


NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS INSTITUTE


MASTER CLASS

The Complexity of Giving:

Expenditure Responsibility and the Individual Grant Rules



Jennifer Shipp
Heising-Simons Foundation
Los Altos, CA



Caroline Waldner
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Washington, DC

The University of Texas at Austin
School of Law

UT LAW CLE

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Overview of ER Requirements

- Section 4945 of the Internal Revenue Code imposes initial and additional taxes on “taxable expenditures” of a private foundation.
- “Taxable expenditures” include grants to organizations other than 509(a)(1) and 509(a)(2) public charities, certain 509(a)(3) supporting organizations, and exempt operating foundations unless the private foundation exercises expenditure responsibility/ER.
- Expenditure responsibility must be exercised for grants to:
 - Non-charitable organizations
 - Private foundations
 - Non-functionally integrated Type III supporting organizations and other supporting organizations where a disqualified person of the foundation controls the supporting organization or its supported organization(s)
 - Earmarked grantees that are one of the above

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Penalties for Failing to Comply with ER Requirements

■ First Tier Taxes:

- A 20% tax on the private foundation
- A 5% tax on management for knowing that it is a taxable expenditure
 - Requires management to be willful and for there to be reasonable cause

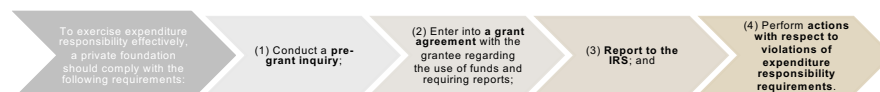
■ Second Tier Taxes:

- An additional 100% tax on the private foundation for failing to correct a taxable expenditure within the taxable period
- An additional 50% tax on management for failing to correct the taxable expenditure within the taxable period

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Overview of Expenditure Responsibility Requirements



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Pre-Grant Inquiry

- Private foundations should conduct a limited inquiry concerning the potential grantee before the grant is made.
- Inquiry should look at:
 - Identity;
 - Past history and experience;
 - Management;
 - Activities; and
 - Practices of the grantee organization.
- Such inquiry should be complete enough to give a reasonable person assurance that the grantee will use the grant for the proper purposes, and the foundation should maintain documentation of this process.

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Helpful Documents for a Pre-Grant Inquiry

- Potential grantee's formation documents
- Annual reports
- Audited financial statements
- Business plans
- Organizational charts
- A list of directors and officers
- Other documents or information related to the management, activities, and practices of the grantee in relation to the grant's purpose

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