# TAX EXEMPT AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

# DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

1100 Commerce Street, MC 4920DAL Dallas, TX 75242

Date: July 11, 2019

DIVISION

Number: 202240020

Release Date: 10/7/2022

EIN: Person to Contact:

Telephone Number:

Identification Number:

UIL: 501.03-00

CERTIFIED MAIL - Return Receipt Requested LAST DAY FOR FILING A PETITION WITH THE TAX COURT:

Dear

This is a final determination that you do not qualify for exemption from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (the "Code") section 501(a) as an organization described in Code section 501(c)(3), effective

Your determination letter dated

is revoked.

Our adverse determination as to your exempt status was made for the following reasons:

You are not operated exclusively for exempt purposes within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3). You have not established that your activities exclusively serve a charitable class or further any purpose defined in section 501(c)(3). Furthermore, you are operated for substantial private purposes, including for the benefit of your officers, directors, and employees. Your net earnings inure to the benefit of private shareholders or individuals, such as your officers, directors, and employees. Furthermore, you are operated for substantial purposes that are illegal and contrary to public policy. Finally, it is determined that you have become inactive and that there have been no operations or regular financial activities conducted or planned. As such, you fail to meet the operational requirements for continued exemption under Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3).

Contributions to your organization are no longer deductible under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Organizations that are not exempt under section 501 generally are required to file federal income tax returns and pay tax, where applicable. For further instructions, forms, and information please visit www.irs.gov.

If you decide to contest this determination, you may file an action for declaratory judgment under the provisions of section 7428 of the Code in one of the following three venues: 1) United States Tax Court, 2) the United States Court of Federal Claims, or 3) the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. A petition or complaint in one of these three courts must be filed within 90 days from the date this determination was mailed to you. Please contact the clerk of the appropriate court for rules and the appropriate forms for filing petitions for declaratory judgment. Refer to the enclosed Publication 892 for additional information. You may write to the courts at the following addresses:

United States Tax Court 400 Second Street, NW Washington, DC 20217

U. S. Court of Federal Claims 717 Madison Place, NW Washington, DC 20005

U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia 333 Constitution Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20001

Processing of income tax returns and assessments of any taxes due will not be delayed if you file a petition for declaratory judgment under section 7428 of the Internal Revenue Code.

You may be eligible for help from the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS). TAS is an independent organization within the IRS that can help protect your taxpayer rights. TAS can offer you help if your tax problem is causing a hardship, or you've tried but haven't been able to resolve your problem with the IRS. If you qualify for TAS assistance, which is always free, TAS will do everything possible to help you. Visit www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov or call 1-877-777-4778.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the person whose name and telephone number are shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely yours,

maria Hack

Maria Hooke

Director, EO Examinations

**Enclosures:** 

**Publication 892** 



Date:

September 5, 2017

**Taxpayer Identification Number:** 

Form:

Tax year(s) ended:

Person to contact / ID number:

ID No.

Contact numbers:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Manager's name / ID number:

ID No.

Manager's contact number:

Phone Number:

Response due date:

### Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested

Dear

# Why you are receiving this letter

We propose to revoke your status as an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Code). Enclosed is our report of examination explaining the proposed action.

#### What you need to do if you agree

If you agree with our proposal, please sign the enclosed Form 6018, Consent to Proposed Action – Section 7428, and return it to the contact person at the address listed above (unless you have already provided us a signed Form 6018). We'll issue a final revocation letter determining that you aren't an organization described in section 501(c)(3).

After we issue the final revocation letter, we'll announce that your organization is no longer eligible for contributions deductible under section 170 of the Code.

#### If we don't hear from you

If you don't respond to this proposal within 30 calendar days from the date of this letter, we'll issue a final revocation letter. Failing to respond to this proposal will adversely impact your legal standing to seek a declaratory judgment because you failed to exhaust your administrative remedies.

#### Effect of revocation status

If you receive a final revocation letter, you'll be required to file federal income tax returns for the tax year(s) shown above as well as for subsequent tax years.

#### What you need to do if you disagree with the proposed revocation

If you disagree with our proposed revocation, you may request a meeting or telephone conference with the supervisor of the IRS contact identified in the heading of this letter. You also may file a protest with the

IRS Appeals office by submitting a written request to the contact person at the address listed above within 30 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Appeals office is independent of the Exempt Organizations division and resolves most disputes informally.

For your protest to be valid, it must contain certain specific information including a statement of the facts, the applicable law, and arguments in support of your position. For specific information needed for a valid protest, please refer to page one of the enclosed Publication 892, How to Appeal an IRS Decision on Tax-Exempt Status, and page six of the enclosed Publication 3498, The Examination Process. Publication 3498 also includes information on your rights as a taxpayer and the IRS collection process. Please note that Fast Track Mediation referred to in Publication 3498 generally doesn't apply after we issue this letter.

You also may request that we refer this matter for technical advice as explained in Publication 892. Please contact the individual identified on the first page of this letter if you are considering requesting technical advice. If we issue a determination letter to you based on a technical advice memorandum issued by the Exempt Organizations Rulings and Agreements office, no further IRS administrative appeal will be available to you.

# Contacting the Taxpayer Advocate Office is a taxpayer right

You have the right to contact the office of the Taxpayer Advocate. Their assistance isn't a substitute for established IRS procedures, such as the formal appeals process. The Taxpayer Advocate can't reverse a legally correct tax determination or extend the time you have (fixed by law) to file a petition in a United States court. They can, however, see that a tax matter that hasn't been resolved through normal channels gets prompt and proper handling. You may call toll-free 1-877-777-4778 and ask for Taxpayer Advocate assistance. If you prefer, you may contact your local Taxpayer Advocate at:

Internal Revenue Service
Office of the Taxpayer Advocate

#### For additional information

If you have any questions, please call the contact person at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter. If you write, please provide a telephone number and the most convenient time to call if we need to contact you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Maria Hooke

Director, EO Examinations

Enclosures: Report of Examination Form 6018 Publication 892 Publication 3498

Form <b>886-A</b>	Expla	anations of Items	Schedule number or exhibit
Name of Taxpayer		Tax Identification Number (last 4 digits)	Year/Period ended
Issues:  1. Whether Internal Revenue Code?	( ) c	ontinues to qualify for exemption und	der Section 501(c)(3) of the
Facts:			

# Articles of Incorporation

filed its original Articles of Incorporation in . Its original name at on the time of incorporation was . Article , shall be organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and activities as permitted by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue law), including, but not limited to the following purposes:

- 1. A supporting organization described in section 509(a)(3) of the code to support, benefit, perform the functions of and/or carry out the charitable purposes of ), a non-stock corporation described in sections 501(c)(3) and 501(a)(1) of the Code, the tax-exempt status of which has been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).
- 2. One or more charitable organizations described in sections 501(c)(3) and 501(a)(2) of the Code may be substituted for , conditioned solely upon the occurrence of one or more of the following:
  - 's loss of its federal tax-exempt status:
  - b. The substantial failure or abandonment of
    - ' charitable operations: or 's dissolution.

Article states that "No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, any director or officer of the Corporation or any other private person.

Article. lists the original Board of Directors as:

# By-Laws

filed its original By-Laws in , Secretary.

on

. The By-Laws were signed by

Form <b>886-A</b>	Expla	nations of Ite	ms		Schedule number or exhibit
Name of Taxpayer		Tax Identification No	umber (last 4 digits)	)	Year/Period ended
Corporation to inure	that "The Board of Director to the benefit of any direct lembers) of the By-Laws st of the Corporation.	or, officer, or oth		son or indiv	
orm , Applica	tion for Recognition of Exer	mption Under Se	ection 501(c)(3	) of the Inte	ernal Revenue Code
filed its Form , President.	with the	on		. It was	signed by
The Part II, question vere also directors	n continuation sheet state of	ed that	and	, list	ed directors of
received its init 509(a)(3).	tial Determination Letter on	ı	, granting	exempt st	atus under IRC
<u>form</u> did not file its F	Form for the tax year				
Operations					
Jnder the direction (	of , SF ), also d/b/a	R., created	its fundraising , ir		n,
' sole propose \ After expenses,	was to operate a fundraising gave virtually all funds it I	g call center in had raised to	as " ."	that so	olicits
was run by ndertaking -re oard members.	officer(s) since its incer lated functions during	•	•		rd members of so served as
s chief financial off art of jo	the chief financial officer of icer of at least from bb duties¹ at were to b regarding fundraisers' prog	through e the volunteer	. did no	ot pay	also served a salary because , and keep

	886-A	Exp	lanations of I	tems		Schedule number or ex	xhibit
Name of Taxpayer			Tax Identification	Tax Identification Number (last 4 digits)			
	as maintaine yees for bus		s on its compu	ters and has is	sued cr	edit cards to	
ra of \$	an a for	operation based in .		. Between	and	, raised a	total
	Cash Contribu	utions	Ending	Ending	Ending	Ending	
	Contributions Total cash cor	from Fundraising Activities ntributions					
	Noncash Conf	tr butions					
	The						
	Total noncash	contr butions		-	•	-	
other a	e period unde	•	ipproximately %) and fundrais	% of total e	(penditures. %).	excluding grants The remaining	
other a	e period unde	er examination, expo utside the , averaged a	pproximately	% of total exing expenses (	cpenditures.		
other a	e period undo assistance of penditures w Grants	er examination, expo utside the , averaged a	ipproximately %) and fundrais	% of total exing expenses (	(penditures. %).	The remaining	
other a	e period undenssistance of cenditures we Grants Grants or other	er examination, expo utside the , averaged a vere for administrative ( %	ipproximately %) and fundrais	% of total exing expenses (	(penditures. %).	The remaining	and % o
other a	e period undenssistance of cenditures were well as the center of the cen	er examination, expo utside the , averaged a vere for administrative ( %	ipproximately %) and fundrais	% of total exing expenses (	(penditures. %).	The remaining	
other a	e period undenssistance of cenditures we Grants Grants or other	er examination, exportside the averaged a vere for administrative ( 9	ipproximately %) and fundrais	% of total exing expenses (	(penditures. %).	The remaining	
other a	e period undo assistance of benditures we Grants Grants or other Payroll Total T Administrative,	er examination, exportside the averaged avere for administrative ( %) assist to gov or org in the	approximately 6) and fundrais  Ending	% of total exing expenses (	kpenditures. %). Ending	The remaining  Ending  ———————————————————————————————————	
other a	e period undensistance of cenditures were conditured with the conditure of the center	er examination, exportside the averaged avere for administrative ( %) assist to gov or org in the	ipproximately %) and fundrais	% of total exing expenses (	(penditures. %).	The remaining	

Form <b>886-A</b>				Schedule number or exhibit
	Expla	anations of Items		
Name of Taxpayer		Tax Identification Number (last 4	digits)	Year/Period ended
Gifts-In-Kind				
Noncash donations	s, noncash grants, and non-	cash goods are referred to	as "	"("").
•	receipt of donations. Fo re summarized below:	he examination period. S r the years through		d of Form are ash contributions
	Revenue Activity			
The				
	in an international progionally were originated from			goods that The goods from
charit accept goods and	profit brokers by paying anies are brokers that line u	ties, such as to hand	ping in, wareho s. These le the freight co	ousing, and shipping or are intended fo osts. By agreeing to
reported on it Stars Foundation o distributed the non		from		h donations from The rther reported that it
A review of The the		for that it released fo ns of non-cash contributio		tion revealed that
A review of claimed a total of \$		at it released for public ins atributions to	pection reveal	ed that

Form <b>886-A</b>	Explanations of Items	Schedule number or exhibit	
Name of Taxpayer	Tax Identification Number (last 4 digits)	Year/Period ended	

# The Federal Trade Commission Complaint

On	, the Federal Trade Commission, the Secretaries of State for all , and the filed a complaint against , and other associated charities and individuals,
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	The ( )  ., individually and in capacity as an officer or director of , individually and in capacity as an officer or director of , individually and in capacity as an officer or director of , individually and in capacity as an officer or director of , individually and in capacity as an officer or director of
in the and	of (FTC, States, and .v., et al., ) (The Complaint). The Complaint alleged that between and the other defendants collectively:
2. 3. 4. 5. 6.	( ) shipments.  Made misrepresentations about programs relating to

As a result of the complaint, was shut down and placed in receivership by and state charity regulators in .

#### Law:

IRC § 509(a)(3) excludes from the definition of "private foundation" those organizations which meet the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) thereof.

IRC § 509(a)(3)(A) provides that a section 509(a)(3) organization must be organized, and at all times thereafter operated, exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of one or more specified organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2). Section 509(a)(3)(A) describes the nature of the support or benefit which a section 509(a)(3) organization must provide to one or more section 509(a)(1) or (2) organizations.

Form <b>886-A</b>	Expla	Explanations of Items		Schedule number or exhibit
Name of Taxpayer		Tax Identification Number (las	t 4 digits)	Year/Period ended
			× .	

IRC §509(a)(3)(B) provides that a section 509(a)(3) organization must be operated, supervised, or controlled by or in connection with one or more organizations described in section 509(a)(1) or (2). Section 509(a)(3)(B) and paragraph (f) of this section describe the nature of the relationship which must exist between the section 509(a)(3) and section 509(a)(1) or (2) organizations. For purposes of section Link 509(a)(3)(B), paragraph (g) of this section defines "operated, supervised, or controlled by"; paragraph (h) of this section defines "supervised or controlled in connection with"; and paragraph (i) of this section defines "operated in connection with".

Reg §1.501(a)-4(b)(1) states that under subparagraph (A) of section 509(a)(3), in order to qualify as a supporting organization, an organization must be both organized and operated exclusively "for the benefit of, to perform the functions of, or to carry out the purposes of" (hereinafter referred to in this section as being organized and operated "to support or benefit") one or more specified publicly supported organizations. If an organization fails to meet either the organizational or the operational test, it cannot qualify as a supporting organization.

Reg §1.501(a)-4(e)(1) states that for the Permissible Beneficiaries portion of the Operational Test, a supporting organization will be regarded as "operated exclusively" to support one or more specified publicly supported organizations (hereinafter referred to as the "operational test") only if it engages solely in activities which support or benefit the specified publicly supported organizations. Such activities may include making payments to or for the use of, or providing services or facilities for, individual members of the charitable class benefited by the specified publicly supported organization. Similarly, an organization will be regarded as "operated exclusively" to support or benefit one or more specified publicly supported organizations even if it supports or benefits an organization, other than a private foundation, which is described in section 501(c)(3) and is operated, supervised, or controlled directly by or in connection with such publicly supported organizations. However, an organization will not be regarded as operated exclusively if any part of its activities is in furtherance of a purpose other than supporting or benefiting one or more specified publicly supported organizations.

Revenue Ruling 75-384, 1975-2 CB 204, (Jan. 01, 1975) states that as a matter of trust law, one of the main sources of the general law of charity, no trust can be created for a purpose which is illegal. The purpose is illegal if the trust property is to be used for an object which is in violation of the criminal law, or if the trust tends to induce the commission of crime, or if the accomplishment of the purpose is otherwise against public policy. IV Scott on Trusts Sec. 377 (3d ed. 1967). Thus, all charitable trusts (and by implication all charitable organizations, regardless of their form) are subject to the requirement that their purposes may not be illegal or contrary to public policy. See Revenue. Ruling 71-447, 1971-2 C.B. 230; Restatement (Second), Trusts (1959) Sec. 377, Comment (c).

Revenue Procedure 2016-5, 2016-1 I.R.B. 188, Section 12, states that a determination letter recognizing exemption may be revoked or modified: (1) by a notice to the taxpayer to whom the determination letter was issued. This Revenue Procedure further provides that the revocation or modification of a determination letter recognizing exemption may be retroactive if the organization omitted or misstated a material fact, operated in a manner materially different from that originally represented.

Form <b>886-A</b>	Explanations of Items	Schedule number or exhibit
Name of Taxpayer	Tax Identification Number (last 4 digits)	Year/Period ended
		·

# **Government's Position:**

# Issue 1

It is the Government's position that does not continue to qualify for exemption under Section 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. does not meet the operational test for exempt status under section 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code because has failed to establish that all of its activities were in furtherance of supporting or benefiting one or more specified publicly supported organizations.

# **Operations**

special project of the	( ), also	( ) in .	Under the direction	, started as a of
special project of the ( ), it split off fron president while also employed	n in late I at .	•		) served as its initial
sole propose was to op donations. After expenses,	erate a fundrai gave virtua	sing i lly all funds it had	n , I raised to as "	that solicited public ."
was run by officer undertaking -related func board members.				
was the chief fi as chief financial officer of part of job duties <sup>3</sup> president informed regarding t	at were to	be the volunteer	ved his salary from did not pay president of n	also served a salary because nanage, and keep
has maintained bo employees for business use⁴.	ooks and record	ds on its compute	ers and has issued	credit cards to
Between and , the after the fundraising co		otal of \$	for , and	received a total of \$
Noncash donations, noncash	grants, and nor	n-cash goods are	e referred to as "	" (" ").

7

Form <b>886-A</b>			Schedule number or exhibit
	Expla	anations of Items	
Name of Taxpayer		Tax Identification Number (last 4 digits)	Year/Period ended
was involved examination period years through	I. Schedules and of For	ram. reported receiving donation rm are used for reporting receipt of utions received by are summarized to	ons during the donations. For the pelow:
	Revenue Activity		
The			
Total R	evenue		
indicated on I		nat distributed internationally were or loods listed on the Forms were	riginated from The from
intended for international agreeing to accept	and non-profit  These companies are broke ational charities, and they ne	reported receiving and distributing internative by paying procurement, cost of shipping iters that line up gifts in kind with charities. Seed charities, such as to handle the costs, can credit these shipments costs.	n, warehousing, and These are the freight costs. By
	s Forms for the years of \$ in and \$ cash donations received to f	from in . It fur	donations from The ther reported that it
A review of The the		for that it released for public inspections of non-cash contributions in .	ion revealed that
A review of claimed a total of \$		at it released for public inspection reveale tributions to in	ed that
		he use of the non-cash goods, or maintaineds for the organization's IRC § 501(c)(3)	
fair market values	o ,		vusing the unverified ave reported the total
	by tax-exempt organizations blic and/or state agencies re	to provide information required by IRC sely on Form as the primary or sole so	

Form <b>886-A</b>	Explanations of Items	Schedule number or exhibit
Name of Taxpayer	Tax Identification Number (last 4 digits)	Year/Period ended

about a particular organization. How the public perceives an organization in such cases may be determined by the information presented on its return. Therefore, the return must be complete, accurate, and fully describe the organization's programs and accomplishments.

inaccurately by claiming fair market values of goods procured from brokers as filed Forms transactions represented a flow-through of dollar amounts that were paper non-cash donations. The transactions only. reported the fair market values of goods procured on Forms received and expenses paid. By reporting fair market values of goods procured as revenue. goods procured as incorrectly increased the revenue received. By reporting fair market values of decreased the overall percentage of administrative costs and substantialily offset its expenses. fundraising costs.

fails to meet IRC section 6033 of the Code which requires every organization exempt from taxation under 501(a) to file an annual return, stating specifically the items of gross income, receipts, and disbursements, and such other information for the purpose of carrying out the internal revenue laws.

The reported donations are not in keeping with Reg §1.501(a)-4(e)(1) that states that for the Permissible Beneficiaries portion of the Operational Test, a supporting organization will be regarded as "operated exclusively" to support one or more specified publicly supported organizations (hereinafter referred to as the "operational test") only if it engages solely in activities which support or benefit the specified publicly supported organizations. The purported shipping of goods internationally do not meet the Permissible Beneficiaries portion of the Operational Test, in that did not the donations do not engage solely in activities which support or benefit the specified publicly supported organizations.

#### The Federal Trade Commission Complaint

On	filed	, the Federal Trade Commission, the Secretaries of State for all states, and the dia complaint against and other associated charities and individuals,
1. 2. 3. 4.	The	.( ) ( ) ( ) individually and in capacity as an officer or director of , individually and in capacity as an officer or director of and
7.	of	., individually and in his capacity as an officer or director
in the and	,	for the District of ( , , and v. et al., Case (The Complaint). The Complaint alleged that between and the other defendants collectively:

Form <b>886-A</b>	Explanations of Items	Schedule number or exhibit
Name of Taxpayer	Tax Identification Number (last 4 digits	Year/Period ended

- 1. Made misrepresentations that contributions were for charitable purposes.
- 2. Made misrepresentations about Program Benefits.
- 3. Made misrepresentations about Revenue and Program Expenses related to International ( ) shipments.
- 4. Made misrepresentations about programs relating to International
- 5. Made false and misleading filings with State Charity Regulators.
- 6. Provided means and instrumentalities for telemarketers to deceive donors.
- 7. Assisted and facilitated telemarketing violations.

As a result of the Complaint,		into an ORDER APPOI	AND	
by the Inc., Liquidating Receiver ("Receiver") purposes of taking charge of necessary steps to wind down the paying all net assets to the and as an officer of on	with all the rights a property and as a affairs of , liq	and privileges of an equi sets (except for the uidating its assets, diss	ed that Receiver is appointed by t ity receiver over Policies), cond	his Court as for the lucting the lte existence, and
An ORDER FOR PERMANENT II the court. In the injunction, the co has consented to entry, the and to cease to exist as a corpora	ourt further ordered e Receiver sh	, AND that, pursuant to the all take the steps neces	wa Receivership sary to cause	to be dissolved
The findings by the court in conflict with express statutory resthis court decision, fails to make the organization's activities a	trictions of the leet Revenue Rulin	and all ( ) states	and the , (	. With ) requirements
As a result of the complaint, regulators in	was shut down an	d placed in receivership	by and sta	te charity
fails to meet Revenue Ruling determination of whether an organ the Code, the Service will rely on under section 501(c)(3) if:	nization's activities	are consistent with exe	mption under se	ction 501(c)(3) of

- (1) The purpose of the organization is charitable;
- (2) The activities are not illegal, contrary to a clearly defined and established public policy, or in conflict with express statutory restrictions; and

Form <b>886-A</b>	Explanations of Items	Schedule number or exhibit
Name of Taxpayer	Tax Identification Number (last 4 digits)	Year/Period ended

(3) The activities are in furtherance of the organization's exempt purpose and are reasonably related to the accomplishment of that purpose.

# **Summary:**

does not continue to qualify for exemption under Section 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. does not meet the operational test for exempt status under section 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code because has failed to establish that all of its activities were in furtherance of supporting or benefiting one or more specified publicly supported organizations.

fails to meet IRC section 6033 of the Code which requires every organization exempt from taxation under 501(a) to file an annual return, stating specifically the items of gross income, receipts, and disbursements, and such other information for the purpose of carrying out the internal revenue laws. As part of involvement in programs, caused its Forms to report inaccurate donations and expenditures not allowing members of the public and/or state agencies to receive accurate information about this organization.

In a suit filed by the	, the Secretaries of State for all	, and the
filed a complaint against statutes involvin	, was found to be in violation o and filing false reports to the	and all and the ne states. As a result of the
	into an Order Appointing Receiver Over order stated that the receiver was appointed	by the ed by this Court as Liquidating
Receiver for the purposes of taking of its corporate existence. The order was . The order effectively	harge of property and assets, liquid s signed by as an individual	ating its assets, and dissolving and as an officer of on

With the above facts taken into consideration, it is determined that back to the tax year ending , the beginning of the exempt status should be revoked investigation.