

WILLMS, S.C.

LAW FIRM

TO: Clients and Friends of Willms, S.C.

FROM: Attorney Maureen L. O'Leary

DATE: March 2, 2012

RE: Tax Return Filing Reminder

The Internal Revenue Service has announced that **April 17, 2012** is the deadline for filing tax returns that normally would be due on April 15, 2012, because April 15, 2012 falls on a Sunday and April 16, 2012 is Emancipation Day (a holiday observed in the District of Columbia).ⁱ

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue has also extended April 15, 2012 tax deadlines to April 17, 2012, to respect the federal holiday.ⁱⁱ

The April 17, 2012 deadline only applies to certain types of tax returns, such as individual income tax returns, gift tax returns, many partnership returns, and income tax returns for trusts and estates that use a calendar tax year.

However, many corporate income tax returns are due on March 15, and entities that use a fiscal tax year instead of a calendar tax year can have filing deadlines at anytime throughout the year. You should consult with your tax preparer to confirm exactly what returns you are required to file and when they are due.

In addition to your individual income tax returns, following are some examples of other types of tax returns that you may need to file. (Please note that the April 17, 2012 deadline does not apply to all of these returns):

1. **Estate and/or Trust Income Tax Returns.** If you were responsible for an estate and/or trusts in 2011, income tax returns may need to be filed for those entities.
2. **Partnership Income Tax Returns.** If you were a manager, partner or member of a partnership or limited liability company in 2011, you may need to arrange to file partnership income tax returns.
3. **Corporate Income Tax Returns.** If you were an officer or shareholder of a corporation in 2011, you may need to arrange to file corporate income tax returns.
4. **State Tax Returns.** In addition to the federal version of the above listed income tax returns, there are state versions of these returns that may need to also be filed in your state of residency and/or the state(s) where the entity is domiciled and/or does business.
5. **Gift Tax Returns.** If you made any gifts in 2011 that exceed the \$13,000 annual exclusion amount per person, a gift tax return must be filed. (You should also consider filing a gift tax return if your gifts are within the annual exclusion amount, but are difficult to value).
6. **Estate Tax Returns.** The current \$5,000,000ⁱⁱⁱ federal estate tax exemption means that only the relatively few estates that exceed the exemption amount are required to file estate tax returns for decedents that died in 2011 or 2012. However, sometimes it may be a good idea to file an estate tax return (within 9 months from the date of death) even if the estate is less than the exemption amount. For example, if there is a surviving spouse, filing an estate tax return for the deceased

spouse allows the unused portion of the deceased spouse's estate tax exemption to be available to the estate of the surviving spouse.^{iv}

There are generally extensions available for most tax return deadlines. Just remember that an extension of time to file a return is not the same thing as an extension of time to pay any tax that may be due.

If you have any questions regarding what type of tax returns you may need to file, or if you would like Willms, S.C. to assist you with the preparation of your tax returns, please contact our office as soon as possible.

ⁱ <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=251825,00.html>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.revenue.wi.gov/forms/2011/11i-111.pdf>
http://www.revenue.wi.gov/forms/2011/11ip-031_instructions.pdf
<http://www.revenue.wi.gov/forms/2011/11i-022.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ The estate tax exemption was \$5,000,000 in 2011, but has been adjusted for inflation to \$5,120,000 for 2012.
<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=248485,00.html>

^{iv} <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=246604,00.html>
<http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=254522,00.html>
<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-2011-82.pdf>
<http://blogs.wsj.com/totalreturn/2012/02/21/irs-extends-portability-deadline-for-estates/>