

Richmond CPA Firm Highlights Key Estate Accounting Steps for Executors

Richmond accountants outline important estate accounting steps, including T1 and T3 returns, CRA assessments, and clearance certificates.

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- Executors in Canada may be responsible for more than distributing assets to beneficiaries. Managing an estate can involve gathering financial records, identifying assets and liabilities, tracking income and expenses, preparing tax returns, and resolving outstanding obligations with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

With the help of an [estate tax specialist](#), we have created a checklist to help executors better understand the financial and tax-related steps to help navigate the final tax return and [T3 tax filing](#).

Estate accounting generally begins with creating a clear financial record of the estate at the date of death. Executors may need to gather prior tax returns, bank and investment statements, registered account information, property documents, debt information, business records, and other financial information.

A date-of-death inventory can then be prepared showing assets, liabilities, and their applicable values. Keeping estate funds in a separate bank account can also provide a clearer record of income received, expenses paid, and distributions made throughout the administration process.

Tax filing is another significant responsibility. The [final T1](#) Income Tax and Benefit Return



generally reports income earned up to the date of death. Executors may also need to determine whether optional T1 returns could apply.

Income earned by the estate after death may require a separate T3 Trust Income Tax and Information Return. This can include interest, investment or rental income and capital gains realized while assets remain within the estate.

Before final distributions are made, executors should reconcile estate records, review CRA Notices of Assessment and ensure outstanding tax amounts have been paid or appropriately addressed.

Depending on the circumstances, a CRA clearance certificate may also be requested before the remaining estate assets are distributed. The certificate can provide executors with greater protection from personal liability for tax amounts covered by the certificate.

With the help of a local tax specialist, executors can help maintain organized accounting records throughout the estate process, which can help executors identify outstanding obligations and provide a clearer financial record before an estate is closed.

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