

**86.2(8) Mandatory due date—return on a future property interest.**

a. *For estates of decedents dying prior to July 1, 1984.* Rescinded IAB 10/13/93, effective 11/17/93.

b. *Mandatory due date—return on a future property interest for estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1981.* Unless the tax due on a future property interest has been paid under the provisions of subrule 86.2(7), paragraphs “a” and “b,” the tax due must be paid on or before the last day of the ninth month following the termination of the prior estate. The statute does not provide for an extension of the mandatory due date for payment of the tax.

**86.2(9) Extension of time—return and payment.** For estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1984, the department may grant an extension of time to file an inheritance tax return on an annual basis. To be eligible for an extension, an application for an extension of time must be filed with the department on a form prescribed or approved by the director. The application for extension must be filed with the department prior to the time the tax is due and an estimated payment of 90 percent of the tax due must accompany the application—see Iowa Code section 421.27 and rule 701—10.85(422). An extension of time to pay the tax due may be granted in the case of hardship. However, for extensions to be granted, the request must include evidence of the hardship—see 701—Chapter 10. An extension of time to file cannot be extended for a period of time longer than ten years after the last day of the month in which the death of the decedent occurs.

**86.2(10) Discount.** There is no discount allowed for early payment of the tax due.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 421.14, 450.4 as amended by 2001 Iowa Acts, Senate File 523, section 1, 450.5, 450.6, 450.9, 450.22, 450.44, 450.46, 450.47, 450.51, 450.52, 450.53, 450.63, and 450.94.

**701—86.3(450) Audits, assessments and refunds.**

**86.3(1) Audits.** Upon filing of the inheritance tax return, the department must audit and examine it and determine the correct tax due. A copy of the federal estate tax return must be filed with the inheritance tax return in those estates where federal law requires the filing of a federal estate tax return. The department may request the submission of wills, trust instruments, contracts of sale, deeds, appraisals, and such other information as may reasonably be necessary to establish the correct tax due. See Iowa Code sections 450.66 and 450.67 and *Tiffany v. County Board of Review*, 188 N.W.2d 343, 349 (Iowa 1971). For taxpayers using an electronic data interchange process or technology also see 701—subrule 11.4(4). The person or persons liable for the payment of the tax imposed by Iowa Code chapter 450 shall keep the records relating to the gross and net estate required for federal estate tax purposes under 26 U.S.C. Section 6001 of the Internal Revenue Code and federal regulation Section 20.6001-1.

**86.3(2) Assessments for additional tax.** The taxpayer must file an inheritance tax return on forms prescribed by the director on or before the last day of the ninth month after the death of the decedent. When an inheritance tax return is filed, the department shall examine it and determine the correct amount of tax. If the amount paid is less than the correct amount due, the department must notify the taxpayer of the total amount due together with any penalty and interest which shall be a sum certain if paid on or before the last day of the month in which the notice is postmarked or on or before the last day of the following month if the notice is postmarked after the twentieth day of a month and before the last day of the following month. For estates with decedents dying on or after July 1, 1999, the date of the notice and not the postmark date is controlling. If the inheritance tax return is not filed within the time prescribed by law, taking into consideration any extensions of time, or the return as filed is not correct, the department may make an assessment for the tax and any penalty and interest due based on the inventories, wills, trust instruments, and other information necessary to ascertain the correct tax. For interest and penalty rate information, see 701—Chapter 10.

**86.3(3) Refunds.** If the examination and audit of the inheritance tax return discloses an overpayment of tax, the department will refund the excess to the taxpayer. See 701—Chapter 10 for the statutory interest rate commencing on or after January 1, 1982. For estates of decedents dying prior to January 1, 1988, interest shall be computed for a period beginning 60 days from the date of the payment to be refunded. For estates of decedents dying on or after January 1, 1988, interest must be computed for a period beginning the first day of the second calendar month following the date of payment, or the date upon which the return which sets out the refunded payment was actually filed, or the date that return was due to be filed, whichever date is the latest. For the purposes of computing the period, each fraction of a month counts as an entire month. If the taxpayer, after the tax has been paid, discovers additional liabilities which, when offset by any additional assets results in an overpayment of the tax, the excess payment will be refunded to the taxpayer upon filing with the department an amended inheritance tax return claiming a refund. No refund for excessive tax paid shall be made by the department unless an amended return is filed with the department within three years (five years for estates of decedents dying prior to July 1, 1984) after the tax payment upon which the claim is made became due, or one year after the tax was paid, whichever time is the later—see Iowa Code section 450.94(3).

**86.3(4) Supplemental assessments and refund adjustments.** The department may, at any time within the period prescribed for assessment or refund adjustment, make a supplemental assessment or refund adjustment whenever it is ascertained that any assessment or refund adjustment is imperfect or incomplete in any respect.

If an assessment or refund adjustment is appealed (protested under rule 701—7.41(17A)) and is resolved whether by informal proceedings or by adjudication, the department and the taxpayer are precluded from making a supplemental assessment or refund adjustment concerning the same issue involved in such appeal for the same tax period unless there is a showing of mathematical or clerical error or a showing of fraud or misrepresentation.

**86.3(5) Assessments—period of limitations.** Effective for estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1984, assessments for additional tax due must be made within the following periods of time:

a. Within three years after the return is filed for property reported to the department on the return. The three-year period of limitation does not begin until the return is filed. The time of the decedent's death is not relevant. For purposes of determining the period of limitations, the assessment period shall terminate on the same day of the month three years later which corresponds to the day and month the return was filed. If there is no numerically corresponding day three years after the return is filed, or if the expiration date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the assessment period expires the preceding day in case there is no corresponding day, or the next day following which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

b. The period of time for making an assessment for additional tax is unlimited if a return is not filed with the department.

c. If a return is filed with the department, but property which is subject to taxation is omitted from the return, the three-year period for making an assessment for additional tax on the omitted property does not begin until the omitted property is reported to the department on an amended return. The omission of property from the return only extends the period of limitations for making an assessment for additional tax against the beneficiary, surviving joint tenant, or transferee whose share is increased by the omitted property. Other shares of the estate are not affected by the extended assessment period due to the omitted property. The inheritance tax is a separate succession tax on each share of the estate, not on the estate as a whole. *In re Estate of Stone*, 132 Iowa 136, 109 N.W. 455 (1906).

**86.3(6)** *Period of limitations—federal audits.*

*a. Statute of limitations and federal audits in general.* In the case of a federal audit, the department, notwithstanding the normal three-year audit period specified in Iowa Code paragraphs 450.94(5) “a” and “b,” shall have an additional six-month period for examination of the inheritance tax return to determine the correct tax due and for making an assessment for additional tax that may be due.

The additional six-month period begins on the date the taxpayer performs two affirmative acts: (1) notifies the department, and the department receives such a notification, in writing, that all controversies with the Internal Revenue Service concerning the federal estate, gift, and generation skipping transfer taxes have been concluded and (2) submits to the department a copy of the federal audit, closing statement, court decision, or any other relevant federal document concerning the concluded controversy. The additional six-month examination period does not begin until both of the acts are performed. See Iowa Code sections 622.105 and 622.106 for the mailing date as constituting the filing date and Iowa Code section 4.1(34) and *Emmetsburg Ready Mix Co. v. Norris*, 362 N.W.2d 498 (Iowa 1985) when the due date falls on a legal holiday.

*b. Statute of limitations regarding federal audits involving real estate.*

(1) In general. Effective for estates with decedents dying on or after July 1, 1999, in addition to the period of limitation for examination and determination, the department shall make an examination to adjust the value of real property for Iowa inheritance tax purposes to the value accepted by the Internal Revenue Service for federal estate tax purposes. The department shall have an additional six months to make an examination and adjustment for the value of the real property.

(2) Beginning of the additional six-month period. The additional six-month period for assessment and adjustment begins on the date the taxpayer performs two affirmative acts: (a) notifies the department, in writing, that all controversies with the Internal Revenue Service concerning the federal estate, gift, and generation skipping transfer taxes have been concluded and (b) submits to the department a copy of the federal audit, closing statement, court decision, or any other relevant federal document. Such documents must indicate the final federal determination and final audit adjustments of all real property.

(3) Adjustment required. The department must make an adjustment to the value of real property for inheritance tax purposes to the value accepted for federal estate tax purposes regardless of whether any of the following have occurred: an inheritance tax clearance has been issued; an appraisal has been obtained on the real property indicating a contrary value; there has been an acceptance of another value for real property by the department; an agreement has been entered into by the department and the personal representative for the estate and persons having an interest in the real property regarding the value of the real property.

(4) Refunds. Despite the time period for refunds set forth in Iowa Code section 450.94(3), the personal representative for the estate has six months from the day of final disposition of any real property valuation matter between the personal representative for the estate and the Internal Revenue Service to claim a refund from the department of an overpayment of tax due to the change in the valuation of real property by the Internal Revenue Service.

c. *Effect of additional time periods.* The additional six-month audit period set forth in “a” and “b” under this subrule does not limit or shorten the normal three-year examination period. As a result, a six-month additional examination period has no application if the additional six-month examination period would expire during the normal three-year audit period. If additional tax is found to be due, see paragraph 86.12(5) “b” for the inheritance tax lien filing requirements for securing the additional tax after an inheritance tax clearance has been issued. The six-month additional examination period means the department shall have at least six months to examine the return after the notification. The department will have more time if the normal three-year examination period expires after the six-month additional period for examination. After the expiration of the normal three-year examination period, and absent an agreement to the contrary, the six-month extension of the statute of limitations for assessing Iowa inheritance tax based on federal audit adjustments for real property is limited to federal audit adjustments that directly affect Iowa inheritance tax and involve Iowa inheritance tax laws that incorporate Internal Revenue Code provisions. See Iowa Code section 450.94(5), 701—86.9(450) and 701—86.12(450), and *Kelly-Springfield Tire Co. v. Iowa Board of Tax Review*, 414 N.W.2d 113 (Iowa 1987).

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 422.25 and 422.30; section 450.37 as amended by 1999 Iowa Acts, chapter 151, section 47; and Iowa Code sections 450.53, 450.65, 450.71, 450.94, 450A.12 and 451.12.

**701—86.4(450) Appeals.** A determination made by the department of either the correct amount of the tax due, or the amount of refund for excessive tax paid, shall be final unless the taxpayer, or any other party aggrieved by the determination, appeals to the director for a revision of the department’s determination. For notices of assessment issued on or after January 1, 1995, the department will consider a protest to be timely filed if filed no later than 60 days following the date of assessment notice or, if a taxpayer failed to timely appeal a notice of assessment, the taxpayer may make a payment pursuant to rule 701—7.8(17A) and file a refund claim within the period provided by law for filing such claims. In the event of an appeal, the provisions of 701—Chapter 7 of the department’s rules of practice and procedure before the department of revenue and finance and Iowa Code chapter 17A shall apply.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 17A and section 450.94.

**701—86.5(450) Gross estate.**

**86.5(1) Iowa real and tangible personal property.** Real estate and tangible personal property with a situs in the state of Iowa and in which the decedent had an interest at the time of death is includable in the gross estate regardless of whether the decedent was a resident of Iowa. It is immaterial whether the property, or interest, is owned singly, jointly, or in common. Certain other real and tangible personal property with a situs in the state of Iowa in which the decedent did not have an interest at death may also be part of the gross estate for tax purposes. Examples of such property transfers include, but are not limited to, transfers of real estate in which the grantor retained a life estate, life interest, interest or the power of revocation, property or interest in property in trust, and gifts made within three years of death in excess of the federal gift tax exclusion. These constitute transfers of property in which the decedent may not have an interest at death, but are includable in the gross estate for inheritance tax purposes. *In re Dieleman’s Estate v. Dept. of Revenue*, 222 N.W.2d 459 (Iowa 1974); *In re English’s Estate*, 206 N.W.2d 305 (Iowa 1973); and *Lincoln’s Estate v. Briggs*, 199 N.W.2d 337 (Iowa 1972).

**86.5(2) Foreign real estate and tangible personal property.** Real estate and tangible personal property with a situs outside the state of Iowa are not subject to the Iowa inheritance tax and, therefore, are not includable in the decedent’s gross estate for tax purposes. *Frick v. Pennsylvania*, 268 U.S. 473, 45 S. Ct. 603, 69 L.Ed. 1058 (1925); *In re Marx Estate*, 226 Iowa 1260, 286 N.W.2d 422 (1939).

**86.5(3) Intangible personal property—decendent domiciled in Iowa.** Intangible personal property, or interest therein, owned by a decendent domiciled in Iowa is includable in the gross estate for inheritance tax purposes regardless of the physical location of the evidence of the property or whether the account or obligation is with a non-Iowa financial institution. *Curry v. McCanness*, 307 U.S. 357, 59 S. Ct. 900, 83 L.Ed. 1339 (1939); *Lincoln's Estate v. Briggs*, 199 N.W.2d 337 (Iowa 1972).

**86.5(4) Intangible personal property—decendent domiciled outside Iowa.** Intangible personal property may have more than one inheritance tax situs and be subject to multiple state inheritance taxation. Therefore, it has been held that the situs of intangible personal property is the place where the owner is domiciled and also where the intangible has acquired a business situs or is located for state inheritance tax purposes. More than one state can subject the succession to such intangible property to tax. *State Tax Commission of Utah v. Aldrich*, 316 U.S. 174, 62 S. Ct. 1008, 86 L.Ed. 1358 (1942); *Curry v. McCanness*, 307 U.S. 357, 59 S. Ct. 900, 83 L.Ed. 1339 (1939); *Chaffin v. Johnson*, 200 Iowa 89, 204 N.W. 424 (1925). Intangible personal property owned by a decendent domiciled outside Iowa may be subject to the Iowa inheritance tax and, therefore, includable in the gross estate if the physical evidence of the property has an Iowa situs or if the intangible property is an account or obligation of an Iowa financial institution. This intangible personal property is not subject to Iowa inheritance tax if the state of domicile subjects the property to a state death tax and either does not subject intangible personal property owned by a decendent domiciled in Iowa to a state death tax, or grants reciprocity to Iowa-domiciled decedents on like intangible personal property. Intangible personal property owned by a decendent domiciled outside Iowa is subject to the Iowa inheritance tax if the state of domicile does not grant an exemption or reciprocity to like intangible personal property owned by Iowa decedents, or does not impose a death tax on intangible property.

**86.5(5) Classification of property.** The property law of the state of situs determines whether property is classified as real, personal, tangible or intangible and also whether decendent had an interest in the property. *Dieleman's Estate v. Dept. of Revenue*, 222 N.W.2d 459 (Iowa 1974); *Williamson v. Youngs*, 200 Iowa 672, 203 N.W. 28 (1925).

**86.5(6) Insurance—in general.** Whether the proceeds or value of insurance is includable in the gross estate for inheritance tax purposes depends on the particular facts in each situation. Designated beneficiary and type of insurance (life, accident, health, credit life, etc.) are some of the factors that are considered in determining whether the value or proceeds are subject to tax. *In re Estate of Brown*, 205 N.W.2d 925 (Iowa 1973).

*a. Insurance proceeds subject to tax.* The proceeds of insurance on the decendent's life owned by the decendent and payable to the decendent's estate or personal representative is includable in the gross estate. Insurance owned by the decendent on the life of another is includable in the gross estate to the extent of the cash surrender value of the policy. The proceeds of all insurance to which the decendent had an interest, at or prior to death, but are payable for reasons other than death, are includable in the gross estate. *Bair v. Randall*, 258 N.W.2d 333 (Iowa 1977).

*b. Insurance proceeds not taxable.* Insurance on the decendent's life payable to a named beneficiary, including a testamentary trust, other than the insured, the estate, or the insured's personal representative, is not subject to Iowa inheritance tax. *In re Estate of Brown*, 205 N.W.2d 925 (Iowa 1973).

*c. Insurance proceeds includable—depending on circumstances.* Credit life insurance and burial insurance are offsets against the obligation. If the obligation is deducted in full or in part in computing the taxable shares of heirs or beneficiaries, the proceeds of the credit life and burial insurance are includable in the gross estate to the extent of the obligation. Insurance on the decendent's life and owned by the decendent, pledged as security for a debt is an offset against the debt if the insurance is the primary source relied upon by the creditor for the repayment of the obligation and is includable in the gross estate on the same conditions as credit life insurance. See *Estate of Carl M. Laartz* Probate No. 9641, District Court of Cass County, March 17, 1973; *Estate of Roy P. Petersen*, Probate No. 14025, District Court of Cerro Gordo County, May 16, 1974.

Insurance on the decedent's life, payable to a corporation or association in which the decedent had an ownership interest, while not subject to tax as insurance, may increase the value of the decedent's interest. *In re Reed's Estate*, 243 N.Y. 199, 153 N.E.47, 47 A.L.R. 522 (1926).

**86.5(7)** *Gifts in contemplation of death—for estates of decedents dying prior to July 1, 1984, only.* A transfer of property, or interests in property by a decedent, except in the case of a bona fide sale for fair consideration within three years of the grantor's death, made in contemplation of death, is includable in the decedent's gross estate. Any such transfer made within the three-year period prior to the grantor's death is presumed to be in contemplation of death, unless it is shown to the contrary. Whether a transfer is made in contemplation of death depends on the intention of the grantor in making the transfer and will depend on the facts and circumstances of each individual transfer.

*a. Factors to be considered include, but are not limited to:*

- (1) The age and health of the grantor at the time of the transfer,
- (2) Whether the grantor was motivated by living or death motives,
- (3) Whether or not the gift was a material part of the decedent's property,
- (4) Whether the gift was an isolated event or one of a series of gifts during the decedent's lifetime.

*b. Factors which tend to establish that the motive for the gift was prompted by the thought of death include, but are not limited to:*

- (1) Made with the purpose of avoiding death taxes,
- (2) Made as a substitute for a testamentary disposition of the property,
- (3) Of such an amount that the remaining property of the grantor would not normally be sufficient to provide for the remaining years of the grantor and those of the grantor's household,
- (4) Made with the knowledge that the grantor is suffering from a serious illness that is normally associated with a shortened life expectancy.

*c. Factors which tend to establish that the gift was inspired by living motives include, but are not limited to:*

- (1) Made on an occasion and in an appropriate amount that is usually associated with such gift giving occasions as Christmas, birthdays, marriage, or graduation,
- (2) Made because of the financial need of the donee and in an amount that is appropriate to the need,
- (3) Made as a remembrance or reward for past services or favors in an amount appropriate to the occasion,
- (4) Made to be relieved of the burden of management of the property given, retaining sufficient property and income for adequate support and maintenance.

For a gift to be determined to have been made in contemplation of death it is not necessary that the grantor be conscious of imminent or immediate death. However, the term means more than the general expectation of death which all entertain. It is a gift when the grantor is influenced to do so by such expectation of death, arising from bodily or mental condition, as prompts persons to dispose of their property to those whom they deem the proper object of their bounty. It is sufficient if the thought of death is the impelling cause for the gift. *U.S. v. Wells*, 283 U. S. 102, 51 S. Ct. 446, 75 L.Ed. 867 (1931); *In re Mann's Estate*, 219 Iowa 597, 258 N.W. 904 (1935).

*d. Gifts made within three years prior to death—for estates of decedents dying on or after July 1, 1984.* All gifts made by the donor within three years prior to death, which are in excess of the annual calendar year federal gift tax exclusion provided for in 26 U.S.C. Section 2503, subsections b and e, are included in the gross estate for inheritance tax purposes. The motive, intention or state of mind of the donor is not relevant. Date of valuation for a gift in which there was a full transfer of ownership is valued at the date in which the gift is completed. However, for a gift of an interest in property that is less than a full transfer of ownership, which includes, but is not limited to, a life estate or conditional gift, the date of valuation is the date of the death of the decedent, unless alternative valuation is chosen. The fact alone that the transfer is a gift, in whole or in part, and exceeds the annual calendar year exclusion for federal gift tax purposes, is sufficient to subject the excess of the transfer over the exclusion to tax. The exclusion is applied to the total amount of the gifts made to a donee in a calendar year, allocating the exclusion to the gifts in the order made during the calendar year. This rule has important application to the earliest year of the three-year period before death because the three-year period for inheritance tax purpose is measured from the date the decedent-donor died. This will only rarely coincide with a calendar year. As a result, none of the gifts made in the earliest calendar year of the three-year period prior to death, regardless of the amount, which are made before the beginning of the three-year period, measured by the decedent's death date, are subject to tax. However, gifts made before the three-year period begins in this earliest year will reduce or may completely absorb the exclusion amount that is available for the remaining part of this first-year period. The significance of the difference between the three-year period prior to death and the calendar year exclusion amount is illustrated by the following:

**EXAMPLE.** The decedent-donor, A, died July 1, 1995. The three-year period during which gifts may be subject to inheritance tax begins July 1, 1992. During the calendar year 1992, A made a cash gift to nephew B of \$11,000 on May 1, 1992, and a second gift to B of \$4,000 on August 1, 1992. In this example, none of the \$11,000 gift made on May 1, 1992, is includable for inheritance tax purposes because it was made before the three-year period began, based on A's date of death. All of the \$4,000 gift made on August 1, 1992, is includable for inheritance tax purposes because it is in excess of the calendar year 1992 federal gift tax exclusion of \$10,000.

(1) **Split gift.** At the election of the donor's spouse, a gift made by a donor to a person, other than the spouse, shall be considered, for inheritance tax purposes, as made one half by the donor and one half by the donor's spouse. This split gift election for inheritance tax purposes is subject to the same terms and conditions that govern split gifts for federal gift tax purposes under 26 U.S.C. Section 2513.

The consent of the donor's spouse signified under 26 U.S.C. Section 2513(b) shall also be presumed to be consent for Iowa inheritance tax purposes, unless the contrary is shown. If the split gift election is made, the election shall apply to all gifts made during the calendar year. Therefore, if the election is made, each spouse may use the annual exclusion (\$10,000 for 1994) which shall be applied to one-half of the total value of all gifts made by both spouses during the calendar year to each donee.