## IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING ILLINOIS ESTATE TAX AND FACT SHEET

For decedents dying on and after January 1, 2003, an important change has occurred in the computation of the Illinois Estate Tax. Under the terms of P.A. 93-0030, signed by the Governor on June 20, 2003, the Illinois Estate Tax is no longer linked to the "allowable" State Death Tax Credit on the Federal Estate Tax Return. Instead, the Illinois Estate Tax for such decedents is the full amount which can be computed under the State Death Tax Credit Table (Table B of the instructions for the Federal Estate Tax Return, Form 706) without recognizing the reductions and eventual termination of the Credit contained in recent federal legislation.

Under this Federal Legislation enacted in 2001, the allowable Credit was reduced by 25% for 2002 decedents, by 50% for 2003 decedents, by 75% for 2004 decedents, and eliminated for decedents dying on or after January 1, 2005. The newly enacted Illinois amendments define the Illinois Estate Tax as the full amount which can be calculated without considering either the reductions or termination of the Credit. The Illinois Estate Tax will still follow the Federal "exemption equivalent" until the Federal exemption exceeds \$2 million. At that point for persons dying in 2009, the Illinois exemption will remain \$2 million. Under current Federal law, for persons dying in 2010, there will be no Illinois Estate Tax due to the complete repeal of the Federal Estate Tax; and for persons dying in 2011 or after, the Illinois Estate Tax will return to the system in effect before the Federal legislation enacted in 2001 as that 2001 law will "sunset".

The result of these changes is that for persons dying in 2003 and after, the total of the Federal and Illinois Estate Taxes will usually be <u>greater</u> than the "gross" Federal Tax before Credits other than the Unified Credit (Line 14 of the current Federal Estate Tax Return).

A few examples will help to clarify:

## <u>Ex. 1</u>

12-31-2002 decedent with estate of \$0 Illinois Tax less than \$1 million

1-1-2003 decedent with estate of \$0 Illinois Tax less than \$1 million

## Ex. 2

12-31-2002 decedent with estate of \$45,200 calculated from State Death \$1,200,000 Credit Tax Table

\$11,300 reduction under Federal amendment

\$33,900 State Death Tax Credit

\$33,900 Illinois Estate Tax

1-1-2003 decedent with estate of \$45,200 calculated from State Death \$1,200,000 Credit Tax Table \$22,600 reduction under Federal amendment \$22,600 State Death Tax Credit \$45,200 Illinois Estate Tax Ex. 3 12-31-2002 decedent with estate of \$37,400 calculated from State Death Credit Tax Table \$1,075,000 \$30,750 "gross" Federal Estate Tax \$9,350 reduction under Federal amendment \$28,050 State Death Tax Credit \$28,050 Illinois Estate Tax \$2,700 Federal Estate Tax 1-1-2003 decedent with estate of \$37,400 calculated from State Death \$1,075,000 Credit Tax Table \$30,750 "gross" Federal Estate Tax \$18,700 State Death Tax Credit \$30,750 Illinois Estate Tax \$12,050 Federal Estate Tax Ex. 4 12-31-2002 decedent with estate of \$35,440 calculated from State Death \$1,040,000 Credit Tax Table \$8,860 reduction under Federal amendment \$26,580 computed State Death Tax Credit \$16,400 "gross" Federal Estate Tax \$16,400 allowable State Death Tax Credit \$16,400 Illinois Estate Tax \$0 Federal Estate Tax 1-1-2003 decedent with estate of Same as above except reduction would be \$17,720 and computed credit would be \$17,720 \$1,040,000

For persons dying prior to January 1, 2003, the tax is based on the allowable State Death Tax Credit against the Federal Estate Tax. In general, the Federal Taxable Estate plus adjusted gifts must exceed the exemption equivalent before any Illinois tax can be due. The exemption equivalent is \$625,000 in 1998, increasing in steps each year to \$1,000,000 by 2002. The Federal Return should be completed first and the numbers may be simply carried to the Illinois Return.

The Illinois Attorney General administers the Illinois Estate Tax. The Illinois Estate Tax Return is Form 700 and is present in this site. The Return is filed with the County Treasurer and the Attorney General's Office. For residents of Illinois, the County of residence is the place of filing. The Return has a section for non-residents and is filed in the one County having the greatest value of Illinois property. For Cook, DuPage, Lake, and McHenry Counties, the Attorney General's copy along with a copy of the Federal Return are filed at Office of the Attorney General, Revenue Litigation Bureau - Estate Tax Section, 100 West Randolph Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60601. For all other counties, The Attorney General's copy along with a copy of the Federal Return are filed at Office of the Attorney General, Revenue Litigation Bureau - Estate Tax Section, 500 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706. Payment of all taxes, penalty and interest are made to the County Treasurer. The tax is due 9 months after death. Extensions are based on allowed Federal Extensions. Further filing and payment instructions are on the Return. A list of all County Treasurers with addresses is at this site.

If a Federal Tax is paid in installments, the Illinois Tax may be paid in installments. Form 4350 is a computation worksheet for installment payments. It is available at this site. Please note that "gross" values are used to determine the percentage subject to deferral; not adjusted values as on the Federal Return.

Illinois also has a Generation Skipping Tax and a section that applies to it is on the Form 700. The Tax is incurred when a State Credit is allowable against the Federal Generation Skipping Tax. This only occurs in an "indirect skip" situation.

Please contact the Estate Tax Section, Illinois Attorney General's Office with any questions or problems.

Estate Tax Section 100 West Randolph Street, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor Chicago, Illinois 60601 Telephone (312)814-2491 Estate Tax Section 500 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62701 Telephone: (217)524-5095

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