

# Applying for and Maintaining Tax-Exempt Status

## **Michaela J. Cromer**

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (retired)  
Fort Worth, Texas  
michaela\_cromer@sbcglobal.net  
817.874.5617

## **Katy David**

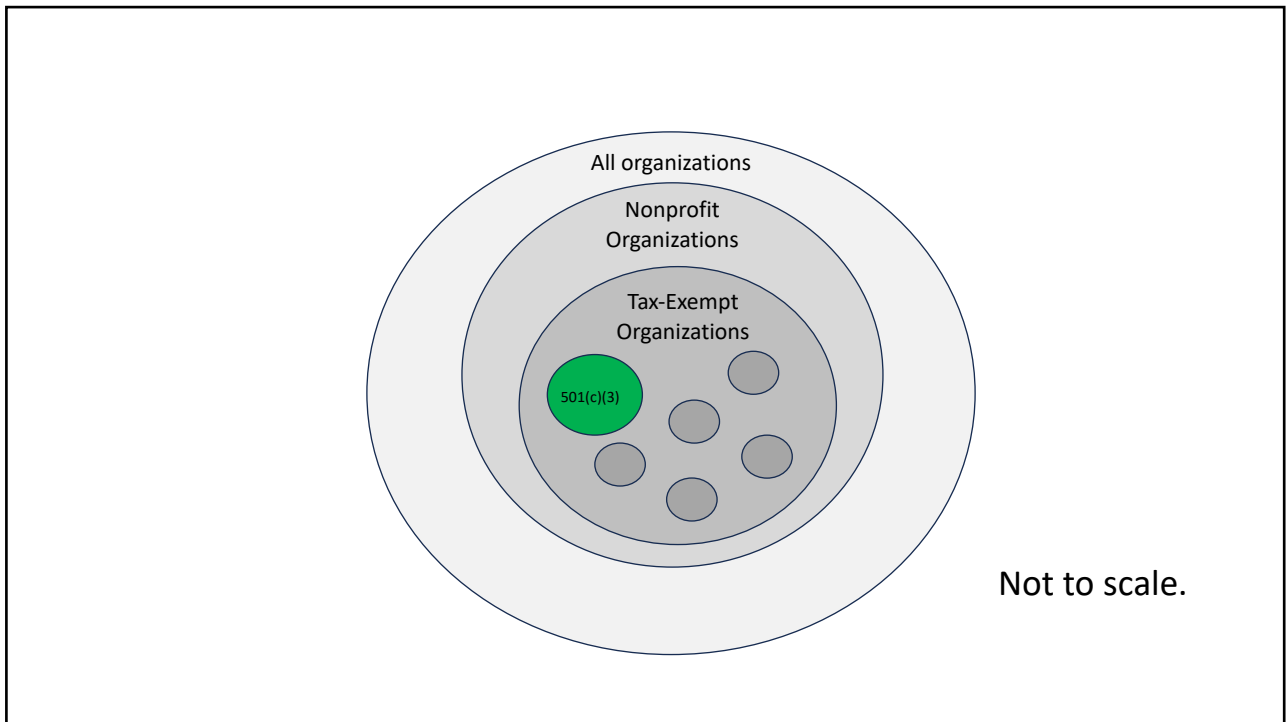
Step toe & Johnson PLLC  
San Antonio, Texas  
katy.david@step toe-johnson.com  
210.254.6885

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## Common Tax-Exempt Classifications

- **I.R.C. §501(c)(3).** Religious, charitable, scientific, literary, educational
- **I.R.C. §501(c)(4).** Civic leagues; social welfare organizations
- **I.R.C. §501(c)(6).** Business leagues; chambers of commerce
- **I.R.C. §501(c)(7).** Social or recreational clubs

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## Assumptions:

- Eligible state-law entity
- Purposes limited to those permitted for type of exemption sought
- Appropriate dissolution provision
- No anticipated private benefit or private inurement

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## Methods of Obtaining Recognition of Exempt Status

- Self-Declare (use is limited)
- Form 1023-EZ (use is limited)
- Form 1023

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## Pros and Cons of Self-Declaring

Considerations	PRO	CON
No Filing Fee	✓	
Immediate	✓	
“Non-intrusive”	✓	
Potential Donors/Stakeholders Cannot Confirm Organization’s Status		X
Organization Might be Uncertain about its Exempt Status		X
Missed Opportunity to Disclose Facts/Identify Barriers to Exemption		X
I.R.S. Use of Compliance Checks		X
No I.R.S. Determination Letter for State Tax Exemption		X

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[Answer Bar: How to Protect Your Nonprofit](#)

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