DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20224

200247049

COMMISSIONER
TAX EXEMPT AND
GOVERNMENT ENTITIES
DIVISION

Index No. 9100.00-00

AUG 26 2002

T:EP:RA:T2

LEGEND:

Taxpayer A =

Taxpayer B =

IRA X =

IRA Y =

IRA Z =

Company M =

Sum O =

Sum P =

Dear

This letter is in response to a letter dated supplemented by additional correspondence dated and , submitted on your behalf by your authorized representative, in which you request relief under section 301.9100-3 of the Procedure and Administration Regulations (the "Regulations").

The following facts and representations have been submitted:

Taxpayer B maintained IRAs X and Y, individual retirement arrangements described in section 408 of the Internal Revenue Code, (the "Code"), with Company M. In year 2000, Taxpayer B converted IRAs X and Y into Roth IRA Z, also with Company M. The amount converted from IRA X to IRA Z was Sum O. The amount converted from IRA Y to IRA Z was Sum P.

Taxpayer A and B timely requested and were granted an extension of time, until October 15, 2001, to file their year 2000 individual income tax return. As Taxpayer A and B's federal income tax return was being prepared, it was determined that their joint gross income would exceed the $100,000 limit found in section 408A(c)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code. On October 15, 2001, Taxpayer B requested by telephone that Company M convert IRA Z back to traditional IRAs. Company M advised Taxpayer A that the funds could not be converted back into a traditional IRA because Taxpayer B had missed Company M's internal deadline of October 12 for such conversions. Taxpayer B was further advised that written instructions were required to process such request.

Taxpayer B subsequently provided written instructions to Company M requesting that the funds be recharacterized, however, Company M received such instructions on October 19, 2001, after the deadline for such recharacterization had passed.

Taxpayer A and Taxpayer B timely filed their combined federal income tax return for calendar year 2000. This request for relief under section 301.9100-3 of the Regulations was submitted prior to the Service's discovering Taxpayer B's ineligibility to convert IRAs X and Y into a Roth IRA or Taxpayer B's failure to recharacterize Roth IRA Z back to a traditional IRA.

Based on the above facts and representations, you request a ruling that, pursuant to section 301.9100-3 of the Regulations, Taxpayer B be granted a period of not more that six months from the date of this ruling letter to recharacterize Roth IRA Z to a traditional IRA.

With respect to your request for relief under section 301.9100-3 of the regulations, section 408A(d)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code and section 1.408A-5 of the Income Tax Regulations (the "I.T. Regulations") provide that, except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, a taxpayer may elect to recharacterize an IRA contribution made to one type of IRA as having been made to another type of IRA by making a trustee-to-trustee transfer of the IRA contribution, plus earnings to the other type of IRA. In a recharacterization, the IRA contribution is treated as having been made to the transferee IRA and not the transferor IRA. Under section 408A(d)(6) and section 1.408A-5, this recharacterization election generally must occur on or before the date prescribed by law, including extensions, for filing the taxpayer's federal income tax return for the year of the contribution.

Section 1.408A-5, Question and Answer-6 of the I.T. Regulations, describes how a taxpayer makes the election to recharacterize the IRA contribution. In order to recharacterize an amount that has been converted from a traditional IRA to a Roth IRA: (1) the taxpayer must notify the Roth IRA trustee of the taxpayer's intent to recharacterize the amount, (2) the taxpayer must provide the trustee (and the transferee trustee, if different from the transferor trustee) with specified information that is sufficient to effect the recharacterization, and (3) the trustee must make the transfer.

Code section 408A(c)(3), provides in relevant part, that an individual with adjusted gross income in excess of $100,000 for a taxable year is not permitted to make a qualified rollover contribution to a Roth IRA from an individual retirement plan other than a Roth IRA during that taxable year.

Section 1.408A-4, Question and Answer-2 of the I.T. Regulations, provides, in summary, that an individual with modified adjusted gross in excess of $100,000 for a taxable year is not permitted to convert an amount to a Roth IRA during a taxable year.

Section 301.9100-1, 301.9100-2, and 301.9100-3 of the Regulations provide guidance concerning requests for relief submitted to the Service on or after December 31, 1997. Section 301.9100-1(c) of the Regulations provides the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, in his discretion, may grant a reasonable extension of time fixed by a regulation, a revenue ruling, a revenue procedure, a notice, or an announcement published in the Internal Revenue Bulletin for the making of an election or application for relief in respect of tax under, among others, Subtitle A of the Code.

Section 301.9100-2 lists certain elections for which automatic extensions of time to file are granted. Section 301.9100-3 of the Regulations generally provides guidance with respect to the granting of relief with respect to those elections not referenced in section 310.9100-2. The relief requested in this case is not referenced in section 301-9100-2.

Section 301.9100-3 of the Regulations provides that applications for relief that fall within section 301.9100-3 will be granted when the taxpayer provides sufficient evidence (including affidavits described in section 301.9100-3(e)(2)) to establish that (1) the taxpayer acted reasonably and in good faith, and (2) granting relief would not prejudice the interests of the government.

Section 301.9100-3(b)(1) of the Regulations provides that a taxpayer will be deemed to have acted reasonably and in good faith (i) if its request for section 301.9100-1 relief is filed before the failure to make a timely election is discovered by the Service; (ii) if the taxpayer inadvertently failed to make the election because of intervening events beyond the taxpayer's control; (iii) if the taxpayer failed to make the election because, after exercising reasonable diligence, the taxpayer was unaware of the necessity for the election; (iv) the taxpayer reasonably relied upon written advice of the Service; or (v) the taxpayer reasonably relied on a qualified tax professional, including a tax professional employed by the taxpayer, and the tax professional failed to make, or advise the taxpayer to make, the election.

Section 301.9100-3(c)(1)(ii) of the Regulations provides that ordinarily the interests of the government will be treated as prejudiced and that ordinarily the Service will not grant relief when tax years that would have been affected by the election had it been timely made are closed by the statute of limitations before the taxpayer's receipt of a ruling granting relief under this section.

In this case, Taxpayers B was not eligible to convert traditional IRA X into Roth IRA Y since Taxpayer A's and B's combined modified adjusted gross income for 2000 exceeded $100,000. Taxpayers A and B timely filed their joint federal income tax return for calendar year 2000. Therefore, it is necessary to determine whether the taxpayers are eligible for relief under the provisions of section 301.9100-3 of the Regulations.

Taxpayer B was ineligible to convert her IRA X to Roth IRA Z since Taxpayer A's and Taxpayer B's combined adjusted gross income exceeded $100,000. However, Taxpayer B requested that her Roth IRA be recharacterized as a traditional non-Roth IRA but was unable to complete such recharacterization due to internal deadlines established by Company M as well as requirements that such requests be provided in writing. Upon realizing that she had been unable to complete the recharacterization in a timely manner, Taxpayer B requested an extension of time to perform the recharacterization. Calendar year 2000 is not a "closed" tax year.

With respect to your request for relief, we believe that, based on the information submitted and the representations contained herein, the requirements of sections 301.9100-1 and 301.9100-3 of the Regulations have been met, and that you have acted reasonably and in good faith with respect to making the election to recharacterize your Roth IRA Z as a traditional IRA.

Specifically, the Service has concluded that you have met the requirements of clauses (i) and (ii) of section 301.9100-3(b)(1) of the Regulations. Therefore, you are granted an extension of six months from the date of the issuance of this letter ruling to so recharacterize.

This ruling assumes that that the above IRAs qualify under section 408 of the Code at all relevant times.

No opinion is expressed as to the tax treatment of the transaction described herein under the provisions of any other section of either the Code or Regulations, which may be applicable thereto.

This letter is directed only to the taxpayer who requested it. Section 6110(k)(3) of the Code provides that it may not be used or cited as precedent.

Pursuant to a power of attorney on file with this office, a copy of this ruling letter is being sent to your authorized representative.

If you have any questions concerning this ruling, please contact [illegible] at [illegible]

Sincerely yours,

Joyce E. Floyd

Joyce E. Floyd, Manager
Employee Plans Technical Group 2
Tax Exempt and Government
Entities Division

Enclosures:
Deleted copy of ruling letter
Notice of Intention to Disclose

cc: