

SS-8 Determination—Determination for Public Inspection

Occupation 05ITE.42 Instructor/Teacher	Determination: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employee <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor
UILC	Third Party Communication: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

I have read Notice 441 and am requesting:

- Additional redactions based on categories listed in section entitled "Deletions We May Have Made to Your Original Determination Letter"
 Delay based on an on-going transaction
 90 day delay

For IRS Use Only:

Facts of Case

The firm is in the business of operating a charter school. The worker was engaged as a special education teacher. She received a 2014 1099-MISC for her services. There was no written agreement.

Both the firm and the worker agreed that no training was provided. The worker noted that she received her work assignments from a list; the firm noted from special education students. The firm determined the methods by which the assignments were performed and would be contacted if any problems or issues arose. The worker submitted reports for the weekly amount of time with the students listed. The firm noted that the worker worked four hours daily; the worker noted that a schedule was posted by the firm but was not followed. She provided her services at the firm's school premises for most of her time; she reviewed files and prepared lessons at home. There were no meetings. The worker was required to provide her services personally.

The firm provided the school as well as any materials and supplies needed by the worker to provide her services. The worker was paid a salary, twice a month and had no other economic risk. The firm only mentioned contract services. Both parties agreed that the worker did not establish the level of payment for services.

Both the firm and the worker agreed that there were no benefits and that either party could terminate the relationship without incurring a liability. The worker did not perform similar services for others. The worker was represented as the firm's special education teacher. The relationship ended when the worker was fired.

Analysis

In determining whether an individual is an employee or an independent contractor under the common law, all evidence of both control and lack of control or independence must be considered. The relationship of the worker and the business must be examined. Facts that show a right to direct or control how the worker performs the specific tasks for which he or she is hired, who controls the financial aspects of the worker's activities, and how the parties perceive their relationship should be considered. The determination of the worker's status, then, rests on the weight given to the factors, keeping in mind that no one factor rules. The degree of importance of each factor varies depending on the occupation and the circumstances.

Factors that illustrate whether there is a right to control how a worker performs a task include training and instructions. In this case, the firm retained the right to change the worker's methods and to direct the worker to the extent necessary to protect its financial investment. The firm provided the worker with instructions and her assigned duties. She performed her services according to the firm's scheduled work hours and days. A worker who is required to comply with another person's instructions about when, where, and how he or she is to work is ordinarily an employee. This control factor is present if the person or persons for whom the services are performed have the right to require compliance with instructions. Some employees may work without receiving instructions because they are highly proficient and conscientious workers or because the duties are so simple or familiar to them. Furthermore, the instructions, that show how to reach the desired results, may have been oral and given only once at the beginning of the relationship. In addition, the worker provided her services on a continuous basis throughout the time period involved. A continuing relationship between the worker and the person or persons for whom the services are performed indicates that an employer-employee relationship exists. A continuing relationship may exist where work is performed in frequently recurring although irregular intervals.

Factors that illustrate whether there is a right to direct and control the financial aspects of the worker's activities include significant investment, unreimbursed expenses, the methods of payment, and the opportunity for profit or loss. In this case, the worker did not invest capital or assume business risks, and therefore, did not have the opportunity to realize a profit or incur a loss as a result of the services provided. The firm provided the school facility, furnishings, equipment and supplies. The worker received a set salary, twice a month and had no other economic risk. Payment by the hour, week, or month generally points to an employer-employee relationship, provided that this method of payment is not just a convenient way of paying a lump sum agreed upon as the cost of a job.

Factors that illustrate how the parties perceive their relationship include the intent of the parties as expressed in written contracts; the provision of, or lack of employee benefits; the right of the parties to terminate the relationship; the permanency of the relationship; and whether the services performed are part of the service recipient's regular business activities. There were no benefits and there was no written agreement. The worker was engaged as a special education teacher at the firm's school. Her services were essential and integral to the firm's school operation of offering special education services and curriculum. 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 the above analysis, we conclude that the firm had the right to exercise direction and control over the worker to the degree necessary to establish that the worker was a common law employee and not an independent contractor operating a trade or business.