



## Agreement for 2020 Trust Tax Preparation

Dear Trustee:

This letter will serve to confirm our understanding whereby our firm has been retained by you, the trustee of \_\_\_\_\_, in connection with tax services to be rendered to the above-entitled trust.

The federal and Ohio income tax returns for 2020, worksheets, and any other documents prepared by us in connection with this assignment will be submitted directly to you. We will prepare the returns for the above-mentioned trust using the information you provide.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a pandemic. The duration and impact of the pandemic have been expansive, and several stimulus packages have been signed into law in the United States providing economic relief to businesses and individuals. Many of those relief measures have been in the form of tax provisions, and some of those tax provisions have retroactive application. If you have any questions regarding the application of these economic tax relief measures, please ask us for advice in that regard.

You are confirming that you will furnish us with all the information required for preparing the returns. This includes, but is not limited to, providing us with the information necessary to identify (1) all states and foreign countries in which the trust “does business” or derives income (directly or indirectly), and (2) the extent of business operations in each relevant state and/or country. We will not audit or otherwise verify the data you submit, although we may ask you to clarify some of it, or furnish us with additional data. You should retain all the documents, books, and records that form the basis of income and deductions. The documents may be necessary to prove the accuracy and completeness of the returns to a taxing authority. If you have any questions as to the type of records required, please ask us for advice in that regard.

Please note that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) considers virtual currency (e.g., Bitcoin) as property for U.S. federal tax purposes. As such, any transactions in, or transactions that use, virtual currency are subject to the same general tax principles that apply to other property transactions. If there was virtual currency activity during the 2020 tax year, there may be tax consequences associated with such transactions, and there may be additional foreign reporting obligations.

You agree to provide us with complete and accurate information regarding any transactions in, or transactions that have used, virtual currency during the applicable tax year. Please ask us for advice if you have any questions regarding the type of records required for virtual currency transactions.

We will use our professional judgment in preparing your returns. Given the magnitude of the economic tax relief provisions the U.S. stimulus packages have contained, as well as some new concepts introduced in the law, additional stated guidance from the Internal Revenue Service, and

possibly from Congress in the form of technical corrections on certain income tax provisions may be forthcoming. We will use our professional judgment and expertise to assist you given the guidance as currently promulgated at the time our services are rendered. Subsequent developments issued by the applicable tax authorities may affect the information we have previously provided, and these effects may be material. Whenever we are aware that a possibly applicable tax law is unclear or that there are conflicting interpretations of the law by authorities (e.g., tax agencies and courts), we will share our knowledge and understanding of the possible positions that may be taken on your return. In accordance with our professional standards, we will follow whatever position you request, as long as it is consistent with the codes, regulations and interpretations that have been promulgated. If you desire a legal opinion before choosing among alternative tax positions, legal counsel should be separately retained for this purpose. We will work with you and your chosen legal counsel to the best of our abilities in giving you whatever information we have that may help you in your decision. You have the final responsibility for positions taken on the return.

If a taxing authority should later contest the position taken, there may be an assessment of additional tax, interest and penalties. We assume no liability for any such assessment of additional tax, penalties or interest. In the event, however, that you ask us to take a tax position that in our professional judgment will not meet the applicable laws and standards as promulgated, we reserve the right to stop work and shall not be liable for any damages that occur as a result of ceasing to render services.

The law provides for a penalty to be imposed where taxpayers make a substantial understatement of their tax liability. Taxpayers may seek to avoid all or part of the penalty by showing (1) that they acted in good faith and there was reasonable cause for the understatement, (2) that the understatement was based on substantial authority, or (3) there was a reasonable basis for the position taken on the return and the relevant facts affecting the item's tax treatment were adequately disclosed on the return. You agree to advise us if you wish disclosure to be made in your return or if you wish for us to identify or perform further research with respect to any material tax issues for the purpose of ascertaining whether, in our opinion, there is "substantial authority" for the position proposed to be taken on such issues in your return.

Our work in connection with the preparation of the trust tax returns does not include any procedures designed to discover fraud, defalcations, or other irregularities, should any exist.

**If you and/or your entity (includes estates and trusts) have a financial interest in, or signature authority over, any foreign accounts, you may be subject to certain filing requirements with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, in addition to the IRS. Filing requirements may also apply to taxpayers that have direct or indirect control over a foreign or domestic entity with foreign financial accounts, even if the taxpayer does not have foreign account(s).**

**The filing deadline for the Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) required by the U.S. Department of the Treasury is April 15th and follows the federal income tax due date guidance, which notes that if the tax due date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, the form is considered timely filed if filed on the next business day. An automatic 6-month extension is available. Electronic filing of the FBAR is mandatory using the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) e-filing system for the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). We**

**must receive a signed consent form from you prior to submitting the foreign reporting form. If we do not receive your signed authorization to file your foreign reporting form, we will not be able to file any of the required disclosure statements on your behalf.**

**Additionally, the IRS requires information reporting on foreign interests or activities under applicable IRC sections and related regulations, and the respective IRS tax forms are due when your income tax return is due, including extensions. The IRS reporting requirements are in addition to the U.S. Department of the Treasury reporting requirements stated above. Therefore, if you have any direct or indirect foreign interests that require disclosures to the IRS, you must provide us with the information necessary to prepare the applicable IRS forms.**

**Failure to timely file the appropriate forms with the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the IRS may result in substantial civil and/or criminal penalties. By your signature below, you agree to provide us with complete and accurate information regarding any foreign accounts that you and/or your entity may have had a direct or indirect interest in, or signature authority over, during the above referenced tax year. The foreign reporting requirements are very complex, so if you have any questions regarding the application of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and/or the IRS reporting requirements to your foreign interests or activities, please ask us for advice in that regard. We assume no liability for penalties associated with the failure to file or untimely filing of any of these forms.**

By your signature below, you understand and agree that you are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the records, documents, explanations, and other information provided to us for purposes of this engagement. You have the final responsibility for the income tax returns and, therefore, you should review them carefully before you sign them. You agree that our firm is not responsible for a taxing authority's disallowance of deductions or inadequately supported documentation, nor for resulting taxes, penalties, and interest.

This firm is responsible for preparing only the returns listed above. All other returns and forms are to be prepared by you or under separate written engagement letters.

Our fees are based on the time required by the individuals assigned to the engagement, plus direct expenses. Individual hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the skill required. Billings are due upon presentation. Billings become delinquent if not paid within 30 days of the invoice date. If billings are past due in excess of 30 days, at our election, we may stop all work until your account is brought current or withdraw from this engagement. The trustee acknowledges and agrees that we are not required to continue work in the event of your failure to pay on a timely basis for services rendered as required by this engagement letter. You further acknowledge and agree that in the event we stop work or withdraw from this engagement as a result of your failure to pay on a timely basis for services rendered as required by this engagement letter, we shall not be liable for any damages that occur as a result of our ceasing to render services.

In addition, in the event our firm or any of its employees or agents is called as a witness or requested to provide any information whether oral, written or electronic in any judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative hearing or trial regarding information or communications that you have provided to this firm, or any documents and workpapers prepared by Kirkey & Co. in accordance

with the terms of this agreement, you agree to pay any and all reasonable expenses including fees and costs for our time at the rates then in effect, as well as any legal or other fees that we incur as a result of such appearance or production of documents.

In connection with this engagement, we may communicate with you or others via email transmission. We take reasonable measures to secure your confidential information in our email transmissions. However, as emails can be intercepted and read, disclosed, or otherwise used or communicated by an unintended third party, or may not be delivered to each of the parties to whom they are directed and only to such parties, we cannot guarantee or warrant that emails from us will be properly delivered to and read only by the addressee. Therefore, we specifically disclaim and waive any liability or responsibility whatsoever for interception or unintentional disclosure or communication of email transmissions, or for the unauthorized use or failed delivery of emails transmitted by us in connection with the performance of this engagement. In that regard, you agree that we shall have no liability for any loss or damage to any person or entity resulting from the use of email transmissions, including any consequential, incidental, direct, indirect, or special damages, such as loss of sales or anticipated profits, or disclosure or communication of confidential or proprietary information.

We may from time to time and depending on the circumstances and nature of the services we are providing, share your confidential information with third-party service providers, some of whom may be cloud-based, but we remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality terms with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure appropriate confidentiality terms with a third-party service provider, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Although we will use our best efforts to make the sharing of your information with such third parties secure from unauthorized access, no completely secure system for electronic data transfer exists. As such, by your signature below, you understand that the firm makes no warranty, expressed or implied, on the security of electronic data transfers.

It is our policy to keep records related to this engagement for 7 years. However, Kirkey & Co. does not keep any original client records, so we will return those to you at the completion of the services rendered under this engagement. It is your responsibility to retain and protect your records (which includes any work product we provide to you as well as any records that we return) for possible future use, including potential examination by any government or regulatory agencies. Kirkey & Co. does not accept responsibility for hosting client information; therefore, you have the sole responsibility for ensuring you retain and maintain in your possession all your financial and non-financial information, data and records.

By your signature below, you acknowledge and agree that upon the expiration of the 7-year period, Kirkey & Co. shall be free to destroy our records related to this engagement.

If any dispute arises among the parties hereto, the parties agree to first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation administered by the American Arbitration Association under its EL 14<sup>th</sup> Ed.

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applicable rules for resolving professional accounting and related services disputes before resorting to litigation. The costs of any mediation proceeding shall be shared equally by all parties.

Trustee and accountant both agree that any dispute over fees charged by the accountant to the trustee will be submitted for resolution by arbitration in accordance with the applicable rules for resolving professional accounting and related services disputes of the American Arbitration Association, except that under all circumstances the arbitrator must follow the laws of Ohio. Such arbitration shall be binding and final. IN AGREEING TO ARBITRATION, WE BOTH ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IN THE EVENT OF A DISPUTE OVER FEES CHARGED BY THE ACCOUNTANT, EACH OF US IS GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO HAVE THE DISPUTE DECIDED IN A COURT OF LAW BEFORE A JUDGE OR JURY AND INSTEAD WE ARE ACCEPTING THE USE OF ARBITRATION FOR RESOLUTION. The prevailing party shall be entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection with the arbitration of the dispute in an amount to be determined by the arbitrator.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to you and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,

*David R. Kirkey, CPA, CFP*

David R. Kirkey, CPA, CFP  
Kirkey & Co., Inc. CPAs

I have read and understand the foregoing and agree to these terms.

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Trustee

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Date