

191.12 LIMITATIONS.

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OH

Sheffield Lake

Codified Ordinances of Sheffield Lake, OH

191.12 LIMITATIONS.

CHAPTER 191 Earned Income Tax

191.10 SECOND MUNICIPALITY IMPOSING TAX AFTER TIME PERIOD ALLOWED FOR REFUND.

(A) Income tax that has been deposited with the City of Sheffield Lake, but should have been deposited with another municipality, is allowable by the City of Sheffield Lake as a refund but is subject to the three-year limitation on refunds.

(B) Income tax that was deposited with another municipality but should have been deposited

with the City of Sheffield Lake is subject to recovery by the City of Sheffield Lake. If the City of Sheffield Lake's tax on that income is imposed after the time period allowed for a refund of the tax or withholding paid to the other municipality, the City of Sheffield Lake shall allow a nonrefundable credit against the tax or withholding the City of Sheffield Lake claims is due with respect to such income or wages, equal to the tax or withholding paid to the first municipality with respect to such income or wages.

(C) If the City of Sheffield Lake's tax rate is less than the tax rate in the other municipality, then the nonrefundable credit shall be calculated using the City of Sheffield Lake's tax rate. However, if the City of Sheffield Lake's tax rate is greater than the tax rate in the other municipality, the tax due in excess of the nonrefundable credit is to be paid to the City of Sheffield Lake, along with any penalty and interest that accrued during the period of nonpayment.

(D) Nothing in this section permits any credit carryforward.

(Ord. 70-15. Passed 12-8-15.)

191.11 AMENDED RETURNS.

(A) (1) If a taxpayer's tax liability shown on the annual tax return for the City of Sheffield Lake changes as a result of an adjustment to the taxpayer's federal or state income tax return, the taxpayer shall file an amended return with the City of Sheffield Lake. The amended return shall be filed on a form required by the Tax Administrator.

(2) If a taxpayer intends to file an amended consolidated municipal income tax return, or to amend its type of return from a separate return to a consolidated return, based on the taxpayer's consolidated federal income tax return, the taxpayer shall notify the Tax Administrator before filing the amended return.

(B) (1) In the case of an underpayment, the amended return shall be accompanied by payment of any combined additional tax due, together with any penalty and interest thereon. If the combined tax shown to be due is ten dollars or less, no payment need be made. The amended return shall reopen those facts, figures, computations, or attachments from a previously filed return that are not affected, either directly or indirectly, by the adjustment to the taxpayer's federal or state income tax return only:

(a) To determine the amount of tax that would be due if all facts, figures, computations, and attachments were reopened; or,

(b) If the applicable statute of limitations for civil actions or prosecutions under Section 191.12 has not expired for a previously filed return.

(2) The additional tax to be paid shall not exceed the amount of tax that would be due if all facts, figures, computations, and attachments were reopened; i.e., the payment shall be the lesser of the two amounts.

(C) (1) In the case of an overpayment, a request for refund may be filed under this division within the period prescribed by division (D) of this section for filing the amended return, even if it is filed beyond the period prescribed in that division if it otherwise conforms to the requirements of that division. If the amount of the refund is less than ten dollars, no refund need be paid by the City of Sheffield Lake. A request filed under this division shall claim refund of overpayments resulting from alterations only to those facts, figures, computations, or attachments required in the taxpayer's annual return that are affected, either directly or indirectly, by the adjustment to the taxpayer's federal or state income tax return, unless it is also filed within the time prescribed in Section 191.09.

(2) The amount to be refunded shall not exceed the amount of refund that would be due if all facts, figures, computations, and attachments were reopened. All facts, figures, computations, and

attachments may be reopened to determine the refund amount due by inclusion of all facts, figures, computations, and attachments.

(D) Within 60 days after the final determination of any federal or state tax liability affecting the taxpayer's the City of Sheffield Lake's tax liability, that taxpayer shall make and file an amended the City of Sheffield Lake return showing income subject to the City of Sheffield Lake income tax based upon such final determination of federal or state tax liability. The taxpayer shall pay any additional the City of Sheffield Lake income tax shown due thereon or make a claim for refund of any overpayment, unless the tax or overpayment is less than ten dollars. (Ord. 42-23. Passed 11-28-23.)

191.12 LIMITATIONS.

(A) (1) (a) Civil actions to recover municipal income taxes and penalties and interest on municipal income taxes shall be brought within the later of:

- (i) Three years after the tax was due or the return was filed, whichever is later; or
- (ii) One year after the conclusion of the qualifying deferral period, if any.

(b) The time limit described in division (A)(1)(a) of this section may be extended at any time if both the Tax Administrator and the employer, agent of the employer, other payer, or taxpayer consent in writing to the extension. Any extension shall also extend for the same period of time the time limit described in division (C) of this section.

(2) As used in this section, "qualifying deferral period" means a period of time beginning and ending as follows:

(a) Beginning on the date a person who is aggrieved by an assessment files with the Board of Tax Review the request described in Section 191.21. That date shall not be affected by any subsequent decision, finding, or holding by any administrative body or court that the Board of Tax Review did not have jurisdiction to affirm, reverse, or modify the assessment or any part of that assessment.

(b) Ending the later of the sixtieth day after the date on which the final determination of the Board of Tax Review becomes final or, if any party appeals from the determination of the Board of Tax Review, the sixtieth day after the date on which the final determination of the Board of Tax Review is either ultimately affirmed in whole or in part or ultimately reversed and no further appeal of either that affirmation, in whole or in part, or that reversal is available or taken.

(B) Prosecutions for an offense made punishable under a resolution or ordinance imposing an income tax shall be commenced within three years after the commission of the offense, provided that in the case of fraud, failure to file a return, or the omission of twenty-five percent (25%) or more of income required to be reported, prosecutions may be commenced within six years after the commission of the offense.

(C) A claim for a refund of municipal income taxes shall be brought within the time limitation provided in Section 191.09.

(D) (1) Notwithstanding the fact that an appeal is pending, the petitioner may pay all or a portion of the assessment that is the subject of the appeal. The acceptance of a payment by the City of Sheffield Lake does not prejudice any claim for refund upon final determination of the appeal.

(2) If upon final determination of the appeal an error in the assessment is corrected by the Tax Administrator, upon an appeal so filed or pursuant to a final determination of the Board of Tax Review, of the Ohio board of tax appeals, or any court to which the decision of the Ohio board of tax appeals has been appealed, so that the resultant amount due is less than the amount paid, a refund will be paid in the amount of the overpayment as provided by Section 191.09, with interest

on that amount as provided by division (E) of Section 191.09.

(E) No civil action to recover the City of Sheffield Lake income tax or related penalties or interest shall be brought during either of the following time periods:

(1) The period during which a taxpayer has a right to appeal the imposition of that tax or interest or those penalties;

(2) The period during which an appeal related to the imposition of that tax or interest or those penalties is pending.

(Ord. 70-15. Passed 12-8-15.)

191.13 AUDITS.

(A) At or before the commencement of an audit, the Tax Administrator shall provide to the taxpayer a written description of the roles of the Tax Administrator and of the taxpayer during the audit and a statement of the taxpayer's rights, including any right to obtain a refund of an overpayment of a tax. At or before the commencement of an audit, the Tax Administrator shall inform the taxpayer when the audit is considered to have commenced.

(B) Except in cases involving suspected criminal activity, the Tax Administrator shall conduct an audit of a taxpayer during regular business hours and after providing reasonable notice to the taxpayer. A taxpayer who is unable to comply with a proposed time for an audit on the grounds that the proposed time would cause inconvenience or hardship must offer reasonable alternative dates for the audit.

(C) At all stages of an audit by the Tax Administrator, a taxpayer is entitled to be assisted or represented by an attorney, accountant, bookkeeper, or other tax practitioner. The Tax Administrator shall prescribe a form by which a taxpayer may designate such a person to assist or represent the taxpayer in the conduct of any proceedings resulting from actions by the Tax Administrator. If a taxpayer has not submitted such a form, the Tax Administrator may accept other evidence, as the Tax Administrator considers appropriate, that a person is the authorized representative of a taxpayer.

A taxpayer may refuse to answer any questions asked by the person conducting an audit until the taxpayer has an opportunity to consult with the taxpayer's attorney, accountant, bookkeeper, or other tax practitioner.

This division does not authorize the practice of law by a person who is not an attorney.

(D) A taxpayer may record, electronically or otherwise, the audit examination.

(E) The failure of the Tax Administrator to comply with a provision of this section shall neither excuse a taxpayer from payment of any taxes owed by the taxpayer nor cure any procedural defect in a taxpayer's case.

(F) If the Tax Administrator fails to substantially comply with the provisions of this section, the Tax Administrator, upon application by the taxpayer, shall excuse the taxpayer from penalties and interest. (Ord. 70-15. Passed 12-8-15.)

191.14 SERVICE OF ASSESSMENT.

(A) As used in this section:

(1) "Last known address" means the address the Tax Administrator has at the time a document is originally sent by certified mail, or any address the Tax Administrator can ascertain using reasonable means such as the use of a change of address service offered by the postal service or an authorized delivery service under Section 5703.056 of the ORC.

(2) "Undeliverable address" means an address to which the postal service or an authorized delivery service under Section 5703.056 of the ORC is not able to deliver an assessment of the Tax Administrator, except when the reason for nondelivery is because the addressee fails to

acknowledge or accept the assessment.

(B) Subject to division (C) of this section, a copy of each assessment shall be served upon the person affected thereby either by personal service, by certified mail, or by a delivery service authorized under Section 5703.056 of the ORC. With the permission of the person affected by an assessment, the Tax Administrator may deliver the assessment through alternative means as provided in this section, including, but not limited to, delivery by secure electronic mail.

(C) (1) (a) If certified mail is returned because of an undeliverable address, a Tax Administrator shall utilize reasonable means to ascertain a new last known address, including the use of a change of address service offered by the postal service or an authorized delivery service under Section 5703.056 of the ORC. If the Tax Administrator is unable to ascertain a new last known address, the assessment shall be sent by ordinary mail and considered served. If the ordinary mail is subsequently returned because of an undeliverable address, the assessment remains appealable within 60 days after the assessment's postmark.

(b) Once the Tax Administrator or other City of Sheffield Lake official, or the designee of either, serves an assessment on the person to whom the assessment is directed, the person may protest the ruling of that assessment by filing an appeal with the local board of tax review within 60 days after the receipt of service. The delivery of an assessment of the Tax Administrator under division (C)(1)(a) of this section is prima facie evidence that delivery is complete and that the assessment is served.

(2) If mailing of an assessment by a Tax Administrator by certified mail is returned for some cause other than an undeliverable address, the Tax Administrator shall resend the assessment by ordinary mail. The assessment shall show the date the Tax Administrator sends the assessment and include the following statement:

"This assessment is deemed to be served on the addressee under applicable law ten days from the date this assessment was mailed by the Tax Administrator as shown on the assessment, and all periods within which an appeal may be filed apply from and after that date."

Unless the mailing is returned because of an undeliverable address, the mailing of that information is prima facie evidence that delivery of the assessment was completed ten days after the Tax Administrator sent the assessment by ordinary mail and that the assessment was served.

If the ordinary mail is subsequently returned because of an undeliverable address, the Tax Administrator shall proceed under division (C)(1)(a) of this section. A person may challenge the presumption of delivery and service under this division in accordance with division (D) of this section.

(D) (1) A person disputing the presumption of delivery and service under division (C) of this section bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the address to which the assessment was sent by certified mail was not an address with which the person was associated at the time the Tax Administrator originally mailed the assessment. For the purposes of this section, a person is associated with an address at the time the Tax Administrator originally mailed the assessment if, at that time, the person was residing, receiving legal documents, or conducting business at the address; or if, before that time, the person had conducted business at the address and, when the assessment was mailed, the person's agent or the person's affiliate was conducting business at the address. For the purposes of this section, a person's affiliate is any other person that, at the time the assessment was mailed, owned or controlled at least 20 percent, as determined by voting rights, of the addressee's business.

(2) If a person elects to appeal an assessment on the basis described in division (D)(1) of this section, and if that assessment is subject to collection and is not otherwise appealable, the person

must do so within 60 days after the initial contact by the Tax Administrator or other the City of Sheffield Lake official, or the designee of either, with the person. Nothing in this division prevents the Tax Administrator or other official from entering into a compromise with the person if the person does not actually file such an appeal with the local board of tax review.

(E) Nothing in this section prohibits the Tax Administrator or the Tax Administrator's designee from delivering an assessment by a Tax Administrator by personal service.

(F) Collection actions taken upon any assessment being appealed under division (C)(1)(b) of this section, including those on which a claim has been delivered for collection, shall be stayed upon the pendency of an appeal under this section.

(G) Additional regulations as detailed in the Rules and Regulations shall apply.

(Ord. 70-15. Passed 12-8-15.)

191.15 ADMINISTRATION OF CLAIMS.

(A) As used in this section, "claim" means a claim for an amount payable to the City of Sheffield Lake that arises pursuant to the City of Sheffield Lake's income tax imposed in accordance with this Chapter.

(B) Nothing in this Chapter prohibits a Tax Administrator from doing either of the following if such action is in the best interests of the City of Sheffield Lake:

(1) Compromise a claim;

(2) Extend for a reasonable period the time for payment of a claim by agreeing to accept monthly or other periodic payments.

(C) The Tax Administrator's rejection of a compromise or payment-over-time agreement proposed by a person with respect to a claim shall not be appealable.

(D) A compromise or payment-over-time agreement with respect to a claim shall be binding upon and shall be to the benefit of only the parties to the compromise or agreement, and shall not eliminate or otherwise affect the liability of any other person.

(E) A compromise or payment-over-time agreement with respect to a claim shall be void if the taxpayer defaults under the compromise or agreement or if the compromise or agreement was obtained by fraud or by misrepresentation of a material fact. Any amount that was due before the compromise or agreement and that is unpaid shall remain due, and any penalties or interest that would have accrued in the absence of the compromise or agreement shall continue to accrue and be due. (Ord. 70-15. Passed 12-8-15.)

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