedures:

- 1) Form 1310, *Statement of Person Claiming Refund Due a Deceased Taxpayer*.
- 2) A certification from the Department of Defense or the Department of State that the death was due to military or terrorist action outside the United States. For military employees and civilian employees of the Department of Defense, certification must be made by that department on Form DOD 1300. For civilian employees of all other agencies, certification must be a letter signed by the Director General of the Foreign Service, Department of State, or his/her delegate. The certification must include the individual's name and social security number, the date of injury, the date of death, and a statement that the individual died as the result of a military or terrorist action outside the United States and was an employee of the United States at the date of injury and at the date of death.

If the certification has been received, but you do not have enough tax information to file a timely claim for refund, you can suspend the period for filing a claim by filing Form 1040X, attaching Form 1310 and a statement that an amended claim will be filed as soon as you have the required tax information.

## Filing Reminders

To minimize the time needed to process the decedent's final return and issue any refund, be sure to follow these procedures:

- Write "DECEASED," the decedent's name, and the date of death across the top of the tax return.
- If a personal representative has been appointed, the personal representative must sign the return.
- If you are the decedent's spouse filing a joint return with the decedent, write "Filing as surviving spouse" in the area where you sign the return. If a personal representative has been appointed, the personal representative must also sign the return.
- To claim a refund for the decedent:

If you are the decedent's spouse filing a joint return with the decedent, file only the tax return to claim the refund.

If you are the personal representative and the return is not a joint return filed with the decedent's surviving spouse, file the return and attach a copy of the certificate that shows your appointment by the court. (A power of attorney or a copy of the decedent's will is not acceptable evidence of your appointment as

the personal representative). If you are filing an amended return, attach Form 1310 and a copy of the certificate of appointment (or, if you have already sent the certificate of appointment to IRS, write "Certificate Previously Filed" at the bottom of Form 1310).

If you are not filing a joint return as the surviving spouse and a personal representative has not been appointed, file the return and attach Form 1310 and proof of death (generally, a copy of the death certificate).

## Other Tax Information

This section contains information about the effect of an individual's death on the income tax liability of the survivors (including widows and widowers), the beneficiaries, and the estate.

**Your Federal Income Tax** (Publication 17), published by the IRS, contains comprehensive information to help individual taxpayers prepare their own income tax returns. Also, there are many other taxpayer information publications on specific topics. You can get single copies of these publications free from the IRS Forms Distribution Center. See *How To Get More Information* near the end of this publication.

## Tax Benefits for Survivors

Survivors can qualify for certain benefits when filing their own income tax returns.

**Joint return by surviving spouse.** A surviving spouse can file a joint return for the year of death and may qualify for special tax rates for the following 2 years, as explained under *Qualifying widows and widowers*, below.

**Decedent as your dependent.** If the decedent qualified as your dependent for the part of the year before death, you can claim the full exemption amount for the dependent on your tax return, regardless of when death occurred during the year.

**Qualifying widows and widowers.** If your spouse died within the 2 tax years preceding the year for which your return is being filed, you may be eligible to claim the filing status of qualifying widow(er) with dependent child and qualify to use the *Married filing jointly* tax rates.

**Requirements.** Generally, you qualify for this special benefit if you meet all of the following requirements:

- 1) You were entitled to file a joint return with your spouse for the year of death—whether or not you actually filed jointly;
- 2) You did not remarry before the end of the current tax year;
- 3) You have a child, stepchild, or foster child who qualifies as your dependent for the tax year; and

- 4) You provide more than half the cost of maintaining your home, which is the principal residence of that child for the entire year except for temporary absences.

**Example.** William Burns's wife died in 1994. Mr. Burns has not remarried and continued throughout 1995 and 1996 to maintain a home for himself and his dependent child. For 1994 he was entitled to file a joint return for himself and his deceased wife. For 1995 and 1996, he qualifies to file as a "Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child." For later years, he may qualify to file as a head of household.

**Figuring your tax.** Include only your own income, exemptions, and deductions in figuring your tax, but check the box on line 5 (Form 1040 or 1040A) under filing status on your tax return and enter the year of death in the parentheses. Use the Tax Rate Schedule or the column in the Tax Table for *Married filing jointly*, which gives you the split-income benefits.

The last year you can file jointly with, or claim an exemption for, your deceased spouse is the year of death.

**Joint return filing rules.** If you are the surviving spouse and a personal representative is handling the estate for the decedent, you should coordinate filing your return for the year of death with this personal representative. See the filing requirements for a joint return earlier under *Final Return for Decedent*.

## Income in Respect of the Decedent

All gross income that the decedent would have received had death not occurred, that was not properly includible on the final return, discussed earlier, is income in respect of the decedent.

### How To Report

Income in respect of a decedent must be included in the gross income of:

- 1) The decedent's estate, if the estate receives it, or
- 2) The beneficiary, if the right to income is passed directly to the beneficiary and the beneficiary receives it, or
- 3) Any person to whom the estate properly distributes the right to receive it.

**Example 1.** Frank Johnson owned and operated an apple orchard. He used the cash method of accounting. He sold and delivered 1,000 bushels of apples to a canning factory for \$2,000, but did not receive payment before his death. When the estate was settled, payment had not been made and the estate transferred the right to the payment to his widow. When Frank's widow collects the \$2,000, she must include that amount in her return. It is not to be reported on the final return of the decedent nor on the return of the estate.

**Example 2.** Assume Frank Johnson used the accrual method of accounting in Example 1. The amount accrued from the sale of the apples would be included on his final return.

Neither the estate nor the widow will realize income in respect of the decedent when the money is later paid.

**Example 3.** On February 1, George High, a cash method taxpayer, sold his tractor for \$3,000, payable March 1 of the same year. His adjusted basis in the tractor was \$2,000. Mr. High died on February 15, before receiving payment. The gain to be reported as income in respect of the decedent is the \$1,000 difference between the decedent's basis in the property and the sale proceeds. In other words, the income in respect of the decedent is the gain the decedent would have realized had he lived.

**Example 4.** Cathy O'Neil was entitled to a large salary payment at the date of her death. The amount was to be paid in five annual installments. The estate, after collecting two installments, distributed the right to the remaining installments to you, the beneficiary. None of the payments would be included in Cathy's final return. The estate must include in its gross income the two installments it received, and you must include in your gross income each of the three installments as you receive them.

**Example 5.** You inherited the right to receive renewal commissions on life insurance sold by your father before his death. You inherited the right from your mother, who acquired it by bequest from your father. Your mother died before she received all the commissions she had the right to receive, so you received the rest. None of these commissions were included in your father's final return. But the commissions received by your mother were included in her gross income. The commissions you received are not includible in your mother's gross income, even on her final return. You must include them in your income.

**Character of income.** The character of the income you receive in respect of a decedent is the same as it would have been to the decedent if he or she were alive. If the income would have been a capital gain to the decedent, it will be a capital gain to you.

**Transfer of right to income.** If you transfer your right to income in respect of a decedent, you must include in your income the greater of:

- 1) The amount you receive for the right, or
- 2) The fair market value of the right you transfer.

If you make a gift of such a right, you must include in your gross income the fair market value of the right at the time of the gift.

If the right to income from an installment obligation is transferred, the amount you must include in income is reduced by the basis of the obligation. See *Installment obligations*, below.

**Transfer defined.** A transfer for this purpose includes a sale, exchange, or other disposition, the satisfaction of an installment obligation at other than face value, or the cancellation of an installment obligation.

**Installment obligations.** If the decedent had sold property using the installment method and you collect payments on an installment obligation you acquired from the decedent, use the same gross profit percentage the decedent used to figure the part of each payment that represents profit. Include in your income the same profit the decedent would have included had death not occurred. Get Publication 537, *Installment Sales*.

If you dispose of an installment obligation acquired from a decedent (other than by transfer to the obligor), the rules explained in Publication 537 for figuring gain or loss on the disposition apply to you.

**Transfer to obligor.** A transfer of a right to income has occurred if the decedent (seller) had sold property using the installment method and the installment obligation is transferred to the obligor (buyer or person legally obligated to pay the installments). A transfer also occurs if the obligation is canceled either at death or by the estate or person receiving the obligation from the decedent. An obligation that becomes unenforceable is treated as having been canceled. (Such cancellation amounts to a transfer as defined earlier under *Transfer of right to income*.)

If such a transfer occurs, the amount included in the income of the transferor (the estate or beneficiary) is the greater of the amount received or the fair market value of the installment obligation at the time of transfer, reduced by the basis of the obligation. The basis of the obligation is the decedent's basis, adjusted for all installment payments received after the decedent's death and before the transfer.

If the decedent and obligor were related persons, the fair market value of the obligation cannot be less than its face value.

## Specific Types of Income in Respect of a Decedent

This section explains and provides examples of some specific types of income in respect of a decedent.

**Wages.** The entire amount of wages or other employee compensation earned by the decedent but unpaid at the time of death is income in respect of the decedent. The income is not reduced by any amounts withheld by the employer when paid to the estate or other beneficiary. If the income is \$600 or more, the employer should report it in box 3 of Form 1099-MISC and give the recipient a copy of the form or a similar statement.

Wages paid as income in respect of a decedent are not subject to federal income tax withholding. However, if paid during the calendar year of death, they are subject to withholding for social security and Medicare taxes. These taxes should be included on the decedent's Form W-2 with the taxes withheld before death. Wages paid as income in respect of a decedent after the year of death generally are not subject to withholding for any federal taxes.



**Farm income from crops, crop shares, and livestock.** A farmer's growing crops and livestock at the date of death would not normally give rise to income in respect of a decedent or income to be included in the final return. However, when a cash method farmer receives rent in the form of crop shares or livestock and owns the crop shares or livestock at the time of death, the rent is income in respect of a decedent and is reported in the year in which the crop shares or livestock are sold or otherwise disposed of. The same treatment applies to crop shares or livestock the decedent had a right to receive as rent at the time of death for economic activities that occurred before death.

If the individual died during a rent period, only the portion of the proceeds from the portion of the rent period ending with death is income in respect of a decedent. The proceeds from the portion of the rent period from the day after death to the end of the rent period are income to the estate. Cash rent or crop shares and livestock received as rent and reduced to cash by the decedent are includible in the final return even though the rent period did not end until after death.

**Example.** Alonzo Roberts, who used the cash method of accounting, leased part of his farm for a 1-year period beginning March 1. The rental was one-third of the crop, payable in cash when the crop share is sold at the direction of Roberts. Roberts died on June 30 and was alive during 122 days of the rental period. Seven months later, Roberts' personal representative ordered the crop to be sold and was paid \$1,500. Of the \$1,500, 122/365, or \$501, is income in respect of a decedent. The balance of the \$1,500 received by the estate, \$999, is income to the estate.

**Partnership income.** Any part of a distributive share of partnership income of the estate or other successor in interest of a deceased partner that is for the period ending with the date of the decedent's death is income in respect of a decedent. Any partnership income for the period after the decedent's death is income of the estate or other successor in interest. These rules apply to the partnership's tax year that ends after the date of the decedent's death. See *Partnership Income* under *Income To Include*, earlier in the section titled *Final Return for Decedent*.

If the partner who died had been receiving payments representing a distributive share or guaranteed payment in liquidation of the partner's interest in a partnership, the remaining payments made to the estate or other successor interest are income in respect of the decedent. The estate or the successor receiving the payments will have to include them in gross income when received. Similarly, the estate or other successor in interest receives income in respect of a decedent if amounts are paid by a third person in exchange for the successor's right to the future payments.

For a complete discussion of partnership rules, get Publication 541, *Partnerships*.

**U.S. Savings Bonds acquired from decedent.** If Series E or EE U.S. Savings Bonds

that were owned by a cash method individual who had chosen to report the interest each year (or by an accrual method individual) are transferred because of death, the increase in value of the bonds (interest earned) in the year of death up to the date of death must be reported on the decedent's final return. The transferee (estate or beneficiary) reports on its return only the interest earned after the date of death.

The redemption values of U.S. Savings Bonds generally are available from local banks or savings and loan institutions. You also can get such information from your nearest Federal Reserve Bank; or you can purchase the *Tables of Redemption Values for U.S. Savings Bonds* from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325.

If the bonds transferred because of death were owned by a cash method individual who had not chosen to report the interest each year and had purchased the bonds entirely with personal funds, interest earned before death must be reported in one of the following ways:

- 1) The person (executor, administrator, etc.) who must file the final income tax return of the decedent can **elect** to include in it all of the interest earned on the bonds before the decedent's death. The transferee (estate or beneficiary) then includes in its return only the interest earned after the date of death; or
- 2) If the election in (1), above, was not made, the interest earned to the date of death is income in respect of the decedent and is not included in the decedent's final return. In this case, all of the interest earned before and after the decedent's death is income to the transferee (estate or beneficiary). A transferee who uses the cash method of accounting and who has not chosen to report the interest annually may defer reporting any of it until the bonds are cashed or the date of maturity, whichever is earlier. In the year the interest is reported, the transferee may claim a deduction for any federal estate tax paid that arose because of the part of interest (if any) included in the decedent's estate.

**Example 1.** Your uncle, a cash method taxpayer, died and left you a \$1,000 Series EE Bond. He had bought the bond for \$500 and had not chosen to report the increase in value each year. At the date of death, interest of \$94 had accrued on the bond, and its value of \$594 at date of death was included in your uncle's estate. Your uncle's personal representative did not choose to include the \$94 accrued interest in the decedent's final income tax return. You are a cash method taxpayer and do not choose to report the increase in value each year as it is earned. Assuming you cash it when it reaches maturity value of \$1,000, you would report \$500 interest income (the difference between maturity value of \$1,000 and the original cost of \$500) in that year. You also are entitled to claim, in that

year, a deduction for any federal estate tax resulting from the inclusion in your uncle's estate of the \$94 increase in value.

**Example 2.** If, in Example 1, the personal representative had chosen to include the \$94 interest earned on the bond before death in the final income tax return of your uncle, you would report only \$406 (\$500 minus \$94) as interest when you cashed the bond at maturity. Since this \$406 represents the interest earned after your uncle's death and was not included in his estate, no deduction for federal estate tax is allowable for this amount.

**Example 3.** Your uncle died owning Series H Bonds that he acquired in exchange for Series E Bonds. You were the beneficiary on these bonds. The decedent used the cash method of accounting and had not chosen to report the increase in redemption price of the Series E Bonds each year as it accrued. Your uncle's personal representative made no election to include any interest earned before death in the decedent's final return. Your income in respect of the decedent is the sum of the unreported increase in value of the Series E Bonds, which constituted part of the amount paid for Series H Bonds, and the interest, if any, payable on the Series H Bonds but not received as of the date of the decedent's death.

**Specific dollar amount legacy satisfied by transfer of bonds.** If you receive Series E or EE Bonds from an estate in satisfaction of a specific dollar amount legacy and the decedent was a cash method taxpayer who did not elect to report interest each year, only the interest earned after you receive the bonds is your income. The interest earned to the date of death plus any further interest earned to the date of distribution is income to (and reportable by) the estate.

**Cashing U.S. Savings Bonds.** When you cash a U.S. Savings Bond that you acquired from a decedent, the bank or other payer that redeems it must give you a Form 1099-INT, *Interest Income*, if the interest part of the payment you receive is \$10 or more. Your Form 1099-INT should show the difference between the amount received and the cost of the bond. The interest shown on your Form 1099-INT will not be reduced by any interest reported by the decedent before death, or, if elected, by the personal representative on the final income tax return of the decedent, or by the estate on the estate's income tax return. Your Form 1099-INT may show more interest than you must include in your income.

You must make an adjustment on your tax return to report the correct amount of interest. Get Publication 550, *Investment Income and Expenses*, for information about the correct reporting of this interest.

**Interest accrued on U.S. Treasury bonds.**

The interest accrued on U.S. Treasury bonds owned by a cash method taxpayer and redeemable for the payment of federal estate taxes that was not received as of the date of the individual's death is income in respect of the decedent. This interest is not included in the decedent's final income tax return. The estate will treat such interest as taxable income

in the tax year received if it chooses to redeem the U.S. Treasury bonds to pay federal estate taxes. If the person entitled to the bonds by bequest, devise, or inheritance, or because of the death of the individual (owner) receives them, that person will treat the accrued interest as taxable income in the year the interest is received. Interest that accrues on the U.S. Treasury bonds after the owner's death does not represent income in respect of the decedent. The interest, however, is taxable income and must be included in the gross income of the respective recipients.

#### Interest accrued on savings certificates.

The interest accrued on savings certificates (redeemable after death without forfeiture of interest) that is for the period from the date of the last interest payment and ending with the date of the decedent's death, but not received as of that date, is income in respect of a decedent. Interest for a period after the decedent's death that becomes payable on the certificates after death is not income in respect of a decedent, but is taxable income includible in the gross income of the respective recipients.

**Inherited IRAs.** If a beneficiary receives a lump-sum distribution from an IRA he or she inherited, all or some of it may be taxable. The distribution is taxable in the year received as income in respect of a decedent up to the decedent's taxable IRA balance. This is the decedent's balance at the time of death, including unrealized appreciation and income accrued to date of death, minus any nontaxable basis (nondeductible contributions). Amounts distributed that are more than the decedent's entire IRA balance (includes taxable and nontaxable amounts) at the time of death are the income of the beneficiary.

If the beneficiary is the decedent's surviving spouse and that spouse properly rolls over the distribution into another IRA, the distribution is not currently taxed.

For the special rules on inherited IRAs, see Publication 590, *Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)*.

## Deductions in Respect of the Decedent

Items such as business expenses, income-producing expenses, interest, and taxes, for which the decedent was liable but which are not properly allowable as deductions on the decedent's final income tax return, will be allowed when paid:

- 1) As a deduction to the estate; or
- 2) If the estate was not liable for them, as a deduction to the person who acquired an interest in the decedent's property (subject to such obligations) because of death.

Similar treatment is given to the foreign tax credit. A beneficiary who must pay a foreign tax on income in respect of a decedent will be entitled to claim the foreign tax credit.

**Depletion.** The deduction for percentage depletion is allowable only to the person (estate or beneficiary) who receives the income in respect of the decedent to which the deduction relates, whether or not that person receives the property from which the income is derived. An heir who (because of the decedent's death) receives income as a result of the sale of units of mineral by the decedent (who used the cash method) will be entitled to the depletion allowance for that income. If the decedent had not figured the deduction on the basis of percentage depletion, any depletion deduction to which the decedent was entitled at the time of death would be allowable on the decedent's final return, and no depletion deduction in respect of the decedent would be allowed anyone else.

For more information about depletion, get Publication 535, *Business Expenses*.

### Estate Tax Deduction

Income that a decedent had a right to receive is included in the decedent's gross estate and is subject to estate tax. This income in respect of a decedent is also taxed when received by the recipient (estate or beneficiary). However, an income tax deduction is allowed to the recipient for the estate tax paid on the income.

The deduction for estate tax can be claimed only for the same tax year in which the income in respect of the decedent must be included in the recipient's gross income. (This also is true for income in respect of a prior decedent.)

Individuals can claim this deduction only as an itemized deduction, provided they are otherwise eligible to itemize deductions. This deduction is **not** subject to the 2% limit on miscellaneous itemized deductions. Estates can claim the deduction on the line provided for the deduction on Form 1041. For the alternative minimum tax computation, the deduction is not included in the itemized deductions that are an adjustment to taxable income.

If the income in respect of the decedent is capital gain income, for figuring the maximum tax on net capital gain (or any net capital loss limits), the gain must be reduced, but not below zero, by any deduction for estate tax paid on such gain.

**Computation.** To figure a recipient's estate tax deduction, determine—

- 1) The estate tax that qualifies for the deduction, and
- 2) The recipient's part of the deductible tax.

**Deductible estate tax.** The estate tax is the tax on the taxable estate, reduced by any credits allowed. The estate tax qualifying for the deduction is the part for the net value of all the items in the estate that represent income in respect of the decedent. **Net value** is the excess of the items of income in respect of the decedent over the items of expenses in respect of the decedent. The deductible estate tax is the difference between the actual estate tax and the estate tax determined without including net value.

**Example 1.** Jack Sage, an attorney who used the cash method of accounting, died in 1996. At the time of his death, he was entitled to receive \$12,000 from clients for his services and he had accrued bond interest of \$8,000, for a total income in respect of the decedent of \$20,000. He also owed \$5,000 for business expenses for which his estate was liable. The income and expenses were reported on Jack's estate tax return.

The tax on Jack's estate was \$9,460 after credits. The net value of the items included as income in respect of the decedent is \$15,000 (\$20,000 minus \$5,000). The estate tax determined without including the \$15,000 in the taxable estate is \$4,840, after credits. The estate tax that qualifies for the deduction is \$4,620 (\$9,460 minus \$4,840).

**Recipient's deductible part.** Figure the recipient's part of the deductible estate tax by dividing the estate tax value of the items of income in respect of the decedent included in the recipient's gross income (the numerator) by the total value of all items included in the estate that represents income in respect of the decedent (the denominator). If the amount included in the recipient's gross income is less than the estate tax value of the item, use the lesser amount in the numerator.

**Example 2.** As the beneficiary of Jack's estate (Example 1, above), you collect the \$12,000 accounts receivable from the clients during 1996. You will include this amount in your gross income for 1996. If you itemize your deductions for 1996, you can claim an estate tax deduction of \$2,772 figured as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Value included in your income}}{\text{Total value of income in respect of decedent}} \times \text{Estate tax qualifying for deduction}$$

$$\frac{\$12,000}{\$20,000} \times \$4,620 = \$2,772$$

If the amount you collected for the accounts receivable was more than \$12,000, you would still claim \$2,772 as an estate tax deduction because only the \$12,000 actually reported on the estate tax return can be used in the above computation. However, if you collected less than the \$12,000 reported on the estate tax return, use the smaller amount to figure the estate tax deduction.

**Estates.** The estate tax deduction allowed an estate is figured in the same manner as just discussed. However, any income in respect of a decedent received by the estate during the tax year is reduced by any such income that is properly paid, credited, or required to be distributed by the estate to a beneficiary. The beneficiary would include such distributed income in respect of a decedent for figuring the beneficiary's deduction.

**Surviving annuitants.** For the estate tax deduction, an annuity received by a surviving annuitant under a joint and survivor annuity contract is considered income in respect of a decedent. The deceased annuitant must have died after the annuity starting date. You must make a special computation to figure the estate tax deduction for the surviving annuitant.

See the Income Tax Regulations under Section 1.691(d)-1.

## Gifts, Insurance, and Inheritances

Property received as a gift, bequest, or inheritance is not included in your income. But if property you receive in this manner later produces income, such as interest, dividends, or rentals, that income is taxable to you. The income from property donated to a trust that is paid, credited, or distributed to you is taxable income to you. If the gift, bequest, or inheritance is the income from property, that income is taxable to you.

If you receive property from a decedent's estate in satisfaction of your right to the income of the estate, it is treated as a bequest or inheritance of income from property. See *Distributions to Beneficiaries From an Estate*, later.

### Insurance

The proceeds from a decedent's life insurance policy paid by reason of his or her death generally are excluded from income. The exclusion applies to any beneficiary, whether a family member or other individual, a corporation, or a partnership.

**Life insurance proceeds.** Life insurance proceeds paid because of the death of the insured (or because the insured is a member of the U.S. uniformed services who is missing in action) are not taxable unless the policy was transferred to you for a valuable consideration. This rule also applies to benefits that are paid because of the death of the insured under accident, health, and variable life insurance policies and endowment contracts. However, if the proceeds are received in installments, see the discussion under *Insurance received in installments*, below.

**Veterans' insurance proceeds.** Veterans' insurance proceeds and dividends are not taxable either to the veteran or to the beneficiaries.

Interest on dividends left on deposit with the Department of Veterans Affairs is not taxable.

**Insurance received in installments.** If, because of the death of the insured, you will receive life insurance proceeds in installments, you can exclude a part of each installment from your income.

The part of each installment you can exclude is the amount held by the insurance company (generally, the total lump sum payable at the insured's death) divided by the number of periods in which the installments are to be paid. Amounts you receive that are more than the excludable part must be included in your income as interest income.

**Specified number of installments.** If you will receive a specified number of installments under the insurance contract, figure the part of each installment you can exclude by dividing the amount held by the insurance company by the number of installments to which

you are entitled. A secondary beneficiary, in case you die before you receive all of the installments, is entitled to the same exclusion.

**Example.** As beneficiary, you choose to receive \$40,000 of life insurance proceeds in 10 annual installments of \$6,000. Each year, you can exclude from your gross income \$4,000 ( $\$40,000 \div 10$ ) as a return of principal. The balance of the installment, \$2,000, is taxable as interest income.

**Specified amount payable.** If each installment you receive under the insurance contract is a specific amount based on a guaranteed rate of interest, but the number of installments you will receive is uncertain, the part of each installment that you can exclude from income is the amount held by the insurance company divided by the number of installments necessary to use up the principal and guaranteed interest in the contract.

**Example.** The face amount of the policy is \$150,000, and as beneficiary you choose to receive monthly installments of \$1,250. The insurer's settlement option guarantees you this payment for 240 months based on a guaranteed rate of interest. It also provides that interest that is more than the guarantee may be credited to the principal balance according to the insurer's earnings. The excludable part of each guaranteed installment is \$625 ( $\$150,000 \div 240$ ), or \$7,500 for an entire year. The balance of each guaranteed installment, \$625 (or \$7,500 for a year), is income to you. The full amount of any additional payment for interest is income to you.

**Installments for life.** If, as the beneficiary under an insurance contract, you will receive the proceeds in installments for the rest of your life without a refund or certain guaranteed period, the part of each annual installment that you can exclude from income is the amount held by the insurance company, divided by your life expectancy. If the contract provides for a refund or guaranteed payments, the amount held by the insurance company for this calculation is reduced by the actuarial value of the refund or the guaranteed payments.

**Example.** As beneficiary, you choose to receive the \$50,000 proceeds from a life insurance contract under a "life-income-with-cash-refund option." You are guaranteed \$2,700 a year for the rest of your life (which is estimated by use of mortality tables to be 25 years from the insured's death). The actuarial value of the refund feature is \$9,000. The amount held by the insurance company, reduced by the value of the guarantee, is \$41,000 ( $\$50,000$  minus  $\$9,000$ ) and the excludable part of each installment representing a return of principal is \$1,640 ( $\$41,000 \div 25$ ). The remaining \$1,060 ( $\$2,700$  minus  $\$1,640$ ) is interest income to you. If you should die before receiving the entire \$50,000, the refund payable to the refund beneficiary is not taxable.

**Interest option on insurance.** If death proceeds of life insurance are left on deposit with an insurance company under an agreement to

pay interest only, the interest paid or credited to the beneficiary is taxable to the beneficiary.

**Flexible premium contracts.** A life insurance contract (including any qualified additional benefits) is a flexible premium life insurance contract if it provides for the payment of one or more premiums that are not fixed by the insurer as to both timing and amount. For contracts issued before January 1, 1985, the proceeds paid because of the death of the insured under a flexible premium contract will be excluded from the recipient's gross income only if the contracts meet the requirements explained under section 101(f) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### Basis of Inherited Property

Your basis for property inherited from (or passing from) a decedent is generally one of the following:

- 1) The fair market value of the property at the date of the individual's death;
- 2) The fair market value on the alternate valuation date (discussed in the instructions for Form 706), if so elected by the personal representative for the estate; or
- 3) The value under the special-use valuation method for real property used in farming or other closely held business (see *Special-use valuation*, later), if so elected by the personal representative.

**Exception for appreciated property.** If you or your spouse gave **appreciated property** to an individual during the 1-year period ending on the date of that individual's death and you (or your spouse) later acquired the same property from the decedent, your basis in the property is the same as the decedent's adjusted basis immediately before death.

**Appreciated property.** Appreciated property is property with a fair market value greater than its adjusted basis on the day it was transferred to the decedent.

**Special-use valuation.** If you are a **qualified heir** and you receive a **farm or other closely held business real property** from the estate for which the personal representative elected special-use valuation, your basis is the value of the property on the basis of its actual use rather than its fair market value.

If you are a qualified heir and you buy special-use valuation property from the estate, your basis is the estate's basis (determined under the special-use valuation method) immediately before your purchase.

You are a **qualified heir** if you are an ancestor (parent, grandparent, etc.), the spouse, or a lineal descendant (child, grandchild, etc.) of the decedent, a lineal descendant of the decedent's parent or spouse, or the spouse of any of these lineal descendants.

**Increased basis for special-use valuation property.** Under certain conditions, some or all of the estate tax benefits obtained by using special-use valuation will be subject to recapture. If you must pay any additional estate (recapture) tax, you can elect to increase your basis in the special-use valuation

property to its fair market value on the date of the decedent's death (or on the alternate valuation date, if the personal representative so elected).

If you elect to increase your basis, you must pay interest on the recapture tax for the period from the date 9 months after the decedent's death until the date you pay the recapture tax.

For more information on special-use valuation and the recapture tax, get Form 706 & 706-A and instructions.

**Adjusted basis for S corporation stock.** The basis of inherited S corporation stock must be reduced if there is income in respect of a decedent attributable to that stock. This provision is effective with respect to decedents dying after August 20, 1996.

**Joint interest.** Figure the surviving tenant's new basis of property jointly owned (joint tenancy or tenancy by the entirety) by adding the surviving tenant's original basis in the property to the value of the part of the property (one of the three values described earlier) included in the decedent's estate. Subtract from the sum any deductions for wear and tear, such as depreciation or depletion, allowed to the surviving tenant on that property.

**Example.** Fred and Anne Maple (brother and sister) owned, as joint tenants with right of survivorship, rental property they purchased for \$60,000. Anne paid \$15,000 of the purchase price and Fred paid \$45,000. Under local law, each had a half interest in the income from the property. When Fred died, the fair market value of the property was \$100,000. Depreciation deductions allowed before Fred's death were \$20,000. Anne's basis in the property is \$80,000 figured as follows:

Anne's original basis .....	\$15,000	
Interest acquired from Fred ( $\frac{1}{2}$ of \$100,000) .....	75,000	\$90,000
Minus: $\frac{1}{2}$ of \$20,000 depreciation .....	10,000	
Anne's basis .....	<u>\$80,000</u>	

**Qualified joint interest.** One-half of the value of property (one of the three values described earlier) owned by a decedent and spouse as tenants by the entirety, or as joint tenants with right of survivorship if the decedent and spouse are the only joint tenants, is included in the decedent's gross estate. This is true regardless of how much each contributed toward the purchase price.

Figure the basis for a surviving spouse by adding one-half of the property's cost basis to the value included in the gross estate. Subtract from this sum any deductions for wear and tear, such as depreciation or depletion, allowed on that property to the surviving spouse.

**Example.** Dan and Diane Gilbert owned, as tenants by the entirety, rental property they purchased for \$60,000. Dan paid \$15,000 of the purchase price and Diane paid \$45,000. Under local law, each had a half interest in the income from the property. When Diane died,

the fair market value of the property was \$100,000. Depreciation deductions allowed before Diane's death were \$20,000. Dan's basis in the property is \$70,000 figured as follows:

One-half of cost basis ( $\frac{1}{2}$ of \$60,000) .....	\$30,000	
Interest acquired from Diane ( $\frac{1}{2}$ of \$100,000) .....	50,000	\$80,000
Minus: $\frac{1}{2}$ of \$20,000 depreciation .....	10,000	
Dan's basis .....	<u>\$70,000</u>	

For more information about determining basis and adjusted basis in property, get Publication 551, *Basis of Assets*.

**Community property state.** If you and your spouse lived in a community property state, get Publication 551 for a discussion about figuring the basis of your community property after your spouse's death.

**Depreciation.** If you can depreciate property you inherited, you generally must use the modified accelerated cost recovery system (MACRS) to determine depreciation.

For joint interests and qualified joint interests, you must make two computations to figure depreciation: one for your original basis in the property and another for the inherited part of the property. Continue depreciating your original basis under the same method you had used in previous years. Depreciate the inherited part using MACRS.

For more information get Publication 946, *How To Depreciate Property*.

**Substantial valuation misstatement.** If the value or adjusted basis of any property claimed on an income tax return is 200% or more of the amount determined to be the correct amount, there is a substantial valuation misstatement. If this misstatement results in an underpayment of tax of more than \$5,000, an addition to tax of 20% of the underpayment can apply. The penalty increases to 40% if the value or adjusted basis is 400% or more of the amount determined to be the correct amount. If the value shown on the estate tax return is overstated and you use that value as your basis in the inherited property, you could be liable for the addition to tax.

The IRS may waive all or part of the addition to tax if you have a reasonable basis for the claimed value. The fact that the adjusted basis on your income tax return is the same as the value on the estate tax return is not enough to show that you had a reasonable basis to claim the valuation.

**Holding period.** If you inherited property that is a capital asset and sell or dispose of it within 1 year after the decedent's death, you are considered to have held it for more than 1 year. You would have a long-term capital gain or loss.

**Property distributed in kind.** Your basis in property distributed in kind by a decedent's estate is the same as the estate's basis immediately before the distribution plus any gain, or


minus any loss, recognized by the estate. Property is distributed in kind if it satisfies your right to receive another property or amount, such as the income of the estate or a specific dollar amount. Property distributed in kind generally includes any noncash property you receive from the estate other than:

- 1) A specific bequest (unless it must be distributed in more than three installments), or
- 2) Real property, the title to which passes directly to you under local law.

For information on an estate's recognized gain or loss on distributions in kind, see *Income To Include* under *Income Tax Return of an Estate—Form 1041*, later.

## Death Benefit Exclusion

Beneficiaries (or the estate) of a deceased employee may qualify for the death benefit exclusion on employers' payments made because of an employee's (or, in some cases, a former employee's) death. The term "employee" includes a self-employed individual if the amounts are paid by a qualified trust or under a qualified plan.

 *The death benefit exclusion does not apply with respect to employees dying after August 20, 1996.*

The amount excluded from income with respect to any deceased employee cannot exceed \$5,000 regardless of the number of employers or the number of beneficiaries. The exclusion applies whether there are one or more payments.

**Example.** Samuel Wilson was an officer in a corporation at the time of his death in January. The board of directors voted to pay Sam's salary for the rest of the year to his widow in consideration of his past services. During the year, the corporation paid Mrs. Wilson a total of \$38,000. The first \$5,000 she received is excludable from her income, but she must include the balance of \$33,000 on line 21, Form 1040.

**If an annuity is paid.** If an annuity is paid, add the death benefit exclusion amount to the cost of the annuity at the annuity starting date. You recover the cost tax free from the annuity payments using the **General Rule** or the **Simplified General Rule**. For more information, get Publication 575, *Pension and Annuity Income (Including Simplified General Rule)* and Publication 939, *Pension General Rule (Non-simplified Method)*.

If you are the surviving annuitant under a joint and survivor annuity, you will not qualify for the death benefit exclusion if the deceased employee had retired and received any annuity payments or was entitled to such payments but died before receiving them. However, if you are the survivor of a disability retiree, you may qualify for the exclusion. Get Publication 575.

### **Death benefit for public safety officers.**

The death benefit payable to surviving dependents of public safety officers (law enforcement officers or firefighters) who die as a result of injuries sustained in the line of duty is not included in either the beneficiaries' income or the decedent's gross estate. It is not subject to the \$5,000 exclusion limit for other death benefits. The benefit is administered through the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

The BJA can pay the surviving dependents an interim benefit up to \$3,000 if it determines that a public safety officer's death is one for which a benefit will probably be paid. If there is no final payment, the recipient of the interim benefit is liable for repayment. However, the BJA may waive all or part of the repayment if it will cause a hardship. If all or part of the repayment is waived, that amount is not included in gross income.

## **Other Items of Income**

Some other items of income that you, as a survivor or beneficiary, may receive are discussed below. Lump-sum payments you receive as the surviving spouse or beneficiary of a deceased employee may represent accrued salary payments; distributions from employee profit-sharing, pension, annuity, and stock bonus plans; or other items that should be treated separately for tax purposes. The treatment of these lump-sum payments depends on what the payments represent.

**Salary or wages.** Salary or wages paid after the employee's death are usually taxable income to the beneficiary. See *Wages*, earlier, under *Specific Types of Income in Respect of a Decedent*.

**Lump-sum distributions.** You may be able to choose optional methods to figure the tax on lump-sum distributions from qualified employee retirement plans. For more information, get Publication 575.

**Pensions and annuities.** For beneficiaries of deceased employees who receive pensions and annuities, get Publication 575. For beneficiaries of federal Civil Service employees, get Publication 721, *Tax Guide to U.S. Civil Service Retirement Benefits*.

**Inherited IRAs.** If a person other than the decedent's spouse inherits an IRA, that person cannot treat the IRA as one established on his or her behalf. If an IRA distribution is from contributions that were deducted or from earnings and gains in the IRA, it is fully taxable income. If there were nondeductible contributions, an allocation between taxable and nontaxable income must be made. (See *Inherited IRAs*, under *Income in Respect of the Decedent*, earlier, and Publication 590, *Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)*). The IRA cannot be rolled over into, or receive a rollover from, another IRA. No deduction is allowed for amounts paid into that inherited IRA. For more information about IRAs, get Publication 590.

**Estate income.** Estates may have to pay federal income tax. Beneficiaries may have to pay tax on their share of estate income. However, there is never a double tax. See *Distributions to Beneficiaries From an Estate*, later.

## **Income Tax Return of an Estate—Form 1041**

An estate is a taxable entity separate from the decedent and comes into being with the death of the individual. It exists until the final distribution of its assets to the heirs and other beneficiaries. The income earned by the assets during this period must be reported by the estate under the conditions described in this publication. The tax generally is figured in the same manner and on the same basis as for individuals, with certain differences in the computation of deductions and credits, as explained later.

The estate's income, like an individual's income, must be reported annually on either a calendar or fiscal year basis. As the personal representative, you choose the estate's accounting period when you file its first Form 1041, *U.S. Income Tax Return for Estates and Trusts*. The estate's first tax year can be any period that ends on the last day of a month and does not exceed 12 months.

Once you choose the tax year, you cannot change it without the permission of the IRS. Also, on the first income tax return, you must choose the accounting method (cash, accrual, or other) you will use to report the estate's income. Once you have used a method, you ordinarily cannot change it without the consent of the IRS. For a more complete discussion of accounting periods and methods, get Publication 538, *Accounting Periods and Methods*.

## **Filing Requirements**

Every domestic estate with gross income of \$600 or more during a tax year must file a Form 1041. If one or more of the beneficiaries of the domestic estate are nonresident alien individuals, the personal representative must file Form 1041, even if the gross income of the estate is less than \$600.

A fiduciary for a nonresident alien estate with U.S. source income, including any income that is effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business in the United States, must file **Form 1040NR**, *U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return*, as the income tax return of the estate.

A nonresident alien who was a **resident of** Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the entire tax year will, for this purpose, be treated as a resident alien of the United States.

## **Schedule K-1 (Form 1041)**

As personal representative, you must file a separate Schedule K-1 (Form 1041), or an acceptable substitute (described below), for each beneficiary. File these schedules with Form 1041. You must show each beneficiary's

taxpayer identification number. A \$50 penalty is charged for each failure to provide the identifying number of each beneficiary unless reasonable cause is established for not providing it. When you assume your duties as the personal representative, you must ask each beneficiary to give you a taxpayer identification number. However, it is not required of a nonresident alien beneficiary who is not engaged in a trade or business within the United States or of an executor or administrator of the estate unless that person is also a beneficiary.

As personal representative, you must also furnish a Schedule K-1 (Form 1041), or a substitute, to the beneficiary by the date on which the Form 1041 is filed. Failure to provide this payee statement can result in a penalty of \$50 for each failure. This penalty also applies if you omit information or include incorrect information on the payee statement.

You do not need prior approval for a **substitute** Schedule K-1 (Form 1041) that is an exact copy of the official schedule or that follows the specifications in Publication 1167, *Substitute Printed, Computer-Prepared, and Computer-Generated Tax Forms and Schedules*. You must have prior approval for any other substitute Schedule K-1 (Form 1041).

**Beneficiaries.** The personal representative has a fiduciary responsibility to the ultimate recipients of the income and the property of the estate. While the courts use a number of names to designate specific types of beneficiaries or the recipients of various types of property, it is sufficient in this publication to call all of them beneficiaries.

**Liability of the beneficiary.** The income tax liability of an estate attaches to the assets of the estate. If the income is distributed or must be distributed during the current tax year, it is reportable by each beneficiary on his or her individual income tax return. If the income does not have to be distributed, and is not distributed but is retained by the estate, the income tax on the income is payable by the estate. If the income is distributed later without the payment of the taxes due, the beneficiary can be liable for tax due and unpaid, to the extent of the value of the estate assets received.

Income of the estate is taxed to either the estate or the beneficiary, but not to both.

**Nonresident alien beneficiary.** As a resident or domestic fiduciary, in addition to filing Form 1041, you must file the return and pay the tax that may be due from a nonresident alien beneficiary. Depending upon a number of factors, you may or may not have to file Form 1040NR. For more information, get Publication 519, *U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens*.

You do not have to file the nonresident alien's return and pay the tax if that beneficiary has appointed an agent in the United States to file a federal income tax return. However, you must attach to the estate's return (Form 1041) a copy of the document that appoints the beneficiary's agent. You also must file Form 1042, *Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons*, in connection with income tax to be paid at the source on certain payments to nonresident aliens.

## Amended Return

If you have to file an amended Form 1041, use a copy of the form for the appropriate year and check the "Amended return" box. Complete the entire return, correct the appropriate lines with the new information, and refigure the tax liability. On an attached sheet, explain the reason for the changes and identify the lines and amounts being changed.

If the amended return results in a change to income, or a change in distribution of any income or other information provided to a beneficiary, you must file an amended Schedule K-1 (Form 1041) and give a copy to each beneficiary. Check the "Amended K-1" box at the top of Schedule K-1.

## Information Returns

Even though you may not have to file an income tax return for the estate, you may have to file Form 1099-DIV, *Dividends and Distributions*, Form 1099-INT, *Interest Income*, or Form 1099-MISC, *Miscellaneous Income*, if you receive the income as a nominee or middleman for another person. For more information on filing information returns see the *Instructions for Forms 1099, 1098, 5498, and W-2G*.

You will not have to file information returns for the estate if the estate is the record owner and you file an income tax return for the estate on Form 1041 giving the name, address, and identifying number of each actual owner and furnish a completed Schedule K-1 (Form 1041) to each actual owner.

**Penalty.** A penalty of up to \$50 can be charged for each failure to file or failure to include correct information on an information return. (Failure to include correct information includes failure to include all the information required and inclusion of incorrect information.) If it is shown that such failure is due to intentional disregard of the filing requirement, the penalty amount increases.

See the *Instructions for Forms 1099, 1098, 5498, and W-2G* for more information.

## Two or More Personal Representatives

If property is located outside the state in which the decedent's home was located, more than one personal representative may be designated by the will or appointed by the court. The person designated or appointed to administer the estate in the state of the decedent's permanent home is called the **domiciliary representative**. The person designated or appointed to administer property in a state other than that of the decedent's permanent home is called an **ancillary representative**.

**Separate Forms 1041.** Each representative must file a separate Form 1041. The domiciliary representative must include the estate's entire income in the return. The ancillary representative files with the appropriate IRS office for the ancillary's location. The ancillary representative should provide the following information on the return:

- 1) The name and address of the domiciliary representative;
- 2) The amount of gross income received by the ancillary representative; and
- 3) The deductions claimed against that income (including any income properly paid or credited by the ancillary representative to a beneficiary).

**Estate of a nonresident alien.** If the estate of a nonresident alien has a nonresident alien domiciliary representative and an ancillary representative who is a citizen or resident of the United States, the ancillary representative, in addition to filing a Form 1040NR to provide the information described in the preceding paragraph, must also file the return that the domiciliary representative otherwise would have to file.

## Copy of the Will

You do not have to file a copy of the decedent's will unless requested by the IRS. If requested, you must attach a statement to it indicating the provisions that, in your opinion, determine how much of the estate's income is taxable to the estate or to the beneficiaries. You should also attach a statement signed by you under penalties of perjury that the will is a true and complete copy.

## Income To Include

The estate's taxable income generally is figured the same way as an individual's income, except as explained in the following discussions.

Gross income of an estate consists of all items of income received or accrued during the tax year. It includes dividends, interest, rents, royalties, gain from the sale of property, and income from business, partnerships, trusts, and any other sources. For a discussion of income from dividends, interest, and other investment income and also gains and losses from the sale of investment property, get Publication 550. For a discussion of gains and losses from the sale of other property, including business property, get Publication 544, *Sales and Other Dispositions of Assets*.

If, as the personal representative, your duties include the operation of the decedent's business, get Publication 334, *Tax Guide for Small Business (For Individuals Who Use Schedule C or C-EZ)*. This publication explains the income, excise, and employment tax laws that apply to a sole proprietorship.

**Income in respect of the decedent.** As the personal representative of the estate, you may receive income that the decedent would have reported had death not occurred. For an explanation of this income, see *Income in Respect of the Decedent* under *Other Tax Information*, earlier. An estate may qualify to claim a deduction for estate taxes if the estate must include in gross income for any tax year an amount of income in respect of a decedent. See *Estate Tax Deduction*, earlier under *Other Tax Information* and its discussion *Deductions in Respect of the Decedent*.

**Gain (or loss) from sale of property.** During the administration of the estate, you may find it necessary or desirable to sell all or part of the estate's assets to pay debts and expenses of administration, or to make proper distributions of the assets to the beneficiaries. While you may have the legal authority to dispose of the property, title to it may be vested (given a legal interest in the property) in one or more of the beneficiaries. This is usually true of real property. To determine whether any gain or loss must be reported by the estate or by the beneficiaries, consult local law to determine the legal owner.

**Redemption of stock to pay death taxes.** Under certain conditions, a distribution to a shareholder (including the estate) in redemption of stock that was included in the decedent's gross estate may be allowed capital gain (or loss) treatment.

**Character of asset.** The character of an asset in the hands of an estate determines whether gain or loss on its sale or other disposition is capital or ordinary. The asset's character depends on how the estate holds or uses it. If it was a capital asset to the decedent, it generally will be a capital asset to the estate. If it was land or depreciable property used in the decedent's business and the estate continues the business, it generally will have the same character to the estate that it had in the decedent's hands. If it was held by the decedent for sale to customers, it generally will be considered to be held for sale to customers by the estate if the decedent's business continues to operate during the administration of the estate.

**Holding period.** An estate (or other recipient) that acquires a capital asset from a decedent and sells or otherwise disposes of it within 1 year of the decedent's death is considered to have held that asset for the required long-term holding period of more than 1 year.

**Basis of asset.** The basis used to figure gain or loss for property the estate receives from the decedent usually is its fair market value at the date of death, or at the alternate valuation date, if elected. Also see *Special-use valuation* under *Basis of Inherited Property* in the *Other Tax Information* section, earlier.

If the estate purchases property after the decedent's death, the basis generally will be its cost.

The basis of certain appreciated property the estate receives from the decedent will be the decedent's adjusted basis in the property immediately before death. This applies if the property was acquired by the decedent as a gift during the 1-year period before death, the property's fair market value on the date of the gift was greater than the donor's adjusted basis, and the proceeds of the sale of the property are distributed to the donor (or the donor's spouse).

**Schedule D (Form 1041).** To report gains (and losses) from the sale or exchange of capital assets by the estate, file Schedule D (Form 1041) with Form 1041. For additional information about the treatment of capital gains and losses, get the instructions for Schedule D.

**Installment obligations.** If an installment obligation owned by the decedent is transferred by the estate to the obligor (buyer or person obligated to pay) or is canceled at death, include the income from that event in the gross income of the estate. See *Installment obligations* under *Income in Respect of the Decedent* in the *Other Tax Information* section, earlier. Get Publication 537 for information about installment sales.

**Gain from sale of special-use valuation property.** If you elected special-use valuation for farm or other closely held business real property and that property is sold to a **qualified heir**, the estate will recognize gain on the sale if the fair market value on the date of the sale exceeds the fair market value on the date of the decedent's death (or on the alternate valuation date if it was elected).

**Qualified heirs.** Qualified heirs include the decedent's ancestors (parents, grandparents, etc.) and spouse, the decedent's lineal descendants (children, grandchildren, etc.) and their spouses, and lineal descendants (and their spouses) of the decedent's parents or spouse.

For more information about special-use valuation, get Form 706 and its instructions.

**Gain from transfer of property to a political organization.** Appreciated property that is transferred to a political organization is treated as sold by the estate. Appreciated property is property that has a fair market value (on the date of the transfer) greater than the estate's basis. The gain recognized is the difference between the estate's basis and the fair market value on the date transferred.

A political organization is any party, committee, association, fund, or other organization formed and operated to accept contributions or make expenditures for influencing the nomination, election, or appointment of an individual to any federal, state, or local public office.

**Gain or loss on distributions in kind.** An estate recognizes gain or loss on a distribution of property in kind to a beneficiary only in the following situations:

- 1) The distribution satisfies the beneficiary's right to receive either—
  - a) A specific dollar amount (whether payable in cash, in unspecified property, or in both), or
  - b) A specific property other than the property distributed.
- 2) You choose to recognize the gain or loss on the estate's income tax return.

The gain or loss is usually the difference between the fair market value of the property when distributed and the estate's basis in the property. But see *Gain from sale of special-use valuation property*, earlier, for a limit on the gain recognized on a transfer of such property to a qualified heir.

If you choose to recognize gain or loss, the choice applies to all noncash distributions during the tax year except charitable distributions

and specific bequests. To make the choice, report the gain or loss on a Schedule D (Form 1041) attached to the estate's Form 1041 and check the box on line 7 in the *Other Information* section of Form 1041. You must make the choice by the due date (including extensions) of the estate's income tax return for the year of distribution. You must get the consent of the IRS to revoke the choice.

For more information, see *Property distributed in kind* under *Distributions Deduction*, later.

## Exemption and Deductions

In figuring taxable income, an estate is generally allowed the same deductions as an individual. Special rules, however, apply to some deductions for an estate. This section includes discussions of those deductions affected by the special rules.

### Exemption Deduction

An estate is allowed an exemption deduction of \$600 in figuring its taxable income. No exemption for dependents is allowed to an estate. Even though the first return of an estate may be for a period of less than 12 months, the exemption is \$600. If, however, the estate was given permission to change its accounting period, the exemption is \$50 for each month of the short year.

### Contributions

An estate qualifies for a deduction for amounts of gross income paid or permanently set aside for qualified charitable organizations. The adjusted gross income limits for individuals do not apply. However, to be deductible by an estate, the contribution must be specifically provided for in the decedent's will. If there is no will, or if the will makes no provision for the payment to a charitable organization, then a deduction will not be allowed even though all of the beneficiaries may agree to the gift.

You cannot deduct any contribution from income that is not included in the estate's gross income. If the will specifically provides that the contributions are to be paid out of the estate's gross income, the contributions are fully deductible. However, if the will contains no specific provisions, the contributions are considered to have been paid and are deductible in the same proportion as the gross income bears to the total of all classes of income.

For more information about contributions, get Publication 526, *Charitable Contributions*, and Publication 561, *Determining the Value of Donated Property*.

### Losses

Generally, an estate can claim a deduction for a loss that it sustains on the sale of property. If an estate has a loss from the sale of property (other than stock) to a personal representative or beneficiary of such estate, it also can claim a loss deduction. For a discussion of an estate's recognized loss on a distribution of

property in kind to a beneficiary, see *Income To Include*, earlier.

**Net operating loss deduction.** An estate can claim a net operating loss deduction, figured in the same way as an individual's, except that it cannot deduct any distributions to beneficiaries (discussed later) or the deduction for charitable contributions in figuring the loss or the loss carryover. For a discussion of the carryover of an unused net operating loss to a beneficiary upon termination of the estate, see *Termination of Estate*, later, and get Publication 536, *Net Operating Losses*.

**Casualty and theft losses.** Losses incurred for casualty and theft during the administration of the estate can be deducted only if they have not been claimed on the federal estate tax return (Form 706). You must file a statement with the estate's income tax return waiving the deduction for estate tax purposes. See *Administration Expenses*, below.

The same rules that apply to individuals apply to the estate, except that in figuring the adjusted gross income of the estate used to figure the deductible loss, you deduct any administration expenses claimed. Get Form 4684, *Casualties and Thefts*, and its instructions to figure any loss deduction.

**Carryover losses.** Carryover losses resulting from net operating losses or capital losses sustained by the decedent **before death** cannot be deducted on the estate's income tax return.

### Administration Expenses

Expenses of administering an estate can be deducted either from the gross estate in figuring the federal estate tax on Form 706 or from the estate's gross income in figuring the estate's income tax on Form 1041. However, these expenses cannot be claimed for **both** estate tax and income tax purposes. In most cases, this rule also applies to expenses incurred in the sale of property by an estate (not as a dealer).

To prevent a double deduction, amounts otherwise allowable in figuring the decedent's taxable estate for federal estate tax on Form 706 will not be allowed as a deduction in figuring the income tax of the estate or of any other person unless the personal representative files a statement, in duplicate, that the items of expense, as listed in the statement, have not been claimed as deductions for federal estate tax purposes and that all rights to claim such deductions are **waived**. One deduction or part of a deduction can be claimed for income tax purposes if the appropriate statement is filed, while another deduction or part is claimed for estate tax purposes. Claiming a deduction in figuring the estate income tax is not prevented when the same deduction is claimed on the estate tax return, so long as the estate tax deduction is not finally allowed and the preceding statement is filed. The statement can be filed at any time before the expiration of the statute of limitations that applies to the tax year for which the deduction is sought. This waiver procedure also applies to casualty

losses incurred during administration of the estate.

**Accrued expenses.** The rules preventing double deductions do not apply to deductions for taxes, interest, business expenses, and other items accrued at the date of death. These expenses are allowable as a deduction for estate tax purposes as claims against the estate and also are allowable as deductions in respect of a decedent for income tax purposes. Deductions for interest, business expenses, and other items not accrued at the date of the decedent's death are allowable only as a deduction for administration expenses for both estate and income tax purposes and do not qualify for a double deduction.

#### **Expenses allocable to tax-exempt income.**

When figuring the estate's taxable income on Form 1041, you cannot deduct administration expenses allocable to any of the estate's tax-exempt income. However, you can deduct these administration expenses when figuring the taxable estate for federal estate tax purposes on Form 706.

### **Depreciation and Depletion**

The allowable deductions for depreciation and depletion that accrue after the decedent's death must be apportioned between the estate and the beneficiaries, depending on the income of the estate that is allocable to each.

**Example.** In 1996 the decedent's estate realized \$3,000 of business income during the administration of the estate. The personal representative distributed \$1,000 of the income to the decedent's son Ned and \$2,000 to another son, Bill. The allowable depreciation on the business property is \$300. Ned can take a deduction of \$100 ( $(\$1,000 \div \$3,000) \times \$300$ ), and Bill can take a deduction of \$200 ( $(\$2,000 \div \$3,000) \times \$300$ ).

### **Distributions Deduction**

An estate is allowed a deduction for the tax year for any income that must be distributed currently and for other amounts that are properly paid or credited, or that must be distributed to beneficiaries. The deduction is limited to the **distributable net income** of the estate.

For special rules that apply in figuring the estate's distribution deduction, see *Special Rules for Distributions under Distributions to Beneficiaries From an Estate*, later.

**Distributable net income.** Distributable net income (determined on Schedule B of Form 1041) is the estate's income available for distribution. It is the estate's taxable income, with the following modifications:

**Distributions to beneficiaries.** Distributions to beneficiaries are not deducted.

**Estate tax deduction.** The deduction for estate tax on income in respect of the decedent is not allowed.

**Personal exemption.** No personal exemption deduction is allowed.

**Capital gains.** Capital gains ordinarily are not included in distributable net income. However, you include them in distributable net income if:

- 1) The gain is allocated to income in the accounts of the estate or by notice to the beneficiaries under the terms of the will or by local law;
- 2) The gain is allocated to the corpus or principal of the estate and is actually distributed to the beneficiaries during the tax year;
- 3) The gain is used, under either the terms of the will or the practice of the personal representative, to determine the amount that is distributed or must be distributed; or
- 4) Charitable contributions are made out of capital gains.

**Capital losses.** Capital losses are excluded in figuring distributable net income unless they enter into the computation of any capital gain that is distributed or must be distributed during the year.

**Tax-exempt interest.** Tax-exempt interest, including exempt-interest dividends, though excluded from the estate's gross income, is included in the distributable net income, but is reduced by:

- 1) The expenses that were not allowed in computing the estate's taxable income because they were attributable to tax-exempt interest (see *Expenses allocable to tax-exempt income under Administration Expenses*, earlier); and
- 2) The part of the tax-exempt interest deemed to have been used to make a charitable contribution. See *Contributions*, earlier.

The total tax-exempt interest earned by an estate must be shown in the *Other Information* section of the Form 1041. The beneficiary's part of the tax-exempt interest is shown on the Schedule K-1, Form 1041.

#### **Income that must be distributed currently.**

The distributions deduction includes any amount of income that, under the terms of the decedent's will or by reason of local law, must be distributed currently. This includes an amount that may be paid out of income or corpus (such as an annuity) to the extent it is paid out of income for the tax year. The deduction is allowed to the estate even if the personal representative does not make the distribution until a later year or makes no distribution until the final settlement and termination of the estate.

**Support allowances.** The distribution deduction includes any support allowance that, under a court order or decree or local law, the estate must pay the decedent's surviving spouse or other dependent for a limited period during administration of the estate. The allowance is deductible as income that must be distributed currently or as any other amount paid, credited, or required to be distributed, as discussed next.

**Any other amount paid, credited, or required to be distributed.** Any other amount paid, credited, or required to be distributed is allowed as a deduction to the estate only in the year actually paid, credited, or distributed. If there is no specific requirement by local law or by the terms of the will that income earned by the estate during administration be distributed currently, a deduction for distributions to the beneficiaries will be allowed to the estate, but only for the actual distributions during the tax year.

If the personal representative has discretion as to when the income is distributed, the deduction is allowed only in the year of distribution.

**Alimony and separate maintenance.** Alimony and separate maintenance payments that must be included in the spouse's or former spouse's income may be deducted as income that must be distributed currently if they are paid, credited, or distributed out of the income of the estate for the tax year. That spouse or former spouse is treated as a beneficiary.

**Payment of beneficiary's obligations.** Any payment made by the estate to satisfy a legal obligation of any person is deductible as income that must be distributed currently or as any other amount paid, credited, or required to be distributed. This includes a payment made to satisfy the person's obligation under local law to support another person, such as the person's minor child. The person whose obligation is satisfied is treated as a beneficiary of the estate.

This does not apply to a payment made to satisfy a person's obligation to pay alimony or separate maintenance.

**The value of an interest in real estate.** The value of an interest in real estate owned by a decedent, title to which passes directly to the beneficiaries under local law, is not included as any other amount paid, credited, or required to be distributed.

**Property distributed in kind.** If an estate distributes property in kind, the estate's deduction ordinarily is the lesser of its basis in the property or the property's fair market value when distributed. However, the deduction is the property's fair market value if the estate recognizes gain on the distribution. See *Gain or loss on distributions in kind* under *Income To Include*, earlier.

Property is distributed in kind if it satisfies the beneficiary's right to receive another property or amount, such as the income of the estate or a specific dollar amount. It generally includes any noncash distribution other than:

- 1) A specific bequest (unless it must be distributed in more than three installments), or
- 2) Real property, the title to which passes directly to the beneficiary under local law.



**Character of amounts distributed.** If the decedent's will or local law does not provide for the allocation of different classes of income, you must treat the amount deductible for distributions to beneficiaries as consisting of the same proportion of each class of items entering into the computation of distributable net income as the total of each class bears to the total distributable net income. For more information about the character of distributions, see *Character of Distributions under Distributions to Beneficiaries From an Estate*, later.

**Example.** An estate has distributable net income of \$2,000, consisting of \$1,000 of taxable interest and \$1,000 of rental income. Distributions to the beneficiary total \$1,500. The distribution deduction consists of \$750 of taxable interest and \$750 of rental income, unless the will or local law provides a different allocation.

**Limit on deduction for distributions.** You cannot deduct any amount of distributable net income not included in the estate's gross income.

**Example.** An estate has distributable net income of \$2,000, consisting of \$1,000 of dividends and \$1,000 of tax-exempt interest. Distributions to the beneficiaries are \$1,500. Except for this rule, the distribution deduction would be \$1,500 (\$750 of dividends and \$750 of tax-exempt interest). However, as the result of this rule, the distribution deduction is limited to \$750, because no deduction is allowed for the tax-exempt interest distributed.

## Funeral and Medical Expenses

No deduction can be taken for funeral expenses or medical and dental expenses on the estate's income tax return, Form 1041.

**Funeral expenses.** Funeral expenses paid by the estate are not deductible in figuring the estate's taxable income on Form 1041. They are deductible only for determining the taxable estate for federal estate tax purposes on Form 706.

**Medical and dental expenses of a decedent.** The medical and dental expenses of a decedent paid by the estate are not deductible in figuring the estate's taxable income on Form 1041. You can deduct them in figuring the taxable estate for federal estate tax purposes on Form 706. If these expenses are paid within the 1-year period beginning with the day after the decedent's death, you can elect to deduct them on the decedent's income tax return (Form 1040) for the year in which they were incurred. See *Exemptions and Deductions under Final Return for Decedent*, earlier.

## Credits, Tax, and Payments

This section includes brief discussions of some of the tax credits, types of taxes that may be owed, and estimated tax payments

that are reported on the income tax return of the estate, Form 1041.

### Credits

Estates generally are allowed the same tax credits that are allowed to individuals. The credits generally are allocated between the estate and the beneficiaries. However, estates are not allowed the credit for the elderly or the disabled or the earned income credit discussed earlier under *Final Return for Decedent*.

**Foreign tax credit.** Foreign tax credit is discussed in Publication 514, *Foreign Tax Credit for Individuals*.

**General business credit.** The general business credit is available to an estate that is involved in a business. The credit is limited to the estate's regular tax liability with certain adjustments minus the greater of:

- 1) The tentative minimum tax for the year, or
- 2) 25% of tax liability that is more than \$25,000. The \$25,000 must be reduced to an amount that bears the same ratio to \$25,000 as the income that is not allocated to beneficiaries bears to the total income of the estate.

### Tax

An estate cannot use the Tax Table that applies to individuals. The tax rate schedule to use is in the instructions for Form 1041.

**Maximum tax rate on capital gains.** The maximum 28% rate on net capital gains is figured in Part VI of Schedule D (Form 1041). Complete Part VI if both lines 16 and 17, column (b), are net gains and the estate's taxable income (line 22, Form 1041) is more than \$3,800.

**Alternative minimum tax (AMT).** An estate may be liable for the alternative minimum tax. To figure the alternative minimum tax, use Schedule I (Form 1041), *Alternative Minimum Tax*. Certain credits may be limited by any "tentative minimum tax" figured on line 37, Part III of Schedule I (Form 1041), even if there is no alternative minimum tax liability.

If the estate takes a deduction for distributions to beneficiaries, complete Part I and Part II of Schedule I even if the estate does not owe alternative minimum tax. Allocate the income distribution deduction figured on a minimum tax basis among the beneficiaries and report each beneficiary's share on Schedule K-1 (Form 1041). Also show each beneficiary's share of any adjustments or tax preference items for depreciation, depletion, and amortization.

For more information, get the instructions to Form 1041.

### Payments

The estate's income tax liability must be paid in full when the return is filed. You may have to pay estimated tax, however, as explained next.

**Estimated tax.** Estates with tax years ending 2 or more years after the date of the decedent's death must pay estimated tax in the same manner as individuals.

If you must make estimated tax payments for 1997, use **Form 1041-ES, Estimated Income Tax for Estates and Trusts**, to determine the estimated tax to be paid.

Generally, you must pay estimated tax if the estate is expected to owe, after subtracting any withholding and credits, at least \$500 in tax for 1997. You will not, however, have to pay estimated tax if you expect the withholding and credits to be at least:

- 1) 90% of the tax to be shown on the 1997 return, or
- 2) 100% of the tax shown on the 1996 return (assuming the return covered all 12 months).

The percentage in (2) above is 110% if the estate's 1996 adjusted gross income (AGI) was \$150,000 or more. To figure the estate's AGI, see the instructions for line 15b, Form 1041.

The general rule is that you must make your first estimated tax payment by April 15, 1997. You can either pay all of your estimated tax at that time or pay it in four equal amounts that are due by April 15, 1997; June 16, 1997; September 15, 1997; and January 15, 1998. For exceptions to the general rule, get the instructions for Form 1041-ES and Publication 505.

If your return is on a fiscal year basis, your due dates are the 15th day of the 4th, 6th, and 9th months of your fiscal year and the 1st month of the following fiscal year.

If any of these dates fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, use the next business day.

You may be charged a penalty for not paying enough estimated tax or for not making the payment on time in the required amount (even if you have an overpayment on your tax return). Get Form 2210, *Underpayment of Estimated Tax by Individuals, Estates and Trusts*, to figure any penalty.

For more information, get the instructions for Form 1041-ES and Publication 505.

## Name, Address, and Signature

In the top space of the name and address area of Form 1041, enter the exact name of the estate from the Form SS-4 used to apply for the estate's employer identification number. In the remaining spaces, enter the name and address of the personal representative (fiduciary) of the estate.

**Signature.** The personal representative (or its authorized officer if the personal representative is not an individual) must sign the return. An individual who prepares the return for pay

must manually sign the return as preparer. Signature stamps or labels are not acceptable. For additional information about the requirements for preparers of returns, see the instructions for Form 1041.

## When and Where To File

When you file Form 1041 (or Form 1040NR if it applies) depends on whether you choose a calendar year or a fiscal year as the estate's accounting period. Where you file Form 1041 depends on where you, as the personal representative, live or have your principal office.

**When to file.** If you choose the calendar year as the estate's accounting period, the Form 1041 for 1996 is due by April 15 (June 16, 1997, in the case of Form 1040NR for a non-resident alien estate that does not have an office in the United States). If you choose a fiscal year, the Form 1041 is due by the 15th day of the 4th month (6th month in the case of Form 1040NR) after the end of the tax year. If the due date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the return is due on the next business day.

**Extension of time to file.** An extension of time to file Form 1041 may be granted if you have clearly described the reasons that will cause your delay in filing the return. Use Form 2758, *Application for Extension of Time To File Certain Excise, Income, Information, and Other Returns*, to request an extension. The extension is not automatic, so you should request it early enough for the IRS to act on the application before the regular due date of Form 1041. You should file Form 2758 in duplicate with the IRS office where you must file Form 1041.

If you have not yet established an accounting period, filing Form 2758 will serve to establish the accounting period stated on that form. Changing to another accounting period requires prior approval of the IRS.

Generally, an extension of time to file a return **does not extend the time for payment of tax due**. You must pay the total income tax estimated to be due on Form 1041 in full by the regular due date of the return. For additional information, see the instructions for Form 2758.

**Where to file.** As the personal representative of an estate, file the estate's income tax return (Form 1041) with the Internal Revenue Service center for the state where you live or have your principal place of business. A list of the states and addresses that apply is in the instructions for Form 1041.

You must send Form 1040NR to the Internal Revenue Service Center, Philadelphia, PA 19255.

**Electronic filing.** Form 1041 can be filed electronically or on magnetic tape. See the instructions for Form 1041 for more information.

## Distributions to Beneficiaries From an Estate

If you are the beneficiary of an estate that must distribute all its income currently, you must report your share of the distributable net income whether or not you have actually received it.

If you are the beneficiary of an estate that does not have to distribute all its income currently, you must report all income that must be distributed to you (whether or not actually distributed) plus all other amounts paid, credited, or required to be distributed to you, up to your share of distributable net income. Distributable net income (figured without the charitable deduction) is the income of the estate available for distribution. As explained earlier in *Distributions Deduction under Income Tax Return of an Estate—Form 1041* and its discussion, *Exemption and Deductions*, for an amount to be currently distributable income, there must be a specific requirement for current distribution either under local law or by the terms of the decedent's will. If there is no such requirement, the income is reportable only when distributed.

### Income That Must Be Distributed Currently

Beneficiaries who are entitled to receive currently distributable income generally must include in gross income the entire amount due them. However, if the currently distributable income is more than the estate's distributable net income figured without deducting charitable contributions, each beneficiary must include in gross income a ratable part of the distributable net income.

**Example.** Under the terms of the will of Gerald Peters, \$5,000 a year is to be paid to his widow and \$2,500 a year is to be paid to his daughter out of the estate's income during the period of administration. There are no charitable contributions. For the year, the estate's distributable net income is only \$6,000. Since the distributable net income is less than the currently distributable income, the widow must include in her gross income only \$4,000  $(\$5,000 \div 7,500) \times \$6,000$ , and the daughter must include in her gross income only \$2,000  $(\$2,500 \div 7,500) \times \$6,000$ .

### Annuity payable out of income or corpus.

Income that must be distributed currently includes any amount that must be paid out of income or corpus (principal of the estate) to the extent the amount is satisfied out of income for the tax year. An annuity that must be paid in all events (either out of income or corpus) would qualify as income that must be distributed currently to the extent there is income of the estate not paid, credited, or required to be distributed to other beneficiaries for the tax year.

**Example 1.** Henry Frank's will provides that \$500 be paid to the local Community

Chest out of the income each year. It also provides that \$2,000 a year is currently distributable out of income to his brother, Fred, and an annuity of \$3,000 is to be paid to his sister, Sharon, out of income or corpus. Capital gains are allocable to corpus, but all expenses are to be charged against income. Last year, the estate had income of \$6,000 and expenses of \$3,000. The personal representative paid the \$500 to the Community Chest and made the distributions to Fred and Sharon as required by the will.

The estate's distributable net income (figured before the charitable contribution) is \$3,000. The currently distributable income totals \$2,500 (\$2,000 to Fred and \$500 to Sharon). The income available for Sharon's annuity is only \$500 because the will requires that the charitable contribution be paid out of current income. Because the \$2,500 treated as distributed currently is less than the \$3,000 distributable net income (before the contribution), Fred must include \$2,000 in his gross income, and Sharon must include \$500 in her gross income.

**Example 2.** Assume the same facts as in Example 1 except that the estate has an additional \$1,000 of administration expenses, commissions, etc., that are chargeable to corpus. The estate's distributable net income (figured before the charitable contribution) is now \$2,000 (\$3,000 minus \$1,000 additional expense). The amount treated as currently distributable income is still \$2,500 (\$2,000 to Fred and \$500 to Sharon). Because the \$2,500, treated as distributed currently, is more than the \$2,000 distributable net income, Fred has to include only \$1,600  $(\$2,000 \div 2,500) \times \$2,000$  in his gross income and Sharon has to include only \$400  $(\$500 \div 2,500) \times \$2,000$  in her gross income. Because Fred and Sharon are beneficiaries of amounts that must be distributed currently, they do not benefit from the reduction of distributable net income by the charitable contribution deduction.

### Other Amounts Distributed

Any other amount paid, credited, or required to be distributed to the beneficiary for the tax year also must be included in the beneficiary's gross income. Such an amount is in addition to those amounts that must be distributed currently, as discussed earlier. It does not include gifts or bequests of specific sums of money or specific property if such sums are paid in three or fewer installments. However, amounts that can be paid only out of income are not excluded under this rule. If the sum of the income that must be distributed currently and other amounts paid, credited, or required to be distributed exceeds distributable net income, these other amounts are included in the beneficiary's gross income only to the extent distributable net income exceeds the income that must be distributed currently. If there is more than one beneficiary, each will include in gross income only a pro rata share of such amounts.

### Examples of other amounts paid are:

- 1) Distributions made at the discretion of the personal representative;
- 2) Distributions required by the terms of the will upon the happening of a specific event;
- 3) Annuities that must be paid in any event, but only out of corpus (principal);
- 4) Distributions of property in kind as defined earlier in *Distributions Deduction under Income Tax Return of an Estate—Form 1041* and its discussion, *Exemption and Deductions*; and
- 5) Distributions required for the support of the decedent's surviving spouse or other dependent for a limited period, but only out of corpus (principal).

If an estate distributes property in kind, the amount of the distribution ordinarily is the lesser of the estate's basis in the property or the property's fair market value when distributed. However, the amount of the distribution is the property's fair market value if the estate recognizes gain on the distribution. See *Gain or loss on distributions in kind* in the discussion *Income To Include* under *Income Tax Return of an Estate—Form 1041*, earlier.

**Example.** The terms of Michael Scott's will require the distribution of \$2,500 of income annually to his wife, Susan. If any income remains, it may be accumulated or distributed to his two children, Joe and Alice, in amounts at the discretion of the personal representative. The personal representative also may invade the corpus (principal) for the benefit of Scott's wife and children.

Last year, the estate had income of \$6,000 after deduction of all expenses. Its distributable net income is also \$6,000. The personal representative distributed the required \$2,500 of income to Susan. In addition, the personal representative distributed \$1,500 each to Joe and Alice and an additional \$2,000 to Susan.

Susan includes in her gross income the \$2,500 of currently distributable income. The other amounts distributed totaled \$5,000 (\$1,500 + \$1,500 + \$2,000) and are includible in the income of Susan, Joe, and Alice to the extent of \$3,500 (distributable net income of \$6,000 minus currently distributable income to Susan of \$2,500). Susan will include an additional \$1,400  $([2,000 \div 5,000] \times \$3,500)$  in her gross income. Joe and Alice each will include \$1,050  $([1,500 \div 5,000] \times \$3,500)$  in their gross incomes.

## Discharge of a Legal Obligation

If an estate, under the terms of a will, discharges a legal obligation of a beneficiary, the discharge is included in that beneficiary's income as either currently distributable income or other amount paid. This does not apply to the discharge of a beneficiary's obligation to pay alimony or separate maintenance.

The beneficiary's legal obligations include a legal obligation of support, for example, of a

minor child. Local law determines a legal obligation of support.

## Character of Distributions

An amount distributed to a beneficiary for inclusion in gross income retains the same character for the beneficiary that it had for the estate.

**No charitable contributions are made.** If no charitable contributions are made during the tax year, you must treat the distributions as consisting of the same proportion of each class of items entering into the computation of distributable net income as the total of each class bears to the total distributable net income. Distributable net income was defined earlier in *Distributions Deduction under Income Tax Return of an Estate—Form 1041* and its discussion, *Exemption and Deductions*. However, if the will or local law specifically provides or requires a different allocation, you must use that allocation.

**Example 1.** An estate has distributable net income of \$3,000, consisting of \$1,800 in rents and \$1,200 in taxable interest. There is no provision in the will or local law for the allocation of income. The personal representative distributes \$1,500 each to Jim and Ted, beneficiaries under their father's will. Each will be treated as having received \$900 in rents and \$600 of taxable interest.

**Example 2.** Assume in Example 1 that the will provides for the payment of the taxable interest to Jim and the rental income to Ted and that the personal representative distributed the income under those provisions. Jim is treated as having received \$1,200 in taxable interest and Ted is treated as having received \$1,800 of rental income.

**If a charitable contribution is made.** If a charitable contribution is made by an estate and the terms of the will or local law provide for the contribution to be paid from specified sources, that provision governs. If no provision or requirement exists, the charitable contribution deduction must be allocated among the classes of income entering into the computation of the income of the estate before allocation of other deductions among the items of distributable net income. In allocating items of income and deductions to beneficiaries to whom income must be distributed currently, the charitable contribution deduction is not taken into account to the extent that it exceeds income for the year reduced by currently distributable income.

**Example.** The will of Harry Thomas requires a current distribution out of income of \$3,000 a year to his wife, Betty, during the administration of the estate. The will also provides that the personal representative, using discretion, may distribute the balance of the current earnings either to Harry's son, Tim, or to one or more of certain designated charities. Last year, the estate's income consisted of \$4,000 of taxable interest and \$1,000 of tax-exempt interest. There were no deductible expenses. The personal representative distributed the \$3,000 to Betty, made a contribution

of \$2,500 to the local heart association, and paid \$1,500 to Tim.

The distributable net income for determining the character of the distribution to Betty is \$3,000. The charitable contribution deduction to be taken into account for this computation is \$2,000 (the estate's income (\$5,000) minus the currently distributable income (\$3,000)). The \$2,000 charitable contribution deduction must be allocated: \$1,600  $([4,000 \div 5,000] \times \$2,000)$  to taxable interest and \$400  $([1,000 \div 5,000] \times \$2,000)$  to tax-exempt interest. Betty is considered to have received \$2,400 (\$4,000 minus \$1,600) of taxable interest and \$600 (\$1,000 minus \$400) of tax-exempt interest. She must include the \$2,400 in her gross income. She must report the \$600 of tax-exempt interest, but it is not taxable.

To determine the amount to be included in the gross income of Tim, however, take into account the entire charitable contribution deduction. Since the currently distributable income is greater than the estate's income after taking into account the charitable contribution deduction, none of the amount paid to Tim must be included in his gross income for the year.

## How and When To Report

How you report your income from the estate depends on the character of the income in the hands of the estate. When you report the income depends on whether it represents amounts credited or required to be distributed to you or other amounts.

**How to report estate income.** Each item of income keeps the same character in your hands as it had in the hands of the estate. If the items of income distributed or considered to be distributed to you include dividends, tax-exempt interest, or capital gains, they will keep the same character in your hands for purposes of the tax treatment given those items. Report your dividends on line 9, Form 1040, and report your capital gains on Schedule D (Form 1040). The tax-exempt interest, while not included in taxable income, must be shown on line 8b, Form 1040. Report business and other nonpassive income on Schedule E, Part III (Form 1040).

The estate's personal representative should provide you with the classification of the various items that make up your share of the estate income and the credits you should take into consideration so that you can properly prepare your individual income tax return. See *Schedule K-1 (Form 1041)*, later.

**When to report estate income.** If income from the estate is credited or must be distributed to you for a tax year, report that income (even if not distributed) on your return for that year. Report other income from the estate on your return for the year in which you receive it. If your tax year is different from the estate's tax year, see *Different tax years*, next.

**Different tax years.** You must include your share of the estate income in your return for your tax year in which the last day of the estate tax year falls. If the tax year of the estate

is the calendar year and your tax year is a fiscal year ending on June 30, you will include in gross income for the tax year ended June 30 your share of the estate's distributable net income distributed or considered distributed during the calendar year ending the previous December 31.

**Death of individual beneficiary.** If an individual beneficiary dies, the beneficiary's share of the estate's distributable net income may be distributed or be considered distributed by the estate for its tax year that does not end with or within the last tax year of the beneficiary. In this case, the estate income that must be included in the gross income on the beneficiary's final return is based on the amounts distributed or considered distributed during the tax year of the estate in which his or her last tax year ended. However, for a cash basis beneficiary, the gross income of the last tax year includes only the amounts actually distributed before death. Income that must be distributed to the beneficiary but, in fact, distributed to the beneficiary's estate after death is included in the gross income of the beneficiary's estate as income in respect of a decedent.

**Termination of nonindividual beneficiary.** If a beneficiary that is not an individual, for example a trust or a corporation, ceases to exist, the amount included in its gross income for its last tax year is determined as if the beneficiary were a deceased individual. However, income that must be distributed before termination, but which is actually distributed to the beneficiary's successor in interest, is included in the gross income of the nonindividual beneficiary for its last tax year.

**Schedule K-1 (Form 1041).** The personal representative for the estate must provide you with a copy of Schedule K-1 (Form 1041) or a substitute Schedule K-1. You should not file the form with your Form 1040, but should keep it for your personal records.

Each beneficiary (or nominee of a beneficiary) who receives a distribution from the estate for the tax year or to whom any item is allocated must receive a Schedule K-1 or substitute. The personal representative handling the estate must furnish the form to each beneficiary or nominee by the date on which the Form 1041 is filed.

**Nominees.** A person who holds an interest in an estate as a nominee for a beneficiary must provide the estate with the name and address of the beneficiary, and any other required information. The nominee must provide the beneficiary with the information received from the estate.

**Penalty.** A personal representative (or nominee) who fails to provide the correct information may be subject to a \$50 penalty for each failure.

## Special Rules for Distributions

Some special rules apply for determining the deduction allowable to the estate for distributions to beneficiaries and the amount includible in the beneficiary's gross income.

## Bequest

A bequest is the act of giving or leaving property to another through the last will and testament. Generally, any distribution of income (or property in kind) to a beneficiary is an allowable deduction to the estate and is includible in the beneficiary's gross income to the extent of the estate's distributable net income. However, it will not be an allowable deduction to the estate and will not be includible in the beneficiary's gross income if the distribution:

- 1) Is required by the terms of the will,
- 2) Is a gift or bequest of a *specific sum of money or property*, and
- 3) Is paid out in three or fewer installments under the terms of the will.

**Specific sum of money or property.** To meet this test, the amount of money or the identity of the specific property must be determinable under the decedent's will as of the date of death. To qualify as specific property, the property must be identifiable both as to its kind and as to its amount.

**Example 1.** Dave Rogers' will provided that his son, Ed, receive Dave's interest in the Rogers-Jones partnership. Dave's daughter, Marie, would receive a sum of money equal to the value of the partnership interest given to Ed. The bequest to Ed is a gift of a specific property ascertainable at the date of Dave Rogers' death. The bequest of a specific sum of money to Marie is determinable on the same date.

**Example 2.** Mike Jenkins' will provided that his widow, Helen, would receive money or property to be selected by the personal representative equal in value to half of his adjusted gross estate. The identity of the property and the money in the bequest are dependent on the personal representative's discretion and the payment of administration expenses and other charges, which are not determinable at the date of Mike's death. As a result, the provision is not a bequest of a specific sum of money or of specific property, and any distribution under that provision is a deduction for the estate and income to the beneficiary (to the extent of the estate's distributable net income). The fact that the bequest will be specific sometime before distribution is immaterial. It is not ascertainable by the terms of the will as of the date of death.

**Distributions not treated as bequests.** The following distributions are not bequests that meet all of the three tests listed earlier that allow a distribution to be excluded from the beneficiary's income and do not allow it as a deduction to the estate.

**Paid only from income.** An amount that can be paid only from current or prior income of the estate does not qualify even if it is specific in amount and there is no provision for installment payments.

**An annuity.** An annuity or a payment of money or of specific property in lieu of, or having the effect of, an annuity is not the payment of a specific property or sum of money.

**Residuary estate.** If the will provides for the payment of the balance or residue of the estate to a beneficiary of the estate after all expenses and other specific legacies or bequests, that residuary bequest is not a payment of a specific property or sum of money.

**Gifts made in installments.** Even if the gift or bequest is made in a lump sum or in three or fewer installments, it will not qualify as a specific property or sum of money if the will provides that the amount must be paid in more than three installments.

**Conditional bequests.** A bequest of a specific property or sum of money that may otherwise be excluded from the beneficiary's gross income will not lose the exclusion solely because the payment is subject to a condition.

**Installment payments.** Certain rules apply in determining whether a bequest of specific property or a sum of money has to be paid or credited to a beneficiary in more than three installments.

**Personal items.** Do not take into account bequests of articles for personal use, such as personal and household effects and automobiles.

**Real property.** Do not take into account specifically designated real property, the title to which passes under local law directly to the beneficiary.

**Other property.** All other bequests under the decedent's will for which no time of payment or crediting is specified and that are to be paid or credited in the ordinary course of administration of the estate are considered as required to be paid or credited in a single installment. Also, all bequests payable at any one specified time under the terms of the will are treated as a single installment.

**A testamentary trust.** In determining the number of installments that must be paid or credited to a beneficiary, the decedent's estate and a testamentary trust created by the decedent's will are treated as separate entities. Amounts paid or credited by the estate and by the trust are counted separately.

## Denial of Double Deduction

A deduction cannot be claimed twice. If an amount is considered to have been distributed to a beneficiary of an estate in a preceding tax year, it cannot again be included in figuring the deduction for the year of the actual distribution.

**Example.** The will provides that the estate must distribute currently all of its income to a beneficiary. For administrative convenience, the personal representative did not make a distribution of a part of the income for the tax year until the first month of the next tax year. The amount must be deducted by the estate in the first tax year, and must be included in the gross income of the beneficiary in that year. This amount cannot be deducted again by the estate in the following year when it is paid to the beneficiary, nor must the beneficiary again include the amount in gross income in that year.

## Charitable Contributions

The amount of a charitable contribution used as a deduction by the estate in determining taxable income cannot be claimed again as a deduction for a distribution to a beneficiary.

## Termination of Estate

The termination of an estate generally is marked by the end of the period of administration and by the distribution of the assets to the beneficiaries under the terms of the will or under the laws of succession of the state if there is no will. These beneficiaries may or may not be the same persons as the beneficiaries of the estate's income.

## Period of Administration

The period of administration is the time actually required by the personal representative to assemble all of the decedent's assets, pay all the expenses and obligations, and distribute the assets to the beneficiaries. This may be longer or shorter than the time provided by local law for the administration of estates.

**Ends if all assets distributed.** If all assets are distributed except for a reasonable amount set aside, in good faith, for the payment of unascertained or contingent liabilities and expenses (but not including a claim by a beneficiary, as a beneficiary) the estate will be considered terminated.

**Ends if period unreasonably long.** If settlement is prolonged unreasonably, the estate will be treated as terminated for federal income tax purposes. From that point on, the gross income, deductions, and credits of the estate are considered those of the person or persons succeeding to the property of the estate.

## Transfer of Unused Deductions to Beneficiaries

If the estate has unused loss carryovers or excess deductions for its last tax year, they are allowed to those beneficiaries who succeed to the estate's property. See *Successor beneficiary*, later.

**Unused loss carryovers.** An unused net operating loss carryover or capital loss carryover existing upon termination of the estate is allowed to the beneficiaries succeeding to the property of the estate. That is, these deductions will be claimed on the beneficiary's tax return. This treatment occurs only if a carryover would have been allowed to the estate in a later tax year if the estate had not been terminated.

Both types of carryovers generally keep their same character for the beneficiary as they had for the estate. However, if the beneficiary of a capital loss carryover is a corporation, the corporation will treat the carryover as a short-term capital loss regardless of its status in the estate. The net operating loss carryover and the capital loss carryover are used in

figuring both the taxable income and the adjusted gross income of the beneficiary. In addition, the net operating loss carryover is used in figuring the alternative minimum tax.

The first tax year to which the loss is carried is the beneficiary's tax year in which the estate terminates. If the loss can be carried to more than one tax year, the estate's last tax year (whether or not a short tax year) and the beneficiary's first tax year to which the loss is carried each constitute a tax year for figuring the number of years to which a loss may be carried. A capital loss carryover from an estate to a corporate beneficiary will be treated as though it resulted from a loss incurred in the estate's last tax year (whether or not a short tax year), regardless of when the estate actually incurred the loss.

If the last tax year of the estate is the last tax year to which a net operating loss may be carried, see *No double deductions*, later. For a general discussion of net operating losses, get Publication 536. For a discussion of capital losses and capital loss carryovers, get Publication 550.

**Excess deductions.** If the deductions in the estate's last tax year (other than deductions for personal exemptions and charitable contributions) are more than gross income for that year, the beneficiaries succeeding to the estate's property can claim the excess as a deduction in figuring taxable income. To establish these deductions, a return must be filed for the estate along with a schedule showing the computation of each kind of deduction and the allocation of each to the beneficiaries.

An individual beneficiary must itemize deductions to claim these excess deductions. The deduction is claimed on Schedule A, Form 1040, as a miscellaneous itemized deduction subject to the 2%-of-adjusted-gross-income limit. The beneficiaries can claim the deduction only for the tax year in which or with which the estate terminates, whether the year of termination is a normal year or a short tax year.

**No double deductions.** A net operating loss deduction allowable to a successor beneficiary cannot be considered in figuring the excess deductions on termination. However, if the estate's last tax year is the last year in which a deduction for a net operating loss can be taken, the deduction, to the extent not absorbed in the last return of the estate, is treated as an excess deduction on termination. Any item of income or deduction, or any part thereof, that is taken into account in figuring a net operating loss or a capital loss carryover of the estate for its last tax year cannot be used again to figure the excess deduction on termination.

**Successor beneficiary.** A beneficiary entitled to an unused loss carryover or an excess deduction is the beneficiary who, upon the estate's termination, bears the burden of any loss for which a carryover is allowed or of any deductions more than gross income.

**If decedent had no will.** If the decedent had no will, the beneficiaries are those heirs or next of kin to whom the estate is distributed. If

the estate is insolvent, the beneficiaries are those to whom the estate would have been distributed had it not been insolvent. If the decedent's spouse is entitled to a specified dollar amount of property before any distributions to other heirs and the estate is less than that amount, the spouse is the beneficiary to the extent of the deficiency.

**If decedent had a will.** If the decedent had a will, a beneficiary normally means the residuary beneficiaries (including residuary trusts). Those beneficiaries who receive a specific property or a specific amount of money ordinarily are not considered residuary beneficiaries, except to the extent the specific amount is not paid in full. Also, a beneficiary who is not strictly a residuary beneficiary, but whose devise or bequest is determined by the value of the estate as reduced by the loss or deduction, is entitled to the carryover or the deduction. For example, such a beneficiary would include:

- 1) A beneficiary of a fraction of the decedent's net estate after payment of debts, expenses, and specific bequests;
- 2) A nonresiduary beneficiary, when the estate is unable to satisfy the bequest in full; and
- 3) A surviving spouse receiving a fractional share of the estate in fee under a statutory right of election when the losses or deductions are taken into account in determining the share. However, such a beneficiary does not include a recipient of a dower or curtesy, or a beneficiary who receives any income from the estate from which the loss or excess deduction is carried over.

**Allocation among beneficiaries.** The total of the unused loss carryovers or the excess deductions on termination that may be deducted by the successor beneficiaries is to be divided according to the share of each in the burden of the loss or deduction.

**Example.** Under his father's will, Arthur is to receive \$20,000. The remainder of the estate is to be divided equally between his brothers, Mark and Tom. After all expenses are paid, the estate has sufficient funds to pay Arthur only \$15,000, with nothing to Mark and Tom. In the estate's last tax year there are excess deductions of \$5,000 and \$10,000 of unused loss carryovers. Since the total of the excess deductions and unused loss carryovers is \$15,000 and Arthur is considered a successor beneficiary to the extent of \$5,000, he is entitled to one-third of the unused loss carryover and one-third of the excess deductions. His brothers may divide the other two-thirds of the excess deductions and the unused loss carryovers between them.

## Transfer of Credit for Estimated Tax Payments

When an estate terminates, the personal representative can choose to transfer to the beneficiaries the credit for all or part of the estate's estimated tax payments for the last tax

year. To make this choice, the personal representative must complete Form 1041-T, *Allocation of Estimated Tax Payments to Beneficiaries*, and file it either separately or with the estate's final Form 1041. The Form 1041-T must be filed by the 65th day after the close of the estate's tax year.

The amount of estimated tax allocated to each beneficiary is treated as paid or credited to the beneficiary on the last day of the estate's final tax year and must be reported on line 13a, Schedule K-1 (Form 1041). If the estate terminated in 1996 this amount is treated as a payment of 1996 estimated tax made by the beneficiary on January 15, 1997.

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## Form 706

You must file Form 706, *United States Estate (and Generation-Skipping Transfer) Tax Return*, generally, if death occurred in 1996 and the gross estate is more than \$600,000.

If you must file Form 706, it has to be done within 9 months after the date of the decedent's death unless you receive an extension of time to file. File this form with the Internal Revenue Service Center listed in the form instructions.

Use Form 4768, *Application for Extension of Time To File a Return and/or Pay U.S. Estate (and Generation-Skipping Transfer) Taxes*, to apply for an extension of time. If you received an extension, attach a copy of it to Form 706.

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## Comprehensive Example

The following is an example of a typical situation. All figures on the filled-in forms have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

On April 9, 1996, your father, John R. Smith, died at the age of 62. He had not resided in a community property state. His will named you to serve as his executor (personal representative). Except for specific bequests to your mother, Mary, of your parents' home and your father's automobile and a bequest of \$5,000 to his church, your father's will named your mother and his brother as beneficiaries.

One of the first things you should do, as soon as the court has approved your appointment as the executor, is to obtain an employer identification number. (See *Duties* under *Personal Representatives* earlier.) Next, you should notify the Internal Revenue Service center where you will file the tax returns of your father's estate that you have been appointed his executor. You should use Form 56, *Notice Concerning Fiduciary Relationship*.

**Assets of the estate.** Your father had the following assets when he died.

- 1) His checking account balance was \$2,550, and his savings account balance was \$53,650.
- 2) Your father inherited your parents' home from his parents on March 5, 1976. At that

time it was worth \$42,000, but was appraised at the time of your father's death to be worth \$150,000. The home was free of existing debts (or mortgages) at the time of his death.

- 3) Your father owned 500 shares of ABC Company stock that had cost him \$10.20 a share in 1980, but which had a mean selling price (midpoint between highest and lowest selling price) of \$25 a share on the day he died. He also owned 500 shares of XYZ Company stock that had cost him \$20 a share in 1985, but which had a mean selling price on the date of death of \$62.
- 4) The appraiser valued your father's automobile at \$6,300 and the household effects at \$18,500.
- 5) Your father also owned coin and stamp collections. The face value of the coins in the collection was only \$600, but the appraiser valued it at \$2,800. The stamp collection was valued at \$3,500.
- 6) Your father's employer sent a check to your mother for \$11,082 (\$12,000 minus \$918 for social security and Medicare taxes), representing unpaid salary and payment for accrued vacation time. The statement that came with the check indicated that no amount was withheld for income tax. Since the check was made out to the estate, your mother gave you the check.
- 7) The Easy Life Insurance Company had given a check for \$275,000 to your mother as the beneficiary named in the life insurance policy on his life.
- 8) Your father was the owner of several Series EE U.S. Savings Bonds on which he named your mother as co-owner. Your father purchased the bonds during the past several years. The cost of these bonds totaled \$2,500. After referring to the appropriate table of redemption values (see *U.S. Savings Bonds acquired from decedent*, earlier in this publication), you determine that interest of \$840 had accrued on the bonds at the date of your father's death. You must include the redemption value of these bonds at date of death, \$3,340, in your father's gross estate.
- 9) On July 1, 1980, your parents purchased a house for \$90,000. They have held the property for rental purposes continuously since its purchase. Your mother contributed one-third of the purchase, or \$30,000 (from an inheritance), and your father contributed \$60,000. They owned the property, however, as joint tenants with right of survivorship. An appraiser valued the property at \$110,000. You include \$55,000, one-half of the value, in your father's gross estate because your parents owned the property as joint tenants with right of survivorship and they were the only joint tenants.

Your mother also gave you a Form W-2, *Wage and Tax Statement*, that your father's

employer had sent. In examining it, you discover that your father had been paid \$9,000 in salary between January 1, 1996, and April 9, 1996, (the date he died). The Form W-2 showed \$9,000 in box 1 and \$21,000 (\$9,000 + \$12,000) in boxes 3 and 5. The Form W-2 indicated \$2,305 as federal income tax withheld in box 2. The estate received a Form 1099-MISC from the employer showing \$12,000 in box 3. The estate received a Form 1099-INT for your father showing he was paid \$1,900 interest on his savings account in 1996 before he died.

## Final Return for Decedent

Checking the papers in your father's files, you determine that the \$9,000 paid to him by his employer (as shown on the Form W-2), rental income, and interest are the only items of income he received between January 1 and the date of his death. You will have to file an income tax return for him for the period during which he lived. (You determine that he timely filed his 1995 income tax return before he died.) The final return is not due until April 15, 1997, the same date it would have been due had your father lived during all of 1996.

Since the check representing unpaid salary and earned but unused vacation time was not paid to your father before he died, the \$12,000 is not reported as income on his final return. It is reported on the income tax return for the estate (Form 1041) for 1996. The only taxable income to be reported for your father will be the \$9,000 salary (as shown on the Form W-2) the \$1,900 interest and his portion of the rental income that he received in 1996.

Your father was a cash basis taxpayer and did not report the interest accrued on the Series EE U.S. Savings Bonds on prior tax returns that he filed jointly with your mother. As the personal representative of your father's estate, you choose to report the interest earned on these bonds before your father's death (\$840) on the final income tax return.

The rental property was leased the entire year of 1996 for \$700 per month. Under local law, your parents (as joint tenants) each had a half interest in the income from the property. Your father's will, however, stipulates that the entire rental income is to be paid directly to your mother. None of the rental income will be reported on the income tax return for the estate. Instead, your mother will report all the rental income and expenses on Form 1040. Checking the records and prior tax returns of your parents, you find that they previously elected straight-line depreciation for the rental house with a 25-year life. They allocated \$15,000 of the cost to the land (which is never depreciable) and \$75,000 to the rental house. Salvage value was disregarded for the depreciation computation. Before 1996, \$46,500 had been allowed as depreciation.

**Deductions.** During the year, you received a bill from the hospital for \$615 and bills from your father's doctors totaling \$475. You paid these bills as they were presented. In addition, you find other bills from his doctors totaling

\$185 that your father paid in 1996, and receipts for prescribed drugs he purchased totaling \$36. The funeral home presented you a bill for \$6,890 for the expenses of your father's funeral, which you paid.

Because the medical expenses you paid from the estate's funds (\$475 and \$615) were for your father's care and were paid within 1 year after his death, and because they will not be used to figure the taxable estate, you can treat them as having been paid by your father when he received the medical services. See *Funeral and Medical Expenses* under *Income Tax Return of an Estate—Form 1041* and its discussion, *Exemption and Deductions*, earlier. However, you cannot deduct the funeral expenses either on your father's final return or from the estate's income. They are deductible only on the federal estate tax return (Form 706) as explained under *Funeral and Medical Expenses*.

In addition, after going over other receipts and canceled checks for the tax year with your mother, you determine that the following items are deductible on your parents' 1996 income tax return.

Health insurance .....	\$1,250
State income tax paid .....	791
Real estate tax on home .....	1,100
Contributions to church .....	3,800

Rental expenses included taxes of \$700 and interest of \$410 on the property; in addition, insurance premiums of \$260 and painting and repairs for \$350 were paid. These rental expenses totaled \$1,720 for the whole year.

Because your mother and father owned the property as joint tenants with right of survivorship and they were the only joint tenants, her basis in this property upon your father's death is \$76,375. This is found by adding the \$55,000 value of the half interest included in your father's gross estate to your mother's \$45,000 share of the cost basis, and subtracting your mother's \$23,625 share of depreciation (including 1996 depreciation for the period before your father's death), as explained next.

For 1996, you must make the following computations to figure the depreciation deduction:

- 1) For the period before your father's death, depreciate the property using the same method and the same basis and life used by your parents in previous years. The amount deductible for one-fourth of the year is \$750. (This brings the total depreciation to \$47,250 (\$46,500 + \$750) at the time of your father's death.
- 2) For the period after your father's death, you must make two computations.
  - a) Your mother's cost basis (\$45,000) minus one-half of the amount allocated to the land (\$7,500) is her depreciable basis (\$37,500) for half of the property. She continues to use the same life and depreciation method as was originally used for the property. The amount deductible for three-fourths of the year is \$1,125.

- b) The other half of the property must be depreciated using a depreciation method that is acceptable for property placed in service in 1996. You elect to use the alternative depreciation system (straight-line method) with the mid-month convention. The value included in the estate (\$55,000) less the value allocable to the land (\$10,000) is the depreciable basis (\$45,000) for this half of the property. The amount deductible for this half of the property is \$797 (\$45,000 × .01771). See chapter 3 and Table A-13 in Publication 946.

Show the total of the amounts in (1) and (2)(a), above, on line 19 of Form 4562, *Depreciation and Amortization*. Show the amount in (2)(b) on line 16c. The total depreciation deduction allowed for the year is \$2,672.



*The use of certain types of accelerated depreciation would require you to fill out a Form 6251, Alternative Minimum Tax—Individuals. Use of the straight-line method does not require this.*

**Filing status.** After December 31, 1996, when your mother determines the amount of her income, you and your mother must decide whether you will file a joint return or separate returns for your parents for 1996. Since your mother has no income in 1996 other than the rental income, it appears to be to her advantage to file a joint return.

**Tax computation.** The illustrations of Form 1040 and related schedules appear at the end of this publication. These illustrations are based on information in this example. The tax refund is \$1,769. The computation is as follows:

Income:	
Salary (per Form W-2) .....	\$9,000
Interest income .....	2,740
Net rental income .....	<u>4,008</u>
Adjusted Gross Income .....	\$15,748
Minus: Itemized deductions .....	<u>7,071</u>
Balance .....	\$ 8,677
Minus: Exemptions (2) .....	<u>5,100</u>
Taxable Income .....	<u>\$ 3,577</u>
Income tax from Tax Table .....	\$ 536
Minus: Tax withheld .....	<u>2,305</u>
Refund of Taxes .....	<u>\$ 1,769</u>

## Income Tax Return of an Estate—Form 1041

The illustrations of Form 1041 and the related schedules appear at the end of this publication. These illustrations are based on the information that follows.

Having determined the tax liability for your father's final return, you now figure the estate's taxable income. You decide to use the

calendar year and the cash method of accounting to report the estate's income. This return also is due by April 15, 1997.

In addition to the amount you received from your father's employer for unpaid salary and for vacation pay (\$12,000) entered on line 8 (Form 1041), you received a dividend check from the XYZ Company on June 15, 1996. The check was for \$750 and you enter it on line 2 (Form 1041). The estate received a Form 1099-INT showing \$2,250 interest paid by the bank on the savings account in 1996 after your father died. Show this amount on line 1 (Form 1041).

In September, a local coin collector offered you \$3,000 for your father's coin collection, and since your mother was not interested in keeping the collection, you accepted the offer and sold him the collection on September 21, 1996, receiving his certified check for \$3,000.

The estate has a gain from the sale of the collection. You will have to report the sale on Schedule D (Form 1041) when you file the income tax return of the estate. The estate has a long-term capital gain of \$200 from the sale of the coins. The gain is the excess of the sale price, \$3,000, over the value of the collection at the date of your father's death, \$2,800. See *Gain (or loss) from sale of property* under *Income Tax Return of an Estate—Form 1041* and its discussion, *Income To Include*, earlier.



*Inherited property sold or disposed of by you within 1 year after the decedent's death is considered to have been held by you for more than 1 year.*

**Deductions.** In November 1996, you received a bill for the real estate taxes on the home. The bill was for \$2,250, which you paid. Include real estate taxes on line 11 (Form 1041). (Real estate tax on the rental property was \$700; this amount, however, is reflected on Schedule E (Form 1040).)

You paid \$325 for attorney's fees in connection with administration of the estate. This is an expense of administration and is deducted on line 14 (Form 1041). You must, however, file with the return a statement in duplicate that such expense has not been claimed as a deduction from the gross estate for figuring the federal estate tax on Form 706, and that all rights to claim that deduction are waived.

**Distributions.** Under the terms of the will, you made a distribution of \$2,000 to your father's brother, James. The distribution was made from current income of the estate.

The income distribution deduction (\$2,000) is figured on Schedule B of Form 1041 and deducted on line 18 (Form 1041).

The distribution of \$2,000 must be allocated and reported on Schedule K-1 (Form 1041) as follows:

### Step 1

Allocation of Income and Deductions:

Type of Income	Amount	Deductions	Balance of Distributable Net Income
Interest (15%)	\$ 2,250	(386)	\$ 1,864
Dividends (5%)	750	(129)	621
Income in Respect of Decedent	<u>12,000</u>	<u>(2,060)</u>	<u>9,940</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$15,000</u></b>	<b><u>(2,575)</u></b>	<b><u>\$12,425</u></b>

### Step 2

Allocation of Distribution to be reported on Schedule K-1 (Form 1041) for James:

Interest—			
	$\$1,864 \times 2,000/12,425 =$	\$ 300	line 1
Dividends—			
	$\$621 \times 2,000/12,425 =$	100	line 2
Other Income—			
	$\$9,940 \times 2,000/12,425 =$	<u>1,600</u>	line 4a
<b>Total Distribution</b>		<b><u>\$2,000</u></b>	

Since the estate took an income distribution deduction, you must prepare Schedule I (Form 1041), *Alternative Minimum Tax*, regardless of whether the estate is liable for the alternative minimum tax.

The other distribution you made out of the assets of the estate in 1996 was the transfer of the automobile to your mother on July 1. Because this is included in the bequest of property, it is not taken into account in computing the distributions of income to the beneficiary. The life insurance proceeds of \$275,000 paid directly to your mother by the insurance company are treated as a specific sum of money transferred to your mother under the terms of the will.

The taxable income of the estate for 1996 is \$10,025, figured as follows:

Gross income:	
Income in respect of a decedent	\$12,000
Dividends	750
Interest	2,250
Capital gain	<u>200</u>
	\$15,200
Minus: Deductions & Income Distribution	
Real estate taxes	\$2,250
Attorney's fee	325
Exemption	600
Distribution	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>5,175</u>
<b>Taxable income</b>	<b><u>\$10,025</u></b>

Since the estate had a net capital gain and taxable income of more than \$3,800, you use Part VI of Schedule D (Form 1041) to figure the tax (\$3,050) for 1996.

**1997 income tax return for estate.** On January 6, 1997, you receive a dividend check from the XYZ Company for \$500. You also have interest posted to the savings account in January totaling \$350. On January 24, 1997, you make a final accounting to the court and obtain permission to close the estate. In the accounting you list \$1,650 as the balance of the expense of administering the estate.

You advise the court that you plan to pay \$5,000 to Hometown Church, under the provision of the will, and that you will distribute the balance of the property to your mother, Mary Smith, the remaining beneficiary.

**Gross income.** After making the distributions already described, you can wind up the affairs of the estate. Because the gross income of the estate for 1997 is more than \$600, you must file an income tax return, Form 1041, for 1997 (not shown). The estate's gross income for 1997 is \$850 (dividends \$500 and interest \$350).

**Deductions.** After making the following computations, you determine that none of the distributions made to your mother must be included in her taxable income for 1997.

Gross Income for 1997:	
Dividends	\$ 500
Interest	<u>350</u>
	\$ 850
Less deductions:	
Administration expense	<u>\$1,650</u>
<b>Loss</b>	<b><u>(\$ 800)</u></b>

Note that because the contribution of \$5,000 to Hometown Church was not required under the terms of the will to be paid out of the gross income of the estate, it is not deductible and was not included in the computation.

Because the estate had no distributable net income in 1997, none of the distributions made to your mother has to be included in her gross income. Furthermore, because the estate in the year of termination had deductions in excess of its gross income, the excess of \$800 will be allowed as a miscellaneous itemized deduction subject to the 2%-of-adjusted-gross-income limit to your mother on her individual return for the year 1997, if she is otherwise eligible to itemize deductions.

**Termination of estate.** You have made the final distribution of the assets of the estate and you are now ready to terminate the estate. You must notify the IRS, in writing, that the estate has been terminated and that all of the assets have been distributed to the beneficiaries. Form 56, mentioned earlier, can be used for this purpose. Be sure to report the termination to the IRS office where you filed Form 56 and to include the employer identification number on this notification.

## How To Get More Information



You can get help from the IRS in several ways.

**Free publications and forms.** To order free publications and forms, call 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). You can also write to the IRS Forms Distribution Center nearest you. Check your income tax package for the address. Your local library or post office also may have the items you need.

For a list of free tax publications, order Publication 910, *Guide to Free Tax Services*. It also contains an index of tax topics and related publications and describes other free tax information services available from IRS, including tax education and assistance programs.

If you have access to a personal computer and modem, you also can get many forms and publications electronically. See your income tax package for details. If space permitted, this information is at the end of this publication.

**Tax questions.** You can call the IRS with your tax questions. Check your income tax package or telephone book for the local number, or you can call 1-800-829-1040.

**TTY/TDD equipment.** If you have access to TTY/TDD equipment, you can call 1-800-829-4059 to ask tax questions or to order forms and publications. See your income tax package for the hours of operation.



DECEASED John R. Smith - April 9, 1996

Form 1040

Department of the Treasury—Internal Revenue Service U.S. Individual Income Tax Return 1996

(20) IRS Use Only—Do not write or staple in this space.

For the year Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 1996, or other tax year beginning 1996, ending 19 OMB No. 1545-0074

Label (See page 11.)

Use the IRS label. Otherwise, please print or type.

Presidential Election Campaign (See page 11.)

LABEL HERE	Your first name and initial <b>John R.</b>	Last name <b>Smith</b>
	If a joint return, spouse's first name and initial <b>Mary L.</b>	Last name <b>Smith</b>
	Home address (number and street). If you have a P.O. box, see page 11. <b>6406 Mayflower St.</b>	
	City, town or post office, state, and ZIP code. If you have a foreign address, see page 11. <b>Juneville, ME 00000</b>	

Your social security number **23410017890**  
Spouse's social security number **56710010123**

For help finding line instructions, see pages 2 and 3 in the booklet.

Yes	No	Note: Checking "Yes" will not change your tax or reduce your refund.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Do you want \$3 to go to this fund? . . . . .  
If a joint return, does your spouse want \$3 to go to this fund? . . . . .

Filing Status

- 1  Single
- 2  Married filing joint return (even if only one had income)
- 3  Married filing separate return. Enter spouse's social security no. above and full name here. ▶
- 4  Head of household (with qualifying person). (See instructions.) If the qualifying person is a child but not your dependent, enter this child's name here. ▶
- 5  Qualifying widow(er) with dependent child (year spouse died ▶ 19 ). (See instructions.)

Check only one box.

Exemptions

8a  Yourself. If your parent (or someone else) can claim you as a dependent on his or her tax return, do not check box 8a.

8b  Spouse.

c Dependents:		(2) Dependent's social security number. If born in Dec. 1996, see last.	(3) Dependent's relationship to you	(4) No. of months lived in your home in 1996
(1) First name	Last name			

d Total number of exemptions claimed **2**

If more than six dependents, see the instructions for line 8c.

Income

Attach Copy B of your Forms W-2, W-2G, and 1099-R here.

If you did not get a W-2, see the instructions for line 7.

Enclose, but do not attach, any payment. Also, please enclose Form 1040-V (see the instructions for line 62).

7	Wages, salaries, tips, etc. Attach Form(s) W-2	7	<b>9,000</b>
8a	Taxable interest. Attach Schedule B if over \$400	8a	<b>2,740</b>
b	Tax-exempt interest. DO NOT include on line 8a	8b	
9	Dividend income. Attach Schedule B if over \$400	9	
10	Taxable refunds, credits, or offsets of state and local income taxes (see instructions)	10	
11	Alimony received	11	
12	Business income or (loss). Attach Schedule C or C-EZ	12	
13	Capital gain or (loss). If required, attach Schedule D	13	
14	Other gains or (losses). Attach Form 4797	14	
15a	Total IRA distributions	15a	
b	Taxable amount (see inst.)	15b	
16a	Total pensions and annuities	16a	
b	Taxable amount (see inst.)	16b	
17	Rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, trusts, etc. Attach Schedule E	17	<b>4,008</b>
18	Farm income or (loss). Attach Schedule F	18	
19	Unemployment compensation	19	
20a	Social security benefits	20a	
b	Taxable amount (see inst.)	20b	
21	Other income. List type and amount—see instructions	21	
22	Add the amounts in the far right column for lines 7 through 21. This is your total income ▶	22	<b>15,748</b>

Adjusted Gross Income

If line 31 is under \$28,495 (under \$9,500 if a child did not live with you), see the instructions for line 54.

23a	Your IRA deduction (see instructions)	23a	
b	Spouse's IRA deduction (see instructions)	23b	
24	Moving expenses. Attach Form 3903 or 3903-F	24	
25	One-half of self-employment tax. Attach Schedule SE	25	
26	Self-employed health insurance deduction (see inst.)	26	
27	Keogh & self-employed SEP plans. If SEP, check <input type="checkbox"/>	27	
28	Penalty on early withdrawal of savings	28	
29	Alimony paid. Recipient's SSN ▶	29	
30	Add lines 23a through 29	30	
31	Subtract line 30 from line 22. This is your adjusted gross income ▶	31	<b>15,748</b>

For Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see page 7.

Cat. No. 11320B

Form 1040 (1996)

<b>Tax Computation</b>	32	Amount from line 31 (adjusted gross income)	32	15,748
	33a	Check if: <input type="checkbox"/> You were 65 or older, <input type="checkbox"/> Blind; <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse was 65 or older, <input type="checkbox"/> Blind. Add the number of boxes checked above and enter the total here		
	b	If you are married filing separately and your spouse itemizes deductions or you were a dual-status alien, see instructions and check here		
	34	Enter the larger of your: Itemized deductions from Schedule A, line 28, OR Standard deduction shown below for your filing status. But see the instructions if you checked any box on line 33a or b or someone can claim you as a dependent. • Single—\$4,000 • Married filing jointly or Qualifying widow(er)—\$6,700 • Head of household—\$5,900 • Married filing separately—\$3,350	34	7,071
	35	Subtract line 34 from line 32	35	8,677
	36	If line 32 is \$88,475 or less, multiply \$2,550 by the total number of exemptions claimed on line 6d. If line 32 is over \$88,475, see the worksheet in the inst. for the amount to enter	36	5,100
	37	Taxable income. Subtract line 36 from line 35. If line 36 is more than line 35, enter -0-	37	3,577
	38	Tax. See instructions. Check if total includes any tax from a <input type="checkbox"/> Form(s) 9814 b <input type="checkbox"/> Form 4972	38	536

<b>Credits</b>	39	Credit for child and dependent care expenses. Attach Form 2441	39	
	40	Credit for the elderly or the disabled. Attach Schedule R	40	
	41	Foreign tax credit. Attach Form 1118	41	
	42	Other. Check if from a <input type="checkbox"/> Form 3800 b <input type="checkbox"/> Form 8996 c <input type="checkbox"/> Form 8801 d <input type="checkbox"/> Form (specify)	42	
	43	Add lines 39 through 42	43	
	44	Subtract line 43 from line 38. If line 43 is more than line 38, enter -0-	44	536

<b>Other Taxes</b>	45	Self-employment tax. Attach Schedule SE	45	
	46	Alternative minimum tax. Attach Form 6251	46	
	47	Social security and Medicare tax on tip income not reported to employer. Attach Form 4137	47	
	48	Tax on qualified retirement plans, including IRAs. If required, attach Form 5329	48	
	49	Advance earned income credit payments from Form(s) W-2	49	
	50	Household employment taxes. Attach Schedule H	50	
	51	Add lines 44 through 50. This is your total tax	51	536

<b>Payments</b>	52	Federal income tax withheld from Forms W-2 and 1099	52	2,305
	53	1996 estimated tax payments and amount applied from 1995 return	53	
	54	Earned income credit. Attach Schedule EIC if you have a qualifying child. Nontaxable earned income: amount and type	54	
	55	Amount paid with Form 4868 (request for extension)	55	
	56	Excess social security and RRTA tax withheld (see inst.)	56	
	57	Other payments. Check if from a <input type="checkbox"/> Form 2439 b <input type="checkbox"/> Form 4136	57	
	58	Add lines 52 through 57. These are your total payments	58	2,305

<b>Refund</b>	59	If line 58 is more than line 51, subtract line 51 from line 58. This is the amount you OVERPAID	59	7,769
	60a	Amount of line 59 you want REFUNDED TO YOU	60a	7,769
	b	Routing number <input type="text"/> c Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Checking <input type="checkbox"/> Savings		
	d	Account number <input type="text"/>		
61	Amount of line 59 you want APPLIED TO YOUR 1997 ESTIMATED TAX	61		

<b>Amount You Owe</b>	62	If line 51 is more than line 58, subtract line 58 from line 51. This is the AMOUNT YOU OWE. For details on how to pay and use Form 1040-V, see instructions	62	
	63	Estimated tax penalty. Also include on line 62	63	

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return and accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, they are true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

<b>Sign Here</b>	Your signature	Date	Your occupation
	<i>Charles R. Smith, Esq.</i>	3-25-97	
Keep a copy of this return for your records.	Spouse's signature. If a joint return, BOTH must sign.	Date	Spouse's occupation
	<i>Mary J. Smith</i>	3-25-97	Homemaker
<b>Paid Preparer's Use Only</b>	Preparer's signature	Date	Check if self-employed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Firm's name (or yours if self-employed) and address		Preparer's social security no.
		EIN	ZIP code



**SCHEDULES A&B**  
**(Form 1040)**

**Schedule A—Itemized Deductions**

OMB No. 1545-0074

**1996**

Attachment  
Sequence No. 07

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service (99)

▶ Attach to Form 1040. ▶ See instructions for Schedules A and B (Form 1040).

Name(s) shown on Form 1040

*John R. (Deceased) & Mary L. Smith*

Your social security number

*234 00 7890*

<b>Medical and Dental Expenses</b>	<b>1</b>	Caution: Do not include expenses reimbursed or paid by others. Medical and dental expenses (see page A-1)	<i>2,561</i>	
	<b>2</b>	Enter amount from Form 1040, line 32. <i>15,748.1</i>		
	<b>3</b>	Multiply line 2 above by 7.5% (.075)	<i>1,181</i>	
	<b>4</b>	Subtract line 3 from line 1. If line 3 is more than line 1, enter -0-		<i>1,380</i>
<b>Taxes You Paid</b>	<b>5</b>	State and local income taxes	<i>791</i>	
	<b>6</b>	Real estate taxes (see page A-2)	<i>1,100</i>	
	<b>7</b>	Personal property taxes		
	<b>8</b>	Other taxes. List type and amount ▶		
	<b>9</b>	Add lines 5 through 8		<i>1,891</i>
<b>Interest You Paid</b>	<b>10</b>	Home mortgage interest and points reported to you on Form 1098		
	<b>11</b>	Home mortgage interest not reported to you on Form 1098. If paid to the person from whom you bought the home, see page A-2 and show that person's name, identifying no., and address ▶		
	<b>12</b>	Points not reported to you on Form 1098. See page A-3 for special rules.		
	<b>13</b>	Investment interest. If required, attach Form 4952. (See page A-3.)		
	<b>14</b>	Add lines 10 through 13		
<b>Gifts to Charity</b>	<b>15</b>	Gifts by cash or check. If you made any gift of \$250 or more, see page A-3	<i>3,800</i>	
	<b>16</b>	Other than by cash or check. If any gift of \$250 or more, see page A-3. If over \$500, you MUST attach Form 8283		
	<b>17</b>	Carryover from prior year		
	<b>18</b>	Add lines 15 through 17		<i>3,800</i>
<b>Casualty and Theft Losses</b>	<b>19</b>	Casualty or theft loss(es). Attach Form 4684. (See page A-4.)		
<b>Job Expenses and Most Other Miscellaneous Deductions</b>	<b>20</b>	Unreimbursed employee expenses—job travel, union dues, job education, etc. If required, you MUST attach Form 2106 or 2106-EZ. (See page A-4.) ▶		
	<b>21</b>	Tax preparation fees		
	<b>22</b>	Other expenses—investment, safe deposit box, etc. List type and amount ▶		
	<b>23</b>	Add lines 20 through 22		
	<b>24</b>	Enter amount from Form 1040, line 32. <i>24</i>		
	<b>25</b>	Multiply line 24 above by 2% (.02)		
	<b>26</b>	Subtract line 25 from line 23. If line 25 is more than line 23, enter -0-		
<b>Other Miscellaneous Deductions</b>	<b>27</b>	Other—from list on page A-4. List type and amount ▶		
<b>Total Itemized Deductions</b>	<b>28</b>	Is Form 1040, line 32, over \$117,950 (over \$58,975 if married filing separately)? NO. Your deduction is not limited. Add the amounts in the far right column for lines 4 through 27. Also, enter on Form 1040, line 34, the larger of this amount or your standard deduction. YES. Your deduction may be limited. See page A-5 for the amount to enter.		<i>7,071</i>

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see Form 1040 instructions.

Cat. No. 11390X

Schedule A (Form 1040) 1996

Name(s) shown on Form 1040. Do not enter name and social security number if shown on other side.

Your social security number

### Schedule B—Interest and Dividend Income

Attachment Sequence No. 08

**Part I  
Interest  
Income**

Note: If you had over \$400 in taxable interest income, you must also complete Part III.

(See page B-1.)

Note: If you received a Form 1099-INT, Form 1099-OID, or substitute statement from a brokerage firm, list the firm's name as the payer and enter the total interest shown on that form.

1 List name of payer. If any interest is from a seller-financed mortgage and the buyer used the property as a personal residence, see page B-1 and list this interest first. Also, show that buyer's social security number and address ▶

First S&L of Juneville  
Series EE US Savings Bonds - Interest  
Includible Before Decedent's Death

Amount

6,900

840

1

2 Add the amounts on line 1 . . . . .

2

2,740

3 Excludable interest on series EE U.S. savings bonds issued after 1989 from Form 8815, line 14. You MUST attach Form 8815 to Form 1040 . . . . .

3

-0-

4 Subtract line 3 from line 2. Enter the result here and on Form 1040, line 8a ▶

4

2,740

**Part II  
Dividend  
Income**

Note: If you had over \$400 in gross dividends and/or other distributions on stock, you must also complete Part III.

(See page B-1.)

Note: If you received a Form 1099-DIV or substitute statement from a brokerage firm, list the firm's name as the payer and enter the total dividends shown on that form.

5 List name of payer. Include gross dividends and/or other distributions on stock here. Any capital gain distributions and nontaxable distributions will be deducted on lines 7 and 8 ▶

Amount

5

6 Add the amounts on line 5 . . . . .

6

7 Capital gain distributions. Enter here and on Schedule D\* . . . . .

7

8 Nontaxable distributions. (See the inst. for Form 1040, line 9.) . . . . .

8

9 Add lines 7 and 8 . . . . .

9

10 Subtract line 9 from line 6. Enter the result here and on Form 1040, line 9 ▶

10

\*If you do not need Schedule D to report any other gains or losses, see the instructions for Form 1040, line 13.

**Part III  
Foreign  
Accounts  
and  
Trusts**

You must complete this part if you (a) had over \$400 of interest or dividends; (b) had a foreign account; or (c) received a distribution from, or were a grantor of, or a transferor to, a foreign trust.

Yes No

11a At any time during 1998, did you have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a financial account in a foreign country, such as a bank account, securities account, or other financial account? See page B-1 for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1 . . . . .

b If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ▶

12 During 1998, did you receive a distribution from, or were you the grantor of, or transferor to, a foreign trust? If "Yes," see page B-2 for other forms you may have to file . . . . .

(See page B-1.)

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see Form 1040 instructions.



Schedule B (Form 1040) 1998

**SCHEDULE E**  
**(Form 1040)**

**Supplemental Income and Loss**

(From rental real estate, royalties, partnerships, S corporations, estates, trusts, REMICs, etc.)

OMB No. 1545-0074

**1996**

Attachment  
Sequence No. **13**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service (99)

▶ Attach to Form 1040 or Form 1041. ▶ See instructions for Schedule E (Form 1040).

Name(s) shown on return

*John R. (Deceased) & Mary L. Smith*

Your social security number

*234 00 7890*

**Part I** **Income or Loss From Rental Real Estate and Royalties** Note: Report income and expenses from your business of renting personal property on Schedule C or C-EZ (see page E-1). Report farm rental income or loss from Form 4835 on page 2, line 39.

1	Show the kind and location of each rental real estate property:	2	For each rental real estate property listed on line 1, did you or your family use it for personal purposes for more than the greater of 14 days or 10% of the total days rented at fair rental value during the tax year? (See page E-1.)	
			Yes	No
A	<i>House, 137 Main Street, Juneville, ME 02020</i>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
B	.....			
C	.....			

Income:	Properties			Totals (Add columns A, B, and C.)
	A	B	C	
3 Rents received . . . . .	3 <i>8,400</i>			3
4 Royalties received . . . . .	4			4
<b>Expenses:</b>				
5 Advertising . . . . .	5			
6 Auto and travel (see page E-2) . . . . .	6			
7 Cleaning and maintenance . . . . .	7			
8 Commissions . . . . .	8			
9 Insurance . . . . .	9 <i>260</i>			
10 Legal and other professional fees . . . . .	10			
11 Management fees . . . . .	11			
12 Mortgage interest paid to banks, etc. (see page E-2) . . . . .	12 <i>410</i>			12
13 Other interest . . . . .	13			
14 Repairs . . . . .	14 <i>350</i>			
15 Supplies . . . . .	15			
16 Taxes . . . . .	16 <i>700</i>			
17 Utilities . . . . .	17			
18 Other (list) ▶ . . . . .	18			
19 Add lines 5 through 18 . . . . .	19 <i>6,720</i>			19
20 Depreciation expense or depletion (see page E-2) . . . . .	20 <i>2,672</i>			20
21 Total expenses. Add lines 19 and 20 . . . . .	21 <i>4,392</i>			
22 Income or (loss) from rental real estate or royalty properties. Subtract line 21 from line 3 (rents) or line 4 (royalties). If the result is a (loss), see page E-2 to find out if you must file Form 6198. . . . .	22 <i>4,008</i>			
23 Deductible rental real estate loss. Caution: Your rental real estate loss on line 22 may be limited. See page E-3 to find out if you must file Form 8582. Real estate professionals must complete line 42 on page 2 . . . . .	23 ( ) ( ) ( )			
24 Income. Add positive amounts shown on line 22. Do not include any losses . . . . .	24			<i>4,008</i>
25 Losses. Add royalty losses from line 22 and rental real estate losses from line 23. Enter the total losses here . . . . .	25 ( ) ( ) ( )			
26 Total rental real estate and royalty income or (loss). Combine lines 24 and 25. Enter the result here. If Parts II, III, IV, and line 39 on page 2 do not apply to you, also enter this amount on Form 1040, line 17. Otherwise, include this amount in the total on line 40 on page 2 . . . . .	26			<i>4,008</i>

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see Form 1040 Instructions.

Cat. No. 11344L

Schedule E (Form 1040) 1996

**Depreciation and Amortization  
(Including Information on Listed Property)**

**1996**

Attachment  
Sequence No. **67**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service (99)

▶ See separate instructions. ▶ Attach this form to your return.

Name(s) shown on return

Business or activity to which this form relates

Identifying number

**John R. (Deceased) & Mary L. Smith**

**234-00-7890**

**Part I Election To Expense Certain Tangible Property (Section 179) (Note: If you have any "listed property," complete Part V before you complete Part I.)**

1	Maximum dollar limitation. If an enterprise zone business, see page 2 of the instructions . . . . .	1	\$17,500
2	Total cost of section 179 property placed in service. See page 2 of the instructions . . . . .	2	
3	Threshold cost of section 179 property before reduction in limitation . . . . .	3	\$200,000
4	Reduction in limitation. Subtract line 3 from line 2. If zero or less, enter -0- . . . . .	4	
5	Dollar limitation for tax year. Subtract line 4 from line 1. If zero or less, enter -0-. If married filing separately, see page 2 of the instructions . . . . .	5	
6	(a) Description of property	(b) Cost (business use only)	(c) Elected cost
7	Listed property. Enter amount from line 27. . . . .	7	
8	Total elected cost of section 179 property. Add amounts in column (c), lines 6 and 7 . . . . .	8	
9	Tentative deduction. Enter the smaller of line 5 or line 8 . . . . .	9	
10	Carryover of disallowed deduction from 1995. See page 2 of the instructions . . . . .	10	
11	Business income limitation. Enter the smaller of business income (not less than zero) or line 5 (see instructions) . . . . .	11	
12	Section 179 expense deduction. Add lines 9 and 10, but do not enter more than line 11 . . . . .	12	
13	Carryover of disallowed deduction to 1997. Add lines 9 and 10, less line 12 ▶	13	

Note: Do not use Part II or Part III below for listed property (automobiles, certain other vehicles, cellular telephones, certain computers, or property used for entertainment, recreation, or amusement). Instead, use Part V for listed property.

**Part II MACRS Depreciation For Assets Placed in Service ONLY During Your 1996 Tax Year (Do Not Include Listed Property.)**

**Section A—General Asset Account Election**

14 If you are making the election under section 168(f)(4) to group any assets placed in service during the tax year into one or more general asset accounts, check this box. See page 2 of the instructions . . . . .

**Section B—General Depreciation System (GDS) (See page 3 of the instructions.)**

(a) Classification of property	(b) Month and year placed in service	(c) Basis for depreciation (business/investment use only—see instructions)	(d) Recovery period	(e) Convention	(f) Method	(g) Depreciation deduction
15a 3-year property						
b 5-year property						
c 7-year property						
d 10-year property						
e 15-year property						
f 20-year property						
g 25-year property			25 yrs.		S/L	
h Residential rental property			27.5 yrs.	MM	S/L	
i Nonresidential real property			39 yrs.	MM	S/L	

**Section C—Alternative Depreciation System (ADS) (See page 4 of the instructions.)**

16a Class life					S/L	
b 12-year			12 yrs.		S/L	
c 40-year	4-96	45,000	40 yrs.	MM	S/L	797

**Part III Other Depreciation (Do Not Include Listed Property.) (See page 4 of the instructions.)**

17	GDS and ADS deductions for assets placed in service in tax years beginning before 1996 . . . . .	17	
18	Property subject to section 168(f)(1) election . . . . .	18	
19	ACRS and other depreciation . . . . .	19	6,875

**Part IV Summary (See page 4 of the instructions.)**

20	Listed property. Enter amount from line 28. . . . .	20	
21	Total. Add deductions on line 12, lines 15 and 16 in column (g), and lines 17 through 20. Enter here and on the appropriate lines of your return. Partnerships and S corporations—see instructions . . . . .	21	2,673
22	For assets shown above and placed in service during the current year, enter the portion of the basis attributable to section 263A costs . . . . .	22	

For calendar year 1996 or fiscal year beginning

, 1996, and ending

, 19

OMB No. 1545-0092

- A** Type of entity:
- Decedent's estate
  - Simple trust
  - Complex trust
  - Grantor type trust
  - Bankruptcy estate—Ch. 7
  - Bankruptcy estate—Ch. 11
  - Pooled income fund

Name of estate or trust (if a grantor type trust, see page 7 of the instructions.)  
*Estate of John R. Smith*

Name and title of fiduciary  
*Charles R. Smith, Executor*

Number, street, and room or suite no. (if a P.O. box, see page 7 of the instructions.)  
*6406 Mayflower St.*

City or town, state, and ZIP code  
*Juneville, ME 00000*

**C** Employer identification number  
*10-0123456*

**D** Date entity created  
*4-9-96*

- E** Nonexempt charitable and split-interest trusts, check applicable boxes (see page 8 of the instructions):
- Described in section 4947(a)(1)
  - Not a private foundation
  - Described in section 4947(a)(2)

**B** Number of Schedules K-1 attached (see instructions) ▶ *1*

- F** Check applicable boxes:
- Initial return
  - Final return
  - Amended return
  - Change in fiduciary's name
  - Change in fiduciary's address

- G** Pooled mortgage account (see page 9 of the instructions):
- Bought
  - Sold
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Income	1	Interest income . . . . .	1	<i>2,350</i>
	2	Dividends . . . . .	2	<i>750</i>
	3	Business income or (loss) (attach Schedule C or C-EZ (Form 1040)) . . . . .	3	
	4	Capital gain or (loss) (attach Schedule D (Form 1041)) . . . . .	4	<i>200</i>
	5	Rents, royalties, partnerships, other estates and trusts, etc. (attach Schedule E (Form 1040)) . . . . .	5	
	6	Farm income or (loss) (attach Schedule F (Form 1040)) . . . . .	6	
	7	Ordinary gain or (loss) (attach Form 4797) . . . . .	7	
	8	Other income. List type and amount <i>Salary and vacation pay</i> . . . . .	8	<i>12,000</i>
	9	Total income. Combine lines 1 through 8 . . . . . ▶	9	<i>15,200</i>

Deductions	10	Interest. Check if Form 4952 is attached ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>	10	
	11	Taxes . . . . .	11	<i>2,250</i>
	12	Fiduciary fees . . . . .	12	
	13	Charitable deduction (from Schedule A, line 7) . . . . .	13	
	14	Attorney, accountant, and return preparer fees . . . . .	14	<i>325</i>
	15a	Other deductions NOT subject to the 2% floor (attach schedule) . . . . .	15a	
	15b	Allowable miscellaneous itemized deductions subject to the 2% floor . . . . .	15b	
	16	Total. Add lines 10 through 15b . . . . .	16	<i>2,575</i>
	17	Adjusted total income or (loss). Subtract line 16 from line 9. Enter here and on Schedule B, line 1 ▶	17	<i>12,625</i>
	18	Income distribution deduction (from Schedule B, line 17) (attach Schedules K-1 (Form 1041)) . . . . .	18	<i>2,000</i>
	19	Estate tax deduction (including certain generation-skipping taxes) (attach computation) . . . . .	19	
20	Exemption . . . . .	20	<i>600</i>	
21	Total deductions. Add lines 18 through 20 . . . . . ▶	21	<i>2,600</i>	

Tax and Payments	22	Taxable income. Subtract line 21 from line 17. If a loss, see page 13 of the instructions . . . . .	22	<i>10,025</i>
	23	Total tax (from Schedule G, line 8) . . . . .	23	<i>3,050</i>
	24a	Payments: a 1996 estimated tax payments and amount applied from 1995 return . . . . .	24a	
	24b	b Estimated tax payments allocated to beneficiaries (from Form 1041-T) . . . . .	24b	
	24c	c Subtract line 24b from line 24a . . . . .	24c	
	24d	d Tax paid with extension of time to file: <input type="checkbox"/> Form 2758 <input type="checkbox"/> Form 8736 <input type="checkbox"/> Form 8800 . . . . .	24d	
	24e	e Federal income tax withheld. If any is from Form(s) 1099, check ▶ <input type="checkbox"/> . . . . .	24e	
	24h	Other payments: f Form 2439 . . . . . ; g Form 4136 . . . . . ; Total ▶	24h	
	25	Total payments. Add lines 24c through 24e, and 24h . . . . . ▶	25	
	26	Estimated tax penalty (see page 13 of the instructions) . . . . .	26	
27	Tax due. If line 25 is smaller than the total of lines 23 and 26, enter amount owed . . . . .	27	<i>3,050</i>	
28	Overpayment. If line 25 is larger than the total of lines 23 and 26, enter amount overpaid . . . . .	28		
29	Amount of line 28 to be: a Credited to 1997 estimated tax ▶ ; b Refunded ▶	29		

**Please Sign Here**

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than fiduciary) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

*Charles R. Smith, Executor* | *3-24-97* ▶  
 Signature of fiduciary or officer representing fiduciary      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 EIN of fiduciary if a financial institution (see page 4 of the instructions)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Preparer's signature      Date      Check if self-employed ▶       Preparer's social security no. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Firm's name for yours (if self-employed) and address      EIN ▶ \_\_\_\_\_      ZIP code ▶ \_\_\_\_\_

Schedule A Charitable Deduction. Do not complete for a simple trust or a pooled income fund.	
1	Amounts paid for charitable purposes from gross income . . . . .
2	Amounts permanently set aside for charitable purposes from gross income . . . . .
3	Add lines 1 and 2 . . . . .
4	Tax-exempt income allocable to charitable contributions (see page 14 of the instructions) . . . . .
5	Subtract line 4 from line 3 . . . . .
6	Capital gains for the tax year allocated to corpus and paid or permanently set aside for charitable purposes . . . . .
7	Charitable deduction. Add lines 5 and 6. Enter here and on page 1, line 13, . . . . .

Schedule B Income Distribution Deduction	
1	Adjusted total income (from page 1, line 17) (see page 14 of the instructions) . . . . .
2	Adjusted tax-exempt interest . . . . .
3	Total net gain from Schedule D (Form 1041), line 17, column (a) (see page 15 of the instructions) . . . . .
4	Enter amount from Schedule A, line 6 . . . . .
5	Long-term capital gain for the tax year included on Schedule A, line 3 . . . . .
6	Short-term capital gain for the tax year included on Schedule A, line 3 . . . . .
7	If the amount on page 1, line 4, is a capital loss, enter here as a positive figure . . . . .
8	If the amount on page 1, line 4, is a capital gain, enter here as a negative figure . . . . .
9	Distributable net income (DNI). Combine lines 1 through 8. If zero or less, enter -0- . . . . .
10	If a complex trust, enter accounting income for the tax year as determined under the governing instrument and applicable local law . . . . .
11	Income required to be distributed currently . . . . .
12	Other amounts paid, credited, or otherwise required to be distributed . . . . .
13	Total distributions. Add lines 11 and 12. If greater than line 10, see page 15 of the instructions . . . . .
14	Enter the amount of tax-exempt income included on line 13 . . . . .
15	Tentative income distribution deduction. Subtract line 14 from line 13 . . . . .
16	Tentative income distribution deduction. Subtract line 2 from line 9. If zero or less, enter -0- . . . . .
17	Income distribution deduction. Enter the smaller of line 15 or line 16 here and on page 1, line 18 . . . . .

Schedule G Tax Computation (see page 18 of the instructions)	
1	Tax: a <input type="checkbox"/> Tax rate schedule or <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule D (Form 1041) . . . . .
	b Other taxes . . . . .
	c Total. Add lines 1a and 1b, . . . . .
2a	Foreign tax credit (attach Form 1116) . . . . .
	b Check: <input type="checkbox"/> Nonconventional source fuel credit <input type="checkbox"/> Form 9834 . . . . .
	c General business credit. Enter here and check which forms are attached: <input type="checkbox"/> Form 3800 or <input type="checkbox"/> Forms (specify) ▶ . . . . .
	d Credit for prior year minimum tax (attach Form 8801) . . . . .
3	Total credits. Add lines 2a through 2d . . . . .
4	Subtract line 3 from line 1c . . . . .
5	Recapture taxes. Check if from: <input type="checkbox"/> Form 4255 <input type="checkbox"/> Form 8811. . . . .
6	Alternative minimum tax (from Schedule I, line 41). . . . .
7	Household employment taxes. Attach Schedule H (Form 1040) . . . . .
8	Total tax. Add lines 4 through 7. Enter here and on page 1, line 23 . . . . .

Other Information		Yes	No
1	Did the estate or trust receive tax-exempt income? If "Yes," attach a computation of the allocation of expenses. Enter the amount of tax-exempt interest income and exempt-interest dividends ▶ \$ . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Did the estate or trust receive all or any part of the earnings (salary, wages, and other compensation) of any individual by reason of a contract assignment or similar arrangement? . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3	At any time during calendar year 1996, did the estate or trust have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a bank, securities, or other financial account in a foreign country? See page 17 of the instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for Form TD F 90-22.1. If "Yes," enter the name of the foreign country ▶ . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	During the tax year, did the estate or trust receive a distribution from, or was it the grantor of, or transferor to, a foreign trust? If "Yes," see page 17 of the instructions for other forms the estate or trust may have to file . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Did the estate or trust receive, or pay, any seller-financed mortgage interest? If "Yes," see page 17 of the instructions for required attachment . . . . .		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	If this is a complex trust making the section 663(b) election, check here (see page 17 of the instructions) ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	To make a section 643(e)(3) election, attach Schedule D (Form 1041), and check here (see page 17). . . . . ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	If the decedent's estate has been open for more than 2 years, check here . . . . . ▶ <input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



**Schedule I** Alternative Minimum Tax (see pages 18 through 22 of the instructions)

**Part I—Estate's or Trust's Share of Alternative Minimum Taxable Income**

<b>1</b>	Adjusted total income or (loss) (from page 1, line 17)	<b>1</b>	12,625
<b>2</b>	Net operating loss deduction. Enter as a positive amount	<b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>	Add lines 1 and 2	<b>3</b>	12,625
<b>4</b>	Adjustments and tax preference items:		
<b>a</b>	Interest	<b>4a</b>	
<b>b</b>	Taxes	<b>4b</b>	2,250
<b>c</b>	Miscellaneous itemized deductions (from page 1, line 15b)	<b>4c</b>	
<b>d</b>	Refund of taxes	<b>4d</b>	( )
<b>e</b>	Depreciation of property placed in service after 1986	<b>4e</b>	
<b>f</b>	Circulation and research and experimental expenditures	<b>4f</b>	
<b>g</b>	Mining exploration and development costs	<b>4g</b>	
<b>h</b>	Long-term contracts entered into after February 28, 1986	<b>4h</b>	
<b>i</b>	Amortization of pollution control facilities	<b>4i</b>	
<b>j</b>	Installment sales of certain property	<b>4j</b>	
<b>k</b>	Adjusted gain or loss (including incentive stock options)	<b>4k</b>	
<b>l</b>	Certain loss limitations	<b>4l</b>	
<b>m</b>	Tax shelter farm activities	<b>4m</b>	
<b>n</b>	Passive activities	<b>4n</b>	
<b>o</b>	Beneficiaries of other trusts or decedent's estates	<b>4o</b>	
<b>p</b>	Tax-exempt interest from specified private activity bonds	<b>4p</b>	
<b>q</b>	Depletion	<b>4q</b>	
<b>r</b>	Accelerated depreciation of real property placed in service before 1987	<b>4r</b>	
<b>s</b>	Accelerated depreciation of leased personal property placed in service before 1987	<b>4s</b>	
<b>t</b>	Intangible drilling costs	<b>4t</b>	
<b>u</b>	Other adjustments	<b>4u</b>	
<b>5</b>	Combine lines 4a through 4u	<b>5</b>	2,250
<b>6</b>	Add lines 3 and 5	<b>6</b>	14,875
<b>7</b>	Alternative tax net operating loss deduction (see page 21 of the instructions for limitations)	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b>	Adjusted alternative minimum taxable income. Subtract line 7 from line 6. Enter here and on line 13 <i>Note: Complete Part II before going to line 9.</i>	<b>8</b>	14,875
<b>9</b>	Income distribution deduction from line 27	<b>9</b>	
<b>10</b>	Estate tax deduction (from page 1, line 19)	<b>10</b>	
<b>11</b>	Add lines 9 and 10	<b>11</b>	2,000
<b>12</b>	Estate's or trust's share of alternative minimum taxable income. Subtract line 11 from line 8 If line 12 is: • \$22,500 or less, stop here and enter -0- on Schedule G, line 6. The estate or trust is not liable for the alternative minimum tax. • Over \$22,500, but less than \$165,000, go to line 28. • \$165,000 or more, enter the amount from line 12 on line 34 and go to line 35.	<b>12</b>	12,875

(continued on page 4)

**Part II—Income Distribution Deduction on a Minimum Tax Basis**

13	Adjusted alternative minimum taxable income (from line 8)	13	14,875
14	Adjusted tax-exempt interest (other than amounts included on line 4p)	14	
15	Total net gain from Schedule D (Form 1041), line 17, column (a). If a loss, enter -0-	15	
16	Capital gains for the tax year allocated to corpus and paid or permanently set aside for charitable purposes (from Schedule A, line 6)	16	
17	Capital gains paid or permanently set aside for charitable purposes from current year's income (see page 21 of the instructions)	17	
18	Capital gains computed on a minimum tax basis included on line 8	18	( 200 )
19	Capital losses computed on a minimum tax basis included on line 8. Enter as a positive amount	19	
20	Distributable net alternative minimum taxable income (DNAMTI). Combine lines 13 through 19	20	14,675
21	Income required to be distributed currently (from Schedule B, line 11)	21	
22	Other amounts paid, credited, or otherwise required to be distributed (from Schedule B, line 12)	22	2,000
23	Total distributions. Add lines 21 and 22	23	2,000
24	Tax-exempt income included on line 23 (other than amounts included on line 4p)	24	
25	Tentative income distribution deduction on a minimum tax basis. Subtract line 24 from line 23	25	2,000
26	Tentative income distribution deduction on a minimum tax basis. Subtract line 14 from line 20	26	14,675
27	Income distribution deduction on a minimum tax basis. Enter the smaller of line 25 or line 26. Enter here and on line 9	27	2,000

**Part III—Alternative Minimum Tax**

28	Exemption amount	28	\$22,500
29	Enter the amount from line 12	29	
30	Phase-out of exemption amount	30	\$75,000
31	Subtract line 30 from line 29. If zero or less, enter -0-	31	
32	Multiply line 31 by 25% (.25)	32	
33	Subtract line 32 from line 28. If zero or less, enter -0-	33	
34	Subtract line 33 from line 29	34	
35	If line 34 is:		
	• \$175,000 or less, multiply line 34 by 28% (.28)	35	
	• Over \$175,000, multiply line 34 by 28% (.28) and subtract \$3,500 from the result	36	
36	Alternative minimum foreign tax credit (see page 21 of instructions)	36	
37	Tentative minimum tax. Subtract line 36 from line 35	37	
38	Regular tax before credits (see page 22 of instructions)	38	
39	Section 644 tax included on Schedule G, line 1b	39	
40	Add lines 38 and 39	40	
41	Alternative minimum tax. Subtract line 40 from line 37. If zero or less, enter -0-. Enter here and on Schedule G, line 6	41	

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**Part IV Capital Loss Limitation.**

18 Enter here and enter as a (loss) on Form 1041, line 4, the smaller of:  
 a The loss on line 17, column (c); or  
 b \$3,000

18	( )
----	-----

*If the loss on line 17, column (c) is more than \$3,000, OR if Form 1041, page 1, line 22, is a loss, complete Part V to determine your capital loss carryover.*

**Part V Capital Loss Carryovers From 1996 to 1997**

**Section A.—Carryover Limit**

19 Enter taxable income or (loss) from Form 1041, line 22.	19	
20 Enter loss from line 18 as a positive amount	20	
21 Enter amount from Form 1041, line 20	21	
22 Adjusted taxable income. Combine lines 19, 20, and 21, but do not enter less than zero	22	
23 Enter the smaller of line 20 or line 22.	23	

**Section B.—Short-Term Capital Loss Carryover**  
 (Complete this part only if there is a loss on line 6 and line 17, column (c).)

24 Enter loss from line 6 as a positive amount	24	
25 Enter gain, if any, from line 14. If that line is blank or shows a loss, enter -0-	25	
26 Enter amount from line 23	26	
27 Add lines 25 and 26	27	
28 Short-term capital loss carryover to 1997. Subtract line 27 from line 24. If zero or less, enter -0-. If this is the final return of the trust or decedent's estate, also enter on Schedule K-1 (Form 1041), line 12b	28	

**Section C.—Long-Term Capital Loss Carryover**  
 (Complete this part only if there is a loss on line 14 and line 17, column (c).)

29 Enter loss from line 14 as a positive amount	29	
30 Enter gain, if any, from line 6. If that line is blank or shows a loss, enter -0-	30	
31 Enter amount from line 23	31	
32 Enter amount, if any, from line 24	32	
33 Subtract line 32 from line 31. If zero or less, enter -0-	33	
34 Add lines 30 and 33	34	
35 Long-term capital loss carryover to 1997. Subtract line 34 from line 29. If zero or less, enter -0-. If this is the final return of the trust or decedent's estate, also enter on Schedule K-1 (Form 1041), line 12c.	35	

**Part VI Tax Computation Using Maximum Capital Gains Rate** (Complete this part only if both lines 16 and 17, column (b) are gains, and Form 1041, line 22 is more than \$3,800.)

36 Enter taxable income from Form 1041, line 22.	36	10,025
37a Net capital gain. Enter the smaller of line 16 or 17, column (b).	37a	200
b If you are filing Form 4952, enter the amount from Form 4952, line 4e	37b	
c Subtract line 37b from line 37a. If zero or less, stop here; you cannot use Part VI to figure the tax for the estate or trust. Instead, use the 1996 Tax Rate Schedule	37c	200
38 Subtract line 37c from line 36. If zero or less, enter -0-	38	9,825
39 Enter the greater of line 38 or \$1,600	39	9,825
40 Tax on amount on line 39 from the 1996 Tax Rate Schedule. If line 39 is \$1,600, enter \$240.00	40	2,994
41 Subtract line 39 from line 38. If zero or less, enter -0-	41	200
42 Multiply line 41 by 28% (.28)	42	56
43 Maximum capital gains tax. Add lines 40 and 42.	43	3,050
44 Tax on amount on line 36 from the 1996 Tax Rate Schedule	44	3,074
45 Tax. Enter the smaller of line 43 or line 44 here and on line 1a of Schedule G, Form 1041.	45	3,050

**SCHEDULE K-1**  
**(Form 1041)**

**Beneficiary's Share of Income, Deductions, Credits, etc.**

OMB No. 1545-0082

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

for the calendar year 1996, or fiscal year  
beginning \_\_\_\_\_, 1996, ending \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
▶ Complete a separate Schedule K-1 for each beneficiary.

**1996**

Name of trust or decedent's estate  
Estate of John R. Smith

Amended K-1  
 Final K-1

Beneficiary's identifying number ▶ 123-00-6789 Estate's or trust's EIN ▶ 10-0123456

Beneficiary's name, address, and ZIP code  
James Smith  
6407 Mayflower Street,  
Juneville, ME 00000

Fiduciary's name, address, and ZIP code  
Charles R. Smith, Executor  
6406 Mayflower Street  
Juneville, ME 00000

(a) Allocable share item	(b) Amount	(c) Calendar year 1996 Form 1040 filers enter the amounts in column (b) on:
--------------------------	------------	---

<b>1</b> Interest . . . . .	<b>1</b> <u>300</u>	Schedule B, Part I, line 1
<b>2</b> Dividends . . . . .	<b>2</b> <u>100</u>	Schedule B, Part II, line 5
<b>3a</b> Net short-term capital gain . . . . .	<b>3a</b>	Schedule D, line 5, column (g)
<b>b</b> Net long-term capital gain . . . . .	<b>3b</b>	Schedule D, line 13, column (g)
<b>4a</b> Annuities, royalties, and other nonpassive income before directly apportioned deductions . . . . .	<b>4a</b> <u>1,600</u>	Schedule E, Part III, column (f)
<b>b</b> Depreciation . . . . .	<b>4b</b>	} Include on the applicable line of the appropriate tax form
<b>c</b> Depletion . . . . .	<b>4c</b>	
<b>d</b> Amortization . . . . .	<b>4d</b>	
<b>5a</b> Trade or business, rental real estate, and other rental income before directly apportioned deductions (see instructions) . . . . .	<b>5a</b>	
<b>b</b> Depreciation . . . . .	<b>5b</b>	} Include on the applicable line of the appropriate tax form
<b>c</b> Depletion . . . . .	<b>5c</b>	
<b>d</b> Amortization . . . . .	<b>5d</b>	
<b>6</b> Income for minimum tax purposes . . . . .	<b>6</b> <u>2,000</u>	
<b>7</b> Income for regular tax purposes (add lines 1 through 3b, 4a, and 5a) . . . . .	<b>7</b> <u>2,000</u>	
<b>8</b> Adjustment for minimum tax purposes (subtract line 7 from line 6) . . . . .	<b>8</b>	Form 6251, line 12
<b>9</b> Estate tax deduction (including certain generation-skipping transfer taxes) . . . . .	<b>9</b>	Schedule A, line 27
<b>10</b> Foreign taxes . . . . .	<b>10</b>	Form 1116 or Schedule A (Form 1040), line 8
<b>11</b> Adjustments and tax preference items (itemize):		
<b>a</b> Accelerated depreciation . . . . .	<b>11a</b>	} include on the applicable line of Form 6251
<b>b</b> Depletion . . . . .	<b>11b</b>	
<b>c</b> Amortization . . . . .	<b>11c</b>	
<b>d</b> Exclusion items . . . . .	<b>11d</b>	
<b>12</b> Deductions in the final year of trust or decedent's estate:		
<b>a</b> Excess deductions on termination (see instructions) . . . . .	<b>12a</b>	Schedule A, line 22
<b>b</b> Short-term capital loss carryover . . . . .	<b>12b</b>	Schedule D, line 5, column (f)
<b>c</b> Long-term capital loss carryover . . . . .	<b>12c</b>	Schedule D, line 13, column (f)
<b>d</b> Net operating loss (NOL) carryover for regular tax purposes . . . . .	<b>12d</b>	Form 1040, line 21
<b>e</b> NOL carryover for minimum tax purposes . . . . .	<b>12e</b>	See the instructions for Form 6251, line 20
<b>f</b> . . . . .	<b>12f</b>	} include on the applicable line of the appropriate tax form
<b>g</b> . . . . .	<b>12g</b>	
<b>13</b> Other (itemize):		
<b>a</b> Payments of estimated taxes credited to you . . . . .	<b>13a</b>	Form 1040, line 53
<b>b</b> Tax-exempt interest . . . . .	<b>13b</b>	Form 1040, line 8b
<b>c</b> . . . . .	<b>13c</b>	} include on the applicable line of the appropriate tax form
<b>d</b> . . . . .	<b>13d</b>	
<b>e</b> . . . . .	<b>13e</b>	
<b>f</b> . . . . .	<b>13f</b>	
<b>g</b> . . . . .	<b>13g</b>	
<b>h</b> . . . . .	<b>13h</b>	

**Table A. Checklist of Forms and Due Dates —For Executor, Administrator, or Personal Representative**

<u>Form No.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
SS-4	Application for Employer Identification Number	As soon as possible. The identification number must be included in returns, statements, and other documents.
56	Notice Concerning Fiduciary Relationship	As soon as all of the necessary information is available.*
706	United States Estate (and Generation-Skipping Transfer) Tax Return	9 months after date of decedent's death.
706-A	United States Additional Estate Tax Return	6 months after cessation or disposition of special-use valuation property.
706-CE	Certificate of Payment of Foreign Death Tax	9 months after decedent's death. To be filed with Form 706.
706-GS(D)	Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Return for Distributions	See form instructions.
706-GS(D-1)	Notification of Distribution From A Generation-Skipping Trust	See form instructions.
706-GS(T)	Generation-Skipping Transfer Tax Return for Terminations	See form instructions.
706-NA	United States Estate (and Generation-Skipping Transfer) Tax Return, Estate of nonresident not a citizen of the United States	9 months after date of decedent's death.
712	Life Insurance Statement	Part I to be filed with estate tax return.
1040	U.S. Individual Income Tax Return	Generally, April 15th of the year after death.
1040NR	U.S. Nonresident Alien Income Tax Return	See form instructions.
1041	U.S. Income Tax Return for Estates and Trusts	15th day of 4th month after end of estate's tax year.
1041-A	U.S. Information Return—Trust Accumulation of Charitable Amounts	April 15th.
1041-T	Allocation of Estimated Tax Payments to Beneficiaries	March 6th.
1041-ES	Estimated Income Tax for Estates and Trusts	Generally, April 15, June 15, Sept. 15, and Jan. 15 for calendar-year filers.
1042	Annual Withholding Tax Return for U.S. Source Income of Foreign Persons	March 15th.
1042-S	Foreign Person's U.S. Source Income Subject to Withholding	March 15th.
1310	Statement of Person Claiming Refund Due a Deceased Taxpayer	To be filed with Form 1040, Form 1040A, Form 1040EZ, or Form 1040NR if refund is due.
2758	Application for Extension of Time To File Certain Excise, Income, Information, and Other Returns	Sufficiently early to permit IRS to consider the application and reply before the due date of Form 1041.
4768	Application for Extension of Time To File a Return and/or Pay U.S. Estate (and Generation-Skipping Transfer) Taxes	Sufficiently early to permit IRS to consider the application and reply before the estate tax due date.
4810	Request for Prompt Assessment Under Internal Revenue Code Section 6501(d)	As soon as possible after filing Form 1040 or Form 1041.
8300	Report of Cash Payments Over \$10,000 Received in a Trade or Business	15th day after the date of the transaction.
8822	Change of Address	As soon as the address is changed.

\* A personal representative must report the termination of the estate, in writing, to the Internal Revenue Service. Form 56 may be used for this purpose.

**Table B. Worksheet to Reconcile Amounts Reported in Name of Decedent on Information Forms (Forms W-2, 1099-INT, 1099-DIV, Etc.) (Please Keep This for Your Records)**

Name of Decedent		Date of Death	Decedent's Social Security Number	
Name of Personal Representative, Executor, or Administrator			Estate's Employer Identification Number (If Any)	
Source (list each payer)	A Enter total amount shown on information form	B Enter part of amount in Column A reporta- ble on decedent's final return	C Amount reportable on estate's or benefici- ary's income tax return (Column A minus Column B)	D Portion of Column C that is "income in respect of a decedent"
<b>1. Wages</b>				
<b>2. Interest income</b>				
<b>3. Dividends</b>				
<b>4. State income tax refund</b>				
<b>5. Capital gains</b>				
<b>6. Pension income</b>				
<b>7. Rents, royalties</b>				
<b>8. Taxes withheld*</b>				
<b>9. Other items, such as: social security, business and farm income or loss, unemployment compensation, etc.</b>				

\* List each withholding agent (employer, etc.)

