



Samuel, Sayward & Baler LLC
Smart Counsel, for Life

858 Washington Street, Suite 202
Dedham, MA 02026
P: 781-461-1020 F: 781-461-0916
www.ssblc.com

Fiduciary Income Tax Returns

Assets that a decedent owned and controlled may earn income after death while held by a Personal Representative or a Trustee. This income is reported on a fiduciary income tax return filed for the estate and/or trust by the fiduciary (Personal Representative or Trustee). These returns are due 4.5 months after the taxable period ends. These returns may cover a calendar year ending in December or a 12-month period starting from the date of death.

Subsequent fiduciary income tax returns are filed for estates or trusts administered beyond the initial year that have income.

Covers the year after death

Covers subsequent years after death

Personal Income Tax Returns

A personal representative files income tax returns for a decedent covering the period from January 1st of the year of a person's death to the date of death and any prior returns that were not filed. The decedent's final income tax return is due April 15th after the year of death.

Covers time prior to death

Estate Tax Return

If a decedent owns or controls \$2 million or more in assets at death including life insurance proceeds and retirement accounts, then a Massachusetts estate tax return must be filed. A Federal estate tax return must be filed if the decedent's assets exceed \$13.61 million (in 2024). Though assets left to charity or surviving spouses are not subject to tax, an estate tax return must still be filed. Massachusetts imposes estate tax at graduated rates from 4.6% to 16% (for estates of \$10 million or more in assets). The due date for the estate tax return is 9 months from a decedent's date of death.

Death and Tax Returns

Pre-death

Death

Post-death