

SS-8 Determination—Determination for Public Inspection

Occupation 02OFF.11 OfficeWorker	Determination: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employee <input type="checkbox"/> Contractor
UILC	Third Party Communication: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Facts of Case

The firm is in the business of juice products. The worker provided her services to the firm both as a secretary and in sales for the tax years 2009 through 2011 and received the Forms 1099-MISC for these services.

The firm's owner trained and instructed the worker in office and sales, to do all the tasks the job required. The worker received her assignments from the firm's owner and the owner determined the methods by which the assignments were performed. The firm added that the worker received her assignments from the firm, their customers, sometimes the firm's vendors, and the firm along with the worker determined the methods by which the assignments were performed. The worker stated that if problems or complaints arose the worker was required to contact the firm's owner and the owner was responsible for problem resolution. The firm expressed that if problems or complaints arose, the firm, firm's customer or vendor was responsible for problem resolution. The worker had a set schedule working Monday through Friday beginning her day at 7:30AM and finishing her day at 2:30PM. She provided her services personally on the firm's premises. The firm reported that the worker provided her services personally in her home 100% of the time. The worker stated that the firm held meetings during office hours. If additional help was required, the firm hired and compensated the helpers.

The firm provided all the necessary office supplies and equipment the worker needed to provide her services. The worker did not lease any equipment nor were any business expenses incurred in the performance of her services. She received an hourly wage for her services. The firm indicated that the worker received a salary and an hourly wage for her services. The firm's customers paid the firm for the services the worker provided. The worker did not assume any financial risk in the relationship. The firm indicated that they established the level of payment for the services the worker provided.

The worker stated that the firm provided the worker with paid holidays. The firm stated that the worker was provided bonuses. The worker did not perform similar services to others during the same time period. The firm added that the worker did perform similar services to others during the same time period. She provided her services under the firm's business name. Both parties retained the right to terminate the relationship without incurring liability. In fact, the worker maintains that the relationship ended when she was fired. The firm contends that the worker quit.

Analysis

The application of the three categories of common law evidence to the available facts of the relationship indicates that the firm retained the right to direct and control the worker in the performance of her services. Accordingly, the worker was an employee of the firm for purposes of Federal employment taxes.

Worker status is not something to be selected by either the firm or the worker. Worker status is determined by the examination of the actual working relationship as applied to Internal Revenue Service code.

Hence, to clarify the Federal Government's position on worker status, we will be determining this case based on their common law practices in which the actual relationship between the parties is the controlling factor.

The firm instructed the worker regarding the performance of her services. A worker who is required to comply with another person's instructions about when, where, and how he or she is to work is ordinarily an employee. This control factor is present if the person or persons for whom the services are performed have the right to require compliance with instructions. Some employees may work without receiving instructions because they are highly proficient and conscientious workers or because the duties are so simple or familiar to them. Furthermore, the instructions, that show how to reach the desired results, may have been oral and given only once at the beginning of the relationship. The firm retained the right, if necessary to protect their business interest, to determine or change the methods used by the worker to perform her assignments. Integration of the worker's services into the business operations generally shows that the worker is subject to direction and control. When the success or continuation of a business depends to an appreciable degree upon the performance of certain services, the workers who perform those services must necessarily be subject to a certain amount of control by the owner of the business. The facts show that the worker was subject to certain restraints and conditions that were indicative of the firm's control over the worker. The establishment of set hours of work by the person or persons for whom the services are performed is a factor indicating control. If the nature of the occupation makes fixed hours impractical, a requirement that workers be on the job at certain times is an element of control. The worker had a continuous relationship with the firm as opposed to a single transaction. A continuing relationship between the worker and the person or persons for whom the services are performed indicates that an employer-employee relationship exists. A continuing relationship may exist where work is performed in frequently recurring although irregular intervals. The worker rendered her services personally. If the services must be rendered personally, presumably the person or persons for whom the services are performed are interested in the methods used to accomplish the work as well as in the results. The worker's services were under the firm's supervision.

The firm provided the worker with the necessary equipment and materials. The fact that the person or persons for whom the services are performed furnish significant tools, materials, and other equipment tends to show the existence of an employer-employee relationship. Her pay was based on an hourly rate. Payment by the hour, week, or month generally points to an employer-employee relationship, provided that this method of payment is not just a convenient way of paying a lump sum agreed upon as the cost of a job. In such instances, the firm assumes the hazard that the services of the worker will be proportionate to the regular payments. This action warrants the assumption that, to protect its investment, the firm has the right to direct and control the performance of the workers. Also, workers are assumed to be employees if they are guaranteed a minimum salary or are given a drawing account of a specified amount that need not be repaid when it exceeds earnings. The worker submitted an e-mail dated December 14, 2009 from the firm stating that they will not be giving the worker a bonus for that year. Additionally, the letter stated how much the worker was appreciated, and the firm is not only thankful to have the worker as an employee, but as her best friend. The worker could not have incurred a loss in the performance of her services for the firm, and did not have any financial investment in a business related to the services performed.

The worker worked under the firm's name, and her work was integral to the firm's business operation. The above facts do not reflect a business presence for the worker, but rather, strongly reflect the firm's business. If a worker performs more than de minimis services for a multiple of unrelated persons or firms at the same time, that factor generally indicates that the worker is an independent contractor. However, it is possible for a person to work for a number of people or firms concurrently and be an employee of one or all of them. Either the firm or the worker could terminate the agreement.

Based on the common-law principles, the firm had the right to direct and control the worker. The worker shall be found to be an employee for Federal tax purposes.