

BEFORE THE TAX COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

In the Matter of the Protest of)
[Redacted],) DOCKET NO. 25699
)
)
Petitioner.) DECISION
)
_____)

This case arises from a timely protest by [Redacted] (Petitioner) of a State Tax Commission (Commission) staff's decision adjusting a property tax reduction benefit for 2011. The Commission has reviewed the file and makes its decision based on the contents in the file.

All property within the jurisdiction of this state is subject to property tax. A property tax reduction benefit is available to certain qualifying individuals. The benefit is in the form of a payment of all or a portion of the applicant's property tax on the dwelling he/she owns and occupies. The payment is funded by state sales tax. The amount of the property tax reduction depends on income--the greater the income, the smaller the benefit.

The petitioner filed an application for a property tax reduction benefit with [Redacted] County. The application was approved, and the petitioner received a benefit for payment of the property tax on his homestead.

Idaho Code §§ 63-707 and 63-708 provide for an audit of all claims and the recovery of benefits that have been paid in error. During review of that application, and records available to the Commission, the staff discovered income that had not been included in the application. The omitted income was from interest and dividends received along with the capital gains from the sale of stock.

The petitioner was asked to provide additional documentation related to the stock sales that resulted in the capital gains reported to him on Form 1099-B. The petitioner did not respond

and a Notice of Deficiency Determination (NODD) was issued on March 12, 2013, asking the petitioner to repay the benefit received plus interest. In response to the NODD, the petitioner submitted payment in full of the amount due shown on the NODD along with a letter stating that, “Everyone knows a cost basis of zero is absurd.” He also stated in the letter that he does not keep records of transactions for more than a year and has no proof of his basis in the stocks sold. The file was transferred to the Legal/Tax Policy Division for administrative review.

Income for property tax reduction benefit purposes is defined in Idaho Code § 63-701(5):

(5) “Income” means the sum of federal adjusted gross income as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in section 63-3004, Idaho Code, and to the extent not already included in federal adjusted gross income:

- (a) Alimony;
- (b) Support money;
- (c) Nontaxable strike benefits;
- (d) The nontaxable amount of any individual retirement account, pension or annuity, (including railroad retirement benefits, all payments received under the federal social security act except the social security death benefit as specified in this subsection, state unemployment insurance laws, and veterans disability pensions and compensation, excluding any return of principal paid by the recipient of an annuity and excluding rollovers as provided in section 402 or 403 of the Internal Revenue Code);
- (e) Nontaxable interest received from the federal government or any of its instrumentalities or a state government or any of its instrumentalities;
- (f) Worker’s compensation; and
- (g) The gross amount of loss of earnings insurance.

It does not include gifts from nongovernmental sources or inheritances. To the extent not reimbursed, the cost of medical care as defined in section 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, incurred or paid by the claimant and, if married, the claimant’s spouse, may be deducted from income. To the extent not reimbursed, personal funeral expenses, including prepaid funeral expenses and premiums on funeral insurance, of the claimant and claimant’s spouse only, may be deducted from income up to an annual maximum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per claim. “Income” does not include veterans disability pensions received by a person described in subsection (1)(e) who is a claimant or a claimant’s spouse if the disability pension is received pursuant to a service-connected disability of a degree of forty percent (40%) or more. “Income” does not include dependency and indemnity compensation or death benefits paid to a person described in subsection (1) of this section by the United States department of veterans affairs and arising from a service-connected death or disability. “Income” does not include lump sum death benefits made by the social security administration

pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 402(i). Documentation of medical expenses may be required by the county assessor, board of equalization and state tax commission in such form as the county assessor, board of equalization or state tax commission shall determine. "Income" shall be that received in the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which a claim is filed. Where a claimant and/or the claimant's spouse does not file a federal tax return, the claimant's and/or the claimant's spouse's federal adjusted gross income, for purposes of this section, shall be an income equivalent to federal adjusted gross income had the claimant and/or the claimant's spouse filed a federal tax return, as determined by the county assessor. The county assessor, board of equalization or state tax commission may require documentation of income in such form as each shall determine, including, but not limited to: copies of federal or state tax returns and any attachments thereto; and income reporting forms such as the W2 and 1099.

In the present case, the petitioner included on the application, social security income for both him and his spouse of \$10,913, wages in the amount of \$4,411, and medical expenses in the amount of \$1,157, the result being a net household income for the petitioner of \$14,167. When the \$33,326 in capital gains and \$2,878 of interest income is added to the household income shown on the application, the resulting net income for property tax reduction benefit purposes is \$50,371. The petitioner's 2010 income for the purpose of the property tax reduction benefit exceeds the \$28,000 maximum income allowed for a minimum 2011 property tax reduction benefit. The petitioner must be denied the benefit.

THEREFORE, the Notice of Deficiency Determination dated April 13, 2009, is hereby AFFIRMED and MADE FINAL.

The petitioner has paid the amount due shown on the Deficiency; therefore, no demand for payment is made or necessary.

An explanation of the petitioner's right to appeal this decision is enclosed.

DATED this _____ day of _____ 2013.

IDAHO STATE TAX COMMISSION

COMMISSIONER

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this _____ day of _____ 2013, a copy of the within and foregoing DECISION was served by sending the same by United States mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to:

[Redacted]

Receipt No.
