

SS-8 Determination—Determination for Public Inspection

Occupation 02OFF.198 Receptionist	Determination: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employee <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor
UILC	Third Party Communication: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Facts of Case

The firm is in business to rent music studio time and music equipment to its clients. The worker was engaged to perform services as a receptionist, to open the studio, greet clients, receive rental payments, run ads on [REDACTED], and perform networking and other services as requested. The firm treated the worker status as independent contractor, and issued to the worker a Form 1099-MISC at year-end to report the monies she received for her services as non-employee compensation.

The firm provided work assignments to the worker, and provided her with instructions on how to perform her services. The firm's owners and the worker determined the work methods by which to perform the services. Problems and complaints were resolved by the firm. The worker was required to perform her services personally, at the firm's location. Helpers were engaged by the firm, and paid by the firm for their services. The worker was required to fill in a daily usage log.

The firm provided the studio and music equipment. The worker provided a laptop. The worker did not incur work related expenses. There was no information provided to evidence that the worker incurred economic loss or financial risk with regard to the services she performed for the firm. While the worker stated she was paid on an hourly wage basis for her services, the firm indicated that the worker was paid on a percentage basis.

The firm did not carry workers' compensation insurance on the worker. Employment benefits were not made available to the worker. There was no information provided in this case to support that the worker performed similar services for others, or that she advertised her services to the public. The work relationship was continuous as opposed to a one-time transaction.

Analysis

The facts provided for this case do not evidence the worker's behavioral control of the work relationship. The worker followed the firm's instructions, work methods, schedule, and routine in the performance of her services. The worker's services were performed personally, at the firm's location. The worker used the firm's facilities, equipment, tools, and supplies and represented the firm's business operations in the performance of her services. As a result, the firm retained the right to direct and control the worker to the extent necessary to protect its investment, and the reputation of its business operations.

The facts provided for this case do not evidence the worker's financial control of the work relationship. The worker's remuneration was established by the firm. The worker had no opportunity for profit or loss as a result of the services performed for the firm. "Profit or loss" implies the use of capital by a person in an independent business of his or her own. The worker did not have a significant investment in the facilities, equipment, tools, or supplies used to perform her services for the firm. The term "significant investment" does not include tools, instruments, and clothing commonly provided by employees in their trade; nor does it include education, experience, or training. Also, if the firm has the right to control the equipment, it is unlikely the worker had an investment in facilities.

The worker performed services as requested by the firm, for an indefinite period of time, and both parties retained the right to terminate the work relationship at any time without incurring liabilities. The facts provided for this case do not evidence that the worker was engaged in an independent enterprise, but rather show that she performed her services as a necessary and integral part of the firm's business operations. Integration of the worker's services into the business operations generally shows that the worker is subject to direction and control. When the success or continuation of a business depends to an appreciable degree upon the performance of certain services, the workers who perform those services must necessarily be subject to a certain amount of control by the owner of the business.

Based on common law principles, the worker shall be found to be an employee for Federal employment tax purposes. For correction assistance, you may refer to Publication 4341, which can be obtained at www.irs.gov