

IRS Model Notice

Special Tax Notice

Regarding Plan Payments

This notice contains important information you may need before you decide how to receive your benefits from your retirement plan (“the Plan”).

This notice is provided to you because all or part of the payment that you will soon receive from your retirement plan may be eligible for rollover by you or your Plan Administrator to a traditional IRA or another qualified employer plan. A “traditional IRA” **does not** include a Roth IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or education IRA.

Summary

There are two ways you may be able to receive a Plan payment that is eligible for rollover. You can have all or any portion of your payment either 1) PAID IN “DIRECT ROLLOVER” or 2) PAID TO YOU.

If you choose a DIRECT ROLLOVER

- Your payment will not be taxed in the current year and no income tax will be withheld.
- Your payment will be made directly to your traditional IRA or, if you choose, to another qualified employer plan that accepts your rollover.
- Your payment will be taxed later when you take it out of the traditional IRA or the qualified employer plan.

If you choose to have your Plan funds that are eligible for rollover benefits PAID TO YOU

- You will receive only 80% of the payment, because the Plan Administrator is required to withhold 20% of the payment and send it to the IRS as income tax withholding to be credited against your taxes.
- Your payment will be taxed in the current year unless you roll it over. Under limited circumstances, you may be able to use special tax rules that could reduce the tax you owe. However, if you receive payment before age 59½, you also may have to pay an additional 10% tax.
- You can roll over the payment by paying it to your traditional IRA or to another qualified employer plan that accepts your rollover within 60 days after you receive the payment. The amount rolled over will not be taxed until you take it out of the traditional IRA or qualified employer plan.
- If you want to roll over 100% of the payment to a traditional IRA or a qualified employer plan, you must find other money to replace the 20% that was withheld. If you roll over only 80% that you receive, you will be taxed on the 20% that was withheld and that is not rolled over.

I. Payments That Can and Cannot be Rolled Over

Payments from the Plan may be “eligible rollover distributions.” This means that they can be rolled over to an IRA or to another employer plan that accepts rollovers. Your Plan administrator should be able to tell you what portion of your payment is an eligible rollover distribution. The following types of payments CANNOT be rolled over:

Non-Taxable Payments. In general, only the “taxable portion” of your payment is an eligible rollover distribution. If you have made “after-tax” employee contributions to the Plan, these contributions will be non-taxable when they are paid to you, and they cannot be rolled over. (After-tax employee contributions generally are contributions you made from your own pay that were already taxed.)

Required Minimum Payments. Beginning in the year you reach age 70 ½ or retire, whichever is later, a certain portion of your payment cannot be rolled over because it is a “required minimum payment” that must be paid to you. Special rules apply if you own 5% or more of your employer.

II. Direct Rollover

You can choose a direct rollover of all or any portion of your payment that is an “eligible rollover distribution,” as described above. In a direct rollover, the eligible rollover distribution is paid directly from the Plan to a traditional IRA or another qualified employer plan that accepts rollovers. If you choose a direct rollover, you are not taxed on any portion of your payment for which you choose a Direct Rollover until you later take it out of the traditional IRA or qualified employer plan.

Direct Rollover to a Traditional IRA. You can open a traditional IRA to receive the direct rollover. If you choose to have your payment made directly to an IRA sponsor, contact an IRA sponsor (usually a financial institution) to find out how to have your payment made in a direct rollover to a traditional IRA at that institution. If you are unsure of how to invest your money, you can temporarily establish a traditional IRA to receive the payment. However, in choosing an traditional IRA, you may wish to consider whether the traditional IRA you choose will allow you to move all or a part of your payment to another traditional IRA at a later date, without penalties or other limitations. See IRS Publication 590, Individual Retirement Arrangements, for more information on IRAs (including limits on how often you can roll over between IRAs).

Direct Rollover to a Plan. If you are employed by a new employer that has a qualified plan, and you want a direct rollover to that plan, ask the Plan Administrator of that plan whether it will accept your rollover. A qualified employer plan is not legally required to accept a rollover. If your new employer’s plan does not accept a rollover, you can choose a direct rollover to a traditional IRA.

III. Payment Paid To You

If your payment can be rolled over under Part I above and the payment is made to you in cash, it is subject to 20% income tax withholding. The payment is taxed in the year you receive it unless, within 60 days, you roll it over to a traditional IRA or another qualified employer plan that accepts rollovers. If you do not roll it over, special tax rules may apply.

Income Tax Withholding:

Mandatory Withholding. If any portion of the payment can be rolled over under Part I above and you do not elect to make a DIRECT ROLLOVER, the Plan is required by law to withhold 20% of that amount. This amount is sent to the IRS as income tax withholding. For example, if you can rollover a payment of \$10,000, only \$8,000 will be paid to you because the Plan must withhold \$2,000 as income tax. However, when you prepare your income tax return for the year, you will report the full \$10,000 as a payment from the Plan. You will report the \$2,000 as tax withheld, and it will be credited against any income tax you owe for the year.

Voluntary Withholding. If any portion of your payment is taxable but cannot be rolled over under Part I above, the mandatory withholding rules described above do not apply. In this case, you may elect not to have withholding apply to that portion. To elect out of withholding ask the Plan administrator for the election form and related information.

Sixty-Day Rollover Option. If you receive a payment that can be rolled over under Part I above, you can still decide to roll over all or part of it to a traditional IRA or another qualified employer plan that accepts rollovers. If you decide to roll over, you must contribute the amount of the payment you received to a traditional IRA or another qualified plan within 60 days after you receive payment. The portion of your payment that is rolled over will not be taxed until you take it out of the traditional IRA or the qualified employer plan.

You can roll over up to 100% of your payment that can be rolled over under Part I above, including an amount equal to the 20% that was withheld. If you choose to roll over 100%, you must find other money within the 60-day period to contribute to the traditional IRA or the qualified employer plan to replace the 20% that was withheld. On the other hand, if you roll over only the 80% that you received, you will be taxed on the 20% that was withheld.

Example: Your eligible rollover distribution is \$10,000, and you choose to have it paid to you. You will receive \$8,000, and \$2,000 will be sent to the IRS as income tax withholding. Within 60 days after receiving the \$8,000, you may roll over the entire \$10,000 to a traditional IRA or qualified employer plan. To do this, you roll over the \$8,000 you receive from the Plan, and you will have to find \$2,000 from other sources (your savings, a loan, etc.). In this case, the \$10,000 is not taxed until you take it out of the traditional IRA or qualified employer plan. If you roll over the entire \$10,000, when you file your income tax return you may get a refund of the \$2,000 withheld.

If, on the other hand, you roll over only \$8,000, the \$2,000 you did not roll over is taxed in the year it was withheld. When you file your income tax return you may get a refund of part of the \$2,000 withheld. (However, any refund is likely to be larger if you roll over the entire \$10,000.)

Additional 10% Tax If You Are under Age 59 ½. If you receive a payment before you reach age 59 ½ and you do not roll it over, then, in addition to the regular income tax, you may have to pay an extra tax equal to 10% of the taxable portion of the payment. The additional 10% tax does not apply to your payment if it is (1) paid to you because you separate from service with your employer during or after the year you reach age 55, (2) paid because you retire due to disability, (3) paid to you as equal (or almost equal) payments over your life expectancy (or your and your beneficiary's lives or life expectancies), or (4) dividends paid with respect to stock by an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) as described in Code section 404(k). (5) payments that are paid directly to the government to satisfy a federal tax levy, (6) payments that are paid to an alternate payee under a qualified domestic relations order, or (7) payments that do not exceed the amount of your deductible medical expenses. See IRS Form 5329 for more information on the additional 10% tax.

Special Tax Treatment. If your eligible rollover distribution is not rolled over, it will be taxed in the year you receive it. However, if it qualifies as a "lump sum distribution," it may be eligible for special tax treatment. A lump sum distribution is a payment, within one year, of your entire balance under the Plan (and certain other similar plans of the employer) that is payable to you because you have reached age 59 1/2 or have separated from service with your employer (or, in the case of a self-employed individual, because you have reached age 59 1/2 or have become disabled). For a payment to qualify as a lump sum distribution, you must have been a participant in the Plan for at least 5 years. The special tax treatment for lump sum distribution is described below.

Ten-Year Averaging If You Were Born Before January 1, 1936. If you receive a lump sum distribution and you were born before January 1, 1936, you can make a one-time election to figure the tax on the payment by using "10-year averaging" (using 1986 tax rates). Ten-year averaging often reduces the tax you owe.

Capital Gain Treatment If You Were Born Before January 1, 1936. In addition, if you receive a lump sum distribution and you were born before January 1, 1936, you may elect to have the part of your payment that is attributable to your pre-1974 participant in the Plan (if any) taxed as long-term capital gain at a rate of 20%.

There are other limits on the special tax treatment for lump sum distributions. For example, you can generally elect this special tax treatment only once in your lifetime, and the election applies to all lump sum distributions that you receive in that same year. If you have previously rolled over a payment from the Plan (or certain other similar plans of the employer), you cannot use the special tax treatment for later payments from the Plan. If you roll over your payment to a traditional IRA, you will not be able to use the special tax treatment for later payments from the traditional IRA. Also, if you roll over a portion of your payment to a traditional IRA, this special tax treatment is not available for the rest of the payment. Additional restrictions are described in IRS Form 4972, for additional information on lump sum distributions and how you elect the special tax treatment.

Repayment of Plan Loans. If you end your employment and have an outstanding loan from your Plan, your employer may reduce (or "offset") your balance in the Plan by the amount of the loan you have not repaid. The amount of your loan is treated as a distribution to you at the time of the offset and will be taxed unless you roll over an amount equal to the amount of your loan offset to another qualified employer plan or a traditional IRA within 60 days of the date of the offset. If the amount of your loan offset is the only amount you receive or are treated as having received, no amount will be withheld from it. If you receive other payments of cash or property from the Plan, 20% withholding amount will be based on the entire amount paid to you including the amount of the loan repayment. The amount withheld will be limited to the amount of other cash or property paid to you (other than any employer securities).

IV. Surviving Spouses, Alternate Payees, and Other Beneficiaries.

In general, the rules summarized that apply to payments to employees also apply to payments to surviving spouses of employees and to spouses or former spouses who are "alternate payees." You are alternate payee if your interest in the Plan results from a "qualified domestic relations order." Which is an order issued by a court, usually in connection with a divorce or legal separation. Some of the rules summarized above also apply to a deceased employee's beneficiary who is not a spouse. However, there are some exceptions for payments to surviving spouses, alternate payees, and other beneficiaries that should be mentioned.

If you are a surviving spouse, you may choose to have an eligible rollover distribution paid in a direct rollover to an IRA or paid to you. If you have the payment paid to you, you can keep it or roll it over yourself to a traditional IRA but you cannot roll it over to an employer plan. If you are an alternate payee, you have the same choices as the employee. Thus, you can have the payment paid as a direct rollover or paid to you. If you have it paid to you, you can keep it or roll it over to a traditional IRA or to another qualified employer plan that accepts rollovers. If you are a beneficiary other than a surviving spouse, you CANNOT choose a direct rollover, and you CANNOT roll over the payment yourself.

If you are a surviving spouse, an alternate payee, or another beneficiary, your payment is not subject to the additional 10% tax described in section III above, even if you are younger than age 59 ½.

If you are a surviving spouse, an alternate payee, or another beneficiary, you may be able to use the special tax treatment for lump sum distributions. If you receive a payment because of the employee's death, you may be able to treat the payment as a lump-sum distribution if the employee met the appropriate age requirements, whether or not the employee had five years of participation in the Plan.

How To Obtain Additional Information

This notice summarizes only the federal (not state or Local) tax rules that might apply to your payment. The rules described above are complex and contain many conditions and exceptions that are not included in this notice. Therefore, you may want to consult with a professional tax advisor **before** you take a payment of your benefits from the Plan. Also, you can find more specific information on the tax treatment of payments from qualified retirement plans in IRS Publication 575, Pension and Annuity Income, and IRS Publication 590, Individual Retirement Arrangements. These publications are available from your local IRS office or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM.