

2021

# Nonresident Audit Guidelines

*State of New York - Department of Taxation and Finance  
Income Franchise Field Audit Bureau*



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## I. INTRODUCTION

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These guidelines explain the tax law and regulations concerning residency, discuss audit policies and procedures regarding the subject, and address various technical and complex issues through examples and explanations.

These guidelines have been established to ensure uniformity and consistency in the examination of nonresident returns. The procedures and techniques apply to Articles 22, 30 (New York City), and 30-A (Yonkers) of the New York State Tax Law and Chapter 17 of Title 11 of the New York City Administrative Code.

Guidelines are issued primarily to provide guidance to audit staff. According to Regulation 2375.12, they have no legal force or effect, nor do they establish precedent in the particular subject matter. They are generally binding on audit staff who are expected to follow the rules and procedures outlined in the guidelines when conducting an audit.

That being said, the Department recognizes that there may be situations encountered on audit when such rules and procedures may not be appropriate. In these situations, it is up to the supervisor and the auditor to work together to ensure that the spirit of the guidelines is carried out when interacting with taxpayers and their representatives. This requires flexibility in applying the guidelines coupled with a commonsense, practical approach in auditing nonresident cases.

***Note: These guidelines do not replace existing law, regulations, case law or informational materials issued by the Department.***

Throughout the guidelines, references are made to the following sources:

- The Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and related regulations.
- Articles 22, 30 and 30-A of the New York State Tax Law;
- Title 20 of the personal income tax regulations (NYCRR);
- New York State court cases.
- Administrative decisions of the Division of Tax Appeals (DTA);
- New York State Tax Commission decisions (STC);
- Advices of Counsel issued by the Office of Counsel (LBW);

- Advisory opinions (A Memos) and TSB memoranda (M Memos) issued by the Department.

***The above sources should be referred to when researching a particular issue. References to tax law in these guidelines are meant to highlight general points of law and are not meant to be an authority on interpreting the law.***

## II. OVERVIEW OF THE NONRESIDENT AUDIT

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A New York State resident taxpayer is responsible for reporting and paying New York State personal income tax on income from ALL sources regardless of where the income is generated, or the nature of the income. A nonresident taxpayer is given the opportunity to allocate income, reporting to New York State only that income actually generated in New York. In addition, the nonresident need only report to New York income from intangibles which are attributable to a business, trade or profession carried on in the State. Thus, significant benefits may be derived from filing as a nonresident.

### A. NEW YORK STATE PERSONAL INCOME TAX LAW

Section 605(b) of Article 22 of the Tax Law defines a resident of New York State as one who:

1. is domiciled in New York State (with two important exceptions which will be discussed in detail in Chapter V.); *OR*
2. is NOT domiciled in New York State but who maintains a permanent place of abode in this state and spends more than one hundred eighty-three days of the taxable year in this state, unless such individual is in active service in the armed forces of the United States.

### B. NEW YORK STATE PERSONAL INCOME TAX REGULATIONS

Although one of the definitions of a New York resident in the tax law is someone domiciled in the state, the law does not define the term domicile. For that we have to look to the personal income tax regulations.

In 20 NYCRR 105.20(d), domicile is defined as “*the place which an individual intends to be such individual’s permanent home - the place to which such individual intends to return whenever such individual may be absent.*”

This definition, such as it is, has been fleshed out over the years in numerous court cases and Tax Appeals Tribunal decisions. These guidelines will reference some of the more significant of them in its discussion of domicile.

### III. SCOPE OF THE NONRESIDENT AUDIT

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There are three separate and distinct areas to be examined during the audit of a nonresident individual: Domicile, Statutory Residency and Income Allocation. These guidelines address only the first two areas; there is a separate guideline that explains how a nonresident individual allocates income. The specific circumstances will determine the depth and scope of the audit. For example, a non-domiciliary with no permanent place of abode in New York but working within the state might only be asked to verify the allocation of income to New York, while individuals who reside at several locations during the year and have a long-established pattern of maintaining a "home" in New York would be questioned concerning their resident status. In any case, where the taxpayer and/or the representative has submitted information to assist the auditor in identifying the scope of the audit, the taxpayer and/or the representative is entitled to a prompt response (usually within 30 days) as to the relevance of the material submitted and whether additional information is required. Certainly, for situations in which the auditor identifies that more than one of the three areas must be examined, he will attempt to identify and request all pertinent additional information to cover all areas of the examination rather than making these requests piecemeal. This will save the taxpayer time and effort in complying with a documentation request.

As in any audit, returns selected in the nonresident program may have other issues in which verification is appropriate. Documentation should be requested for items which appear to be unusual or suspicious. In addition, areas such as the New York State addition and subtraction modifications, income and losses from flow through entities such as partnerships, limited liability companies, and S corporations, and the appropriateness of city taxes (New York City and Yonkers) are examples of secondary issues to review on the New York State Personal Income Tax return.

As mentioned above, the nonresident case encompasses three separate audit issues: Domicile, Statutory Residence and Income Allocation. The various aspects of a case, however, are intermingled. For example, a similar aspect in either the potential domicile or statutory residence case is to determine if the taxpayer maintains a permanent place of abode in New York State. After this, however, the approach of the two audits differs dramatically.

The domicile audit continues to determine if the taxpayer has demonstrated with clear and convincing evidence that he has effected a genuine change of domicile or was never domiciled in New York State. The statutory resident audit explores the taxpayer's records to determine the total number of days present in New York State.

The nonresident audit could place a heavy burden on the taxpayer due to the subjective nature of the areas reviewed. Throughout these guidelines, the Department recognizes and has attempted to reduce this burden. The auditor, team leader and section head should attempt to streamline the audit where possible, identifying the scope of the audit in the early stages and pinpointing the specific records needed to accomplish the task. As mentioned earlier in this section, timely responses to the taxpayer and/or the representative can relieve much of the burden placed on the taxpayer during a nonresident audit. Keeping the taxpayer and the representative informed as to the progress of the case, the importance of certain documentation, and the relationship of the data to the audit conclusions can move the case along for the benefit of both the taxpayer and the Department. In the textual discussion of nonresident audit areas, various cases are cited to

demonstrate a point or better explain a position on a particular issue. The reader should note that only cases decided by the New York State Tax Tribunal or the New York State Courts establish precedent in an area. Certain Administrative Law Judge decisions, although not precedential, are cited throughout these guidelines in instances where they thoroughly explain an audit issue and are in accordance with current audit policy.

## IV. DOMICILE

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### A. DEFINITION

The word "domicile" is derived from the Latin "domus" meaning a home or dwelling place. Throughout time, however, domicile has evolved in the legal sense to be the place where the taxpayer has his true, fixed, permanent home. The domicile is the principal establishment to which he intends to return whenever absent. The term domicile should not be limited to refer to a specific structure but rather a place/area to which the taxpayer expects to return.

The terms "domicile" and "residence" are often used synonymously in our everyday discussions, but for New York State Income tax purposes, the two terms have distinctly different meanings. Residence in a strict legal sense means merely a "place of abode." An individual may have many residences, or physical dwellings in which he resides, but can have only one domicile, or that permanent residence to which he intends to return.

### B. INTENTION AND MOTIVE

As stated previously, domicile is defined in the income tax regulations as the place an individual *intends* to be his permanent home, the place he *intends* to return to whenever he may be absent. Throughout the guidelines you will see frequent references to intent in the discussion of domicile. Intention is a decisive factor in the determination of whether any particular residence which a person may occupy is his domicile. Its importance in understanding the difference between domicile and residence was highlighted in the Court of Appeals cases, *Matter of Newcomb, 192 NY 238*:

*“Residence means living in a particular locality, but domicile means living in that locality with intent to make it a fixed and permanent home. Residence simply requires bodily presence as an inhabitant in a given place, while domicile requires bodily presence in that place and also an intention to make it one’s domicile.”*

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The actual process of ascertaining an individual’s intentions regarding domicile- the crucial question in a residency audit- is a subjective inquiry for the auditor, and often a difficult one. How does one determine

what was in a taxpayer's mind? To the courts, it is deeds and not words that generally matter. In *Matter of the Estate of James A. Trowbridge*, 266 NY 283, the Court of Appeals was confronted with the question of whether a taxpayer was domiciled in Connecticut or New York at the time of death. The facts favoring New York were essentially declarations made by the taxpayer in various documents, including his will and voter registration, that he was a resident of New York. Of more importance to the Court, however, was that the taxpayer's life was centered around his mansion in Connecticut where he lived with his family. Thus, it was these actions that pointed to Connecticut as his permanent home "no matter what he may say to the contrary" in "the declarations made to tax authorities."

That actions speak louder than words were further underscored in *Matter of Jack Silverman (Deceased) & Frances Silverman (deceased)*, DTA No. 802313. In that case, the taxpayers had taken a number of steps to show a change of domicile to Florida such as filing a declaration of domicile, registering to vote and obtaining a driver's license. Citing *Trowbridge*, the Tax Appeals Tribunal stated that "(t)hese formal declarations are less persuasive than the informal acts of an individual's 'general habit of life'" in concluding that the taxpayers had not changed their domicile.

To assist auditors in determining whether the taxpayer's intentions are supported by his acts, the guidelines have identified certain factors which should be analyzed in any evaluation of domicile. By identifying what we believe to be the most important factors affecting domicile, we hope to have satisfied the test posed by the Court in *Trowbridge* that,

*"...such an analysis of the evidence is a comparison of one combination of facts with another, and the significance of some of the factors involved is as a matter of law greater than that of others."*

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### C. CONTINUATION AND CHANGE

Once established, a domicile continues until the person in question abandons the old and moves to a new location with the bona fide intention of making his fixed and permanent home at the new location. There are two crucial elements to prove a change of domicile: (1) an actual change of residence and (2) abandonment of the former domicile and acquisition of another. See *Aetna National Bank v. Kramer*, 142 AD 444. To effect a change of domicile, there must be not only an intent to make such change but also actual residence in the new location. No definite period of residence or specified length of time in a particular place is required to establish a domicile, but when coupled with the element of intent, any residence, however short, will be sufficient. On the other hand, residence without intention to remain does not effect a change of domicile no matter how long the residence is continued.



Since a domicile continues until superseded by another, a change of residence without the intention of creating a new domicile leaves the last established domicile unaffected. In *Matter of Bodfish v. Gallman*, 50 AD2d 457, the court stated,

*“The test of intent with respect to a purported new domicile has been stated as ‘whether the place of habitation is the permanent home of a person, with the range of sentiment, feeling and permanent association with it.’”*

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That domicile continues until a new one is established elsewhere may be true even in instances where a residence is no longer maintained in the old location. In *Matter of Richard and Hazel Rubin*, DTA No. 817675, the taxpayers were longtime domiciliary of Scarsdale, NY who intended to move to Connecticut. After selling their Scarsdale home on July 13, 1994 they were unable to find a suitable home in Connecticut until June of the following year. In the interim they lived in one of their two apartments in New York City. Although the auditor determined that the taxpayers changed their domicile from Scarsdale to New York City, the ALJ concluded that it was never their intention to make the city their new domicile. The Tribunal affirmed the ALJ in ruling that the taxpayers remained domiciled in Scarsdale until June 1, 1995 when they closed on their Connecticut home. This was so even though the taxpayers did not maintain a residence in Scarsdale between July 1994 and June 1995.

Change of domicile may be made on a whim, or fancy, for business, health, or pleasure, to secure a change of climate, or for any other reason whatever, provided there is an absolute and fixed intention to abandon one and acquire another, and the acts of the person confirm the intentions. The fact that a person is motivated by self-interest does not prevent a change of domicile. Nearly everyone who changes domicile does so because they believe it to be to their advantage in one way or another. Therefore, the fact that a change of domicile was motivated primarily by a desire to gain a tax advantage is immaterial, if the intention of the individual to acquire a new domicile is absolute and fixed and his acts confirm that intention. The point that an individual may desire to "avoid" New York taxes and carefully craft his or her affairs so as to accomplish this purpose was addressed in *Newcomb*, wherein the Court states that the "motives" for one's change of domicile are *"immaterial, except as they indicate intention."*

The conclusion as to whether or not one domicile has been replaced by another depends on an appraisal of the circumstances and conditions surrounding the person whose domicile is in question. The determination in each case must be decided upon the particular circumstances of each case. The auditor must draw his conclusion from all the circumstances with no single factor controlling.

Throughout these guidelines, reference is made to a change of domicile scenario which involves a move out of New York State (New York City or Yonkers) to another state. The auditor should also be concerned with individuals moving into New York State (New York City or Yonkers) and those who have changed their domicile in the past to another state but elect to return to New York State. The domicile and change of domicile rules cited in the guidelines apply equally to any change of residence scenario.

#### D. BURDEN AND DEGREE OF PROOF

The burden of proving a change of domicile is upon the party asserting the change. The evidence to effect a change of domicile must be "clear and convincing" as noted in *Bodfish v. Gallman*. Thus, a taxpayer who has been historically domiciled in New York State who is claiming to have changed his domicile must be able to support his intentions with unequivocal acts. In some instances, this is a very easy burden to support, while in others it is, in varying degrees, more difficult.

Similarly, the Department bears the burden of proof to show that an individual who was previously a non-domiciliary of New York changed his domicile to New York. If the weight of the factors does not present a "clear and convincing" body of evidence that the taxpayer has changed his or her domicile to New York, then the individual is to be treated as a nonresident. For example, if an individual gradually increases involvement in New York and gradually decreases ties to another state, the change of domicile to New York will not take place until the weight of the activity and involvement in New York presents a "clear and convincing" argument for New York domicile.

The fact that a New York domiciliary may have established significant ties in a new location may not be enough to show a change of domicile if he continues to maintain significant ties to New York. In *Matter of Rudolph (dec'd) & Loretta Zapka, DTA No. 804111*, New York domiciliary who had strong ties to both New York and Florida were unable to show a change of domicile. According to the Tribunal,

*“The mere fact that persuasive arguments can be made from the facts in support of both Florida and New York as petitioners’ domicile indicates that they have not clearly and convincingly evidenced an intent to change their New York domicile.”*

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**Note:** The fact that a taxpayer filed nonresident returns for many years without having been audited should not be construed to imply acceptance by the Department of the taxpayer’s nonresident status. In *Matter of Richard & Carolyn Farkas, DTA No. 809927 and Richard Farkas, DTA No. 809928*, the taxpayer cited as support for his change of domicile the fact that he had filed nonresident returns for seven years prior to the audit period. In rejecting this argument, the ALJ stated,

*“...the mere fact that his filings as a nonresident were not questioned (through an audit) does not satisfy his burden of proving that a change of domicile occurred and, in addition, when that change took place.”*

*Conclusion of Law D*

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The determination was affirmed by the Tax Appeals Tribunal.

## V. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING DOMICILE

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The factors used to determine domicile are divided into two general categories, primary factors and other factors. An analysis of the five primary factors (Home, Active Business Involvement, Time, Items Near & Dear and Family Connections) should generally provide a basis for New York domicile before documentation concerning the "other" factors is requested from the taxpayer. The analysis of the primary factors should look at the New York ties for the specific factor in relation to the ties for the factor that exist in other locations. For example, an analysis of the "Home" factor would look at all the residences the taxpayer resides in each year during the years under audit in relation to each other. A decision concerning domicile cannot be made by looking at only one side of the factor; nor can a decision be made by examining only one factor. It is very possible that the decisions reached concerning an individual's domicile in one year will not be the same as the conclusions reached in another.

### A. PRIMARY FACTORS

Webster's New World Dictionary defines Primary as: *1. first in line or order; 2. from which others are derived; fundamental; 3. first in importance.*

All three meanings describe the importance of the primary factors in determining domicile. The primary factors are fundamental and first in line toward developing a case for New York domicile. The auditor is advised that information concerning the "other" factors should only be requested when a basis for New York domicile, using the primary factors, is found to exist or where primary factors are at least equal in weight for New York and another location. In virtually all cases the review of primary factors will result in a decision on domicile. There will be very few cases in which the examination of the "other" factors is needed to reach a conclusion on domicile. The development of a domicile case involves more than a mere listing of the factors that exist in one location versus those in other locations; the analysis must demonstrate a positive link or bond to New York or the other locations. The auditor should remember that a taxpayer's domicile is the place "to which the individual intends to return whenever absent."

The auditor must analyze the factors to determine if each factor points toward a decision favoring New York domicile or domicile in another location.

When conducting the analysis, the auditor should explore the New York ties in relationship to the taxpayer's connection to the other locations. The auditor needs to weigh each primary factor, individually and then collectively.

For example, the fact that a taxpayer maintains a "home" in New York State is a feature that is present in most domicile cases. The mere fact that the taxpayer maintains a New York "home" however is not sufficient, in itself, to establish a case for domicile or that this particular primary factor points toward a New York domicile. The auditor must explore the characteristics of the New York residence in comparison to the characteristics of the homes maintained in other locations.

Without first establishing a basis from an analysis of the primary factors pointing toward a definite tie to New York, or where the primary factors are at least equal in weight for New York and another location, the auditor need not explore the other factors with relationship to domicile. ***The primary factors are as follows:***

## 1. Primary Factors: Home

***The individual's use and maintenance of a New York residence compared to the nature and use patterns of a non-New York residence.***

The first factor that an auditor usually will review and discuss with the taxpayer is the homes maintained and used by the individual during each of the years under audit. What does an individual consider to be his home? Is it the actual dwelling (the building) in which he lives, or is it the area (the community) that he considers home? For the purposes of determining an individual's domicile, home can be either, or both, depending upon the circumstances. It also matters little if the dwelling is owned or rented but must represent a "residence" in the eyes of the taxpayer. Therefore, "home" refers not only to that family residence, which over the years has been clearly established and accepted by everyone as "home" to the taxpayer and/or their immediate family but also the community to which the individual has established strong and endearing ties.

An individual may give up or dispose of his traditional family home (a building) for a variety of reasons. The change in a neighborhood configuration, zoning law changes, loss of a lease, the conversion of a building to another form of ownership, encroaching business or commercial areas, increase or decrease in family size, or simply the desire to change homes are examples of why an individual might give up one home and acquire a new residence. An individual, who is a long-time resident of a particular area of New York, usually has developed a range of sentiment for that area as well as the dwelling in which he resides. Selling or disposing of that dwelling, for whatever reason, may not change the attraction the individual has for the area when a new residence is acquired within the area. The newly purchased or rented residence will carry with it that range of sentiment the individual has for his former "home."

For example, if a couple resides in a particular community while raising their children and sells their residence to purchase or rent a smaller residence in the same community after their children are grown, that new residence, regardless of the length of time spent there, takes on the full range of sentiment the couple has for the community in which they reside. Likewise, if an individual who is domiciled outside New York downsizes his residence for any reason, the new residence in that community will take on the range of sentiment the individual had for the prior residence at the location outside New York.

It must be emphasized that retention of a residence in New York is not, by itself, sufficient evidence to negate a change of domicile. The mere location of a home in New York does not establish a case for domicile. The New York residence must be compared with the residences located in other areas to determine if the circumstances support a determination of New York domicile. The individual needs to use the residence as his home and this use pattern must outweigh the patterns established at other locations.

**a. Where "One Home" is Maintained:**

When an individual has only one home, decisions concerning domicile are more straightforward than when an individual maintains two or more residences at various locations. When a taxpayer sells or ends the lease on his or her New York residence and acquires living space in another state, coincidental with each other, it is an important indicator that a change in domicile has occurred at the time of actual residence in the new location. The taxpayer, in giving up the only residence which is located in New York and acquiring another outside New York, is giving an important signal of intent to change domicile.

**b. Where "Two Or More Homes" are Maintained:**

**1) Attempting to sell:**

In other cases, a taxpayer may claim a change of domicile while attempting to sell his only residence in New York. The auditor must look at the facts and make a decision on the taxpayer's intent. The auditor should give appropriate weight to facts such as whether the taxpayer has sold or moved possessions from the location, contracted with a real estate firm to sell the property, etc. If the auditor determines that the taxpayer's intent was not to abandon the New York domicile and begin a new one outside New York, there should be some basis that the auditor can point to sustain that determination, e.g., the taxpayer may not be "actively" trying to sell the property, or the taxpayer has not moved family heirlooms, treasured possessions, etc., to the new location. In *Matter of Jack Silverman (deceased) and Frances Silverman (deceased), DTA No. 802313*, that was discussed earlier, the Tax Appeals Tribunal emphasized the degree of effort made to sell one's home as an "important factor" in determining domicile "because it concerns the issue of intention." In that case the taxpayers originally placed their New York home on the market in 1975 but it was not actually sold until 1983. In rejecting the taxpayers' change of domicile, the Tribunal noted that it was not clear how actively they were attempting to sell their home and it was this "uncertainty that...clearly undermines the petitioners' claim that they acquired a new domicile and abandoned the old."

**2) Acquire another home, or change homes during the audit period:**

A much more difficult decision concerning an individual's intent occurs when the circumstances are such that he does not give up his New York residence. Such is the case when a taxpayer continues maintaining the New York property and acquires a new permanent place of abode outside New York or claims to change domicile to an existing residence outside New York State. Taxpayers can keep their original New York residence and change their domicile. Although this can happen, it is important for the auditor to keep in mind that the courts have consistently held that:

*"...to create a change of domicile, both the intention to make a new location a fixed and permanent home and actual residence at that location...must be present. Residence without intention or intention without*

*residence, is of no avail.” (Matter of Minsky v. Tully, 78 AD2d 955). The test of intent with respect to a purported new domicile has been stated as “whether the place of habitation is the permanent home of a person, with the range of sentiment, feeling and permanent association with it” (Matter of Bodfish v. Gallman, 50 AD2d 457, quoting Matter of Bourne, 181 Misc 238). “...the intention must be honest, the action genuine, and the evidence to establish both clear and convincing” (Matter of Newcomb, 192 NY 238, 251), and the person asserting the change of domicile must show the necessary intention existed (see 20 NYCRR 105.20(d)(2).*

### c). Aspects of the Home Factor:

The auditor needs to carefully examine the ingredients of the "Home" factor before making a decision concerning its relationship to domicile. The auditor must also keep in mind that the "Home" factor is only one of the primary factors to be considered when arriving at a decision concerning an individual's domicile. Some of the elements the auditor must consider in determining a taxpayer's intent are as follows:

#### 1) Size of the Residence

While size is an important item to be considered, it is not determinative in and of itself. A comparison of the size of the residences at the various locations must be made. This analysis should be as specific as possible, contrasting the size of one residence against another. For example, if an individual owns a residence along the New Jersey shore and an apartment in Manhattan, the auditor should request information which will describe the size of the two dwellings. Once this is done, the auditor can use this information along with other aspects of the "Home" factor to arrive at a determination as to which home reflects the taxpayers domicile.

In affirming the ALJ's determination that the taxpayer was domiciled in Connecticut, the Tax Appeals Tribunal in *Matter of Rhoda Miller, DTA No. 812849*, noted that the difference in size between the Connecticut home and the New York City apartment “was an important factor in his finding.” The ALJ had concluded that a comparison of the two residences clearly favored Connecticut as the taxpayer's permanent home. Not only did she own the Connecticut home while the city apartment was leased by her husband,

*“Additionally, while the Westport home had three bedrooms, was situated on a ½ acre lot and had 90 feet of beachfront, the 68th Street apartment had one bedroom.”*

*Conclusion of Law E*

In evaluating the importance of the size of the respective residences, however, it is necessary to consider it in the context of the geographic area in which each residence is located. For example, while a 3,000 square foot apartment in Manhattan may pale in comparison to a palatial home in Florida, it nevertheless may still be spacious by New York City standards. If all aspects of the "Home" factor are equal in weight, the residence that the taxpayer has historically maintained as their home may be of more importance.



## 2) Value of the Residence:

The value of the various residences owned or leased by the taxpayer during the audit period is as important as the size of the residences when analyzing information to determine domicile. When comparing the value of the various residences, the dwelling with the greatest value is not, by itself determinative. The information gathered must be weighed with other information concerning the "Home" factor to determine which home reflects the individual's domicile. The value of the various residences is more difficult to determine than the size of the dwellings. The difficulty arises out of the fact that equal size dwellings could have significantly different values based upon the location of the property and the dwelling. In some cases, comparable homes in a retirement community may be substantially different in value than a home located in New York. Even within New York State, the value of a dwelling may differ dramatically depending upon the location. For example, the value of property, including a residence, may be considerably less in an upstate community where space is abundant while the value of property located in the New York City Metropolitan area would be notably higher because of the limited space available. The auditor should discuss the value of the residences with the taxpayer or the representative. In evaluating the "Home" factor, the value of the dwellings is one aspect of the decision.

## 3) Nature of Use:

How a taxpayer views a particular dwelling is another aspect of the "Home" factor. Often, as an individual becomes more successful in his or her career, the need to dispose of one residence before acquiring another is diminished. Mere retention of the residence may be an insignificant indicator, especially where the taxpayer owns several properties.

An individual may prefer to use a former principal residence as a seasonal home or hotel substitute after moving from New York. Affluent nonresidents may have no economic need to sell a particular residence. Auditors should question the individual concerning the use of the residence and weigh this aspect as part of the factors which are used to determine the "Home" factor.

It matters little, when analyzing the "Home" factor, whether the individual owns or rents a particular dwelling. The type of lease, however, could shed light on how an individual views a particular piece of property. For example, a taxpayer who rents a residence on a year-to-year basis may not show the same intent as a taxpayer who purchases or enters into a long-term lease. There are, however, situations in which an individual signs a year-to-year lease because of the rental conditions of the unit in which he resides. When this rental takes place every year over a long period of time, the individual, in effect, is in a long-term leasing situation. The auditor should review each residence to determine how the property is held (either rented or owned) as well as the length of time the property has been held.

#### 4) Other Aspects of a Home:

There are other aspects of the "Home" factor which can be analyzed to assist in making a decision concerning domicile. Individuals selected for audit may have various employees associated with their different residences. For example, an individual may employ domestic help, grounds keepers, chauffeurs, etc. to help in the maintenance of the various dwellings or a particular lifestyle. In such instances, the auditor should question the taxpayer concerning the various employees and compare the number and types of employees at the different locations.

##### d.) Conclusion of the "HOME" Factor:

After gathering the data necessary for the analysis of the "Home" factor, the auditor must weigh the various aspects, size, value, nature, use, and other aspects concerning each of the residences owned or leased by the individual taxpayer. A determination must be made concerning this one factor as to whether the elements tend to reflect a New York domicile or domicile at another location. The auditor must keep in mind that this "Home" factor represents only one of five primary factors. The same process of analyzing the aspects of the remaining factors must be applied in order to arrive at a conclusion.

##### e.) Tax Consequences for Some Changes in Domicile:

During an audit of an individual who historically maintains a home in New York, yet claims to be a resident of another state, the auditor may find that there are tax consequences of claiming an out-of-state residence. When a taxpayer spends several months visiting friends and family in New York, they may find it economically beneficial to maintain the New York property rather than rent or stay in a hotel during their visit. For taxpayers who fall into this category, there may be a tax effect of claiming a primary residence or domicile outside New York resulting in a taxable capital gain when the New York property is eventually sold.

For example, a husband and wife purchased a home in New York for \$150,000 in 1965 and established New York as their domicile. In 1985 the taxpayers purchased a home in Florida and changed their domicile. Although they now consider themselves nonresidents of New York, they retained the New York residence until 2004 when it was sold for \$600,000. According to IRC Section 121, taxpayers can exclude the gain on the sale of a principal residence occurring on or after May 7, 1997 not exceeding \$250,000 (\$500,000 if married filing jointly). Since the taxpayers in the example indicated that they changed their domicile in 1985, the New York property ceased being their principal residence long before it was sold in 2004. The taxpayers would owe tax for federal and New York State purposes on the full \$450,000 gain in the year of the sale.

In addition, the taxpayers as nonresidents would be required to pay estimated taxes on the gain at the time of sale. As a result of the enactment of new Tax Law Section 663, nonresidents are required to pay estimated taxes on gains from sales of real property occurring on or after September 1, 2003. See TSB-M-03(04)I and M03(4.1)I for more details.

The auditor should be aware that the sale of a primary residence does not always correspond to a change of domicile. According to IRS Regulation 1.121-1, the IRS generally considers a principal residence as the one the taxpayer uses a majority of time during the year. As you can see this differs dramatically from



"domicile," which has intent as the key element. It should be noted, however, that the IRS will consider other factors some of which are similar to the ones discussed in these guidelines.

Finally, it is possible for a taxpayer to be a nonresident and yet still exclude the gain from the sale of a New York property as a principal residence. Even though the taxpayer is a New York nonresident in the year of sale, Federal law allows the gain to be excluded subject to the limitation amounts discussed above as long as the property was used as a principal residence in two of the five years ending with the date of sale.

## 2. Primary Factors: Active Business Involvement

*The individual's pattern of employment, as it relates to compensation derived by the taxpayer in the particular year being reviewed.*

*Business involvement also includes active participation in a New York trade, business, occupation or profession and/or substantial investment in, and management of, any New York closely held business such as a sole proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company and corporation.*

The taxpayer's continued employment, or active participation in New York State sole proprietorships and partnerships, or the substantial investment in, and management of New York corporations or limited liability companies, is a primary factor in determining domicile. If a taxpayer continues active involvement in New York business entities, by managing a New York corporation or actively participating in New York partnerships or sole proprietorships, such actions must be weighed against the individual's involvement in businesses at other locations when determining domicile. The degree of active involvement in New York businesses in comparison to involvement in businesses located outside New York is an essential element to be determined during the audit.

The extent of an individual's control and supervision over a New York business can be such that his active involvement continues even during times when he is not physically present in New York. In affirming the decision of the Tax Appeals Tribunal, the Appellate Division in *Matter of Herbert L. Kartiganer et al.*, 194 AD2d 879, relied on the taxpayer's own words to make this very point:

*"The record further indicates, however, that Kartiganer retained a significant proprietary interest in his engineering firm and continued to play an active role in its day-to-day operations. Indeed, Kartiganer testified that he remained in constant communication with the Orange County office by telephone and courier service."*

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In his determination, the ALJ had similarly noted that Mr. Kartiganer's involvement in the business was not limited to periods when he was in New York but continued throughout the year when he was in Florida as well. Referring to the 115 days the taxpayer worked outside New York in each of 1983 and 1984, the ALJ commented that "even the work performed in Florida was on behalf of his New York employer, the engineering firm which bears his name."

In dismissing the taxpayers' formal declarations that they had changed their domicile to Florida, the ALJ concluded,

*"But of far greater significance is the crucial fact that, throughout the period at issue, Mr. Kartiganer maintained an active involvement in his New York business interests."*

*Conclusion of Law H*

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And despite other factors pointing to a continued New York domicile such as the historical home and substantial time, it was these business interests that proved to be *"the most persuasive indicia that petitioners did not change their domicile to Florida..."*

Employment and business connections in New York must be closely scrutinized to determine the degree of involvement. Active participation in the day-to-day operation of a New York business, such as those referred to in the Kartiganer decision weigh heavily in deciding an individual's business involvement. Another good example of active business involvement was *Matter of Richard E. & Jean M. Gray, 235 AD2d 641*. The Court cited Mr. Gray as being the controlling shareholder and chairperson of the board of Gray-Syracuse Inc., a New York-based manufacturing corporation. In its review of the Tribunal decision, the Court used Mr. Gray's own words to document his New York business ties. Mr. Gray was quoted as being, *"deeply, deeply involved"* in the operation of Gray-Syracuse and felt his involvement was *"vital to the health of the company."* It was this level of involvement that influenced the Court's decision that the taxpayer had not abandoned his New York domicile until the business was ultimately sold on September 15, 1987.

The auditor must be aware that the "Active Business Involvement" factor, like the home factor, is only one factor leading to a decision concerning the individual's domicile. If the facts clearly show that the New York business is being run from an out-of-state location, the control that the individual asserts over the business is one factor in favor of a New York domicile. On the other hand, an otherwise absent person whose primary factors other than Active Business Involvement point toward non-New York domiciliary status should not be treated as a New York domiciliary simply by reason of long-distance contacts with business activities in New York.

The actual location of the business is one element to be examined during the audit. The degree of involvement by the individual in the day-by-day operation of the business is another. Each element of the Active Business Involvement factor must be compared between New York involvement and involvement in businesses at other locations.

Passive investment in a New York business is not indicative of domicile whereas a taxpayer actively participating in the management of a business may be. Activities such as operating a business must be given greater weight than the mere investment in a business venture. The fact that funds are left on deposit with a New York bank must not enter into a determination on domicile.

A good example of where the taxpayer was determined *not* to be actively involved in the business is the Tax Appeals Tribunal decision in *Matter of Paul and Ellen Burke, DTA No. 810631*.

In that case, Mr. Burke owned a construction company in New York which required his active management, testifying that “without my presence, there wasn’t any construction company.” At some point the nature of the business changed from building homes to owning and renting properties with a concomitant fall off in the taxpayer’s level of involvement in the business.

The Department pointed to phone calls made by Mr. Burke from his home in Florida to the New York office as well as visits to the office when the Burkes were in New York as evidence of his continued involvement in the business. The ALJ, however, did not consider this to be sufficient evidence of active involvement, noting that the calls and visits were limited both in amount and duration. The ALJ stated further,

*“While it is reasonable to expect that Mr. Burke would take some interest in a business he had built and which supplied a stream of income in retirement ...the same does not, given all of the circumstances and credible testimony, compel a conclusion that Mr. Burke was actively involved in the business. Further, it is not implausible to accept and expect, after 30 years of full-scale construction and development with its attendant stress and long workdays, that the Burkes would be more than ready for a change to a hands-off, relaxed and recreation/social oriented lifestyle. To this end, the Burkes configured their business to be managed by others, and made their home where people of like circumstances, aims and means were situated (i.e., in Florida).”*

#### *Conclusion of Law E*

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The adoption of the passive activity loss rules of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 increases the importance of analyzing the individual's business ties. For example, a taxpayer may have provided documentation, with his federal return, to substantiate that he materially participates in a New York activity. This material participation may permit the individual to exclude the loss from the passive activity loss limitations. However, this same activity can also be used to show that the taxpayer has significant New York business connections.

In a family-owned business, if a parent passes the daily operation of the New York business to the children but remains active in the decision-making process, this active involvement could demonstrate the taxpayer's continued connection to New York. As persons become older and accumulate wealth, they may choose to devote less time to the business and bring in younger individuals who will eventually succeed them, ever reducing their status and compensation. This alone does not demonstrate a change of domicile. This diminished involvement in a New York business is one element of the "Active Business Involvement" factor which becomes less important as the taxpayer phases out of the operation. In the end, the auditor must weigh this item against others, such as the individual's involvement in any business ventures located outside New York, before reaching a conclusion. The conclusion reached on the basis of the "Active Business Involvement" factor is only one component of the five primary factors.

When examining the primary factors, the auditor must concentrate on the analysis of the primary factors, of which Active Business Involvement is one. When analyzing the implication of a taxpayer's business contacts in determining domicile, the questioning must center around the underlying issue of domicile. For example, a

taxpayer whose claimed domicile is some distance from the place at which he or she works and whose work patterns therefore entails frequent overnight stays in a more convenient place from which he or she commutes to work, presents a different picture from the suburban commuter who has a New York home, but regularly commutes to, and stays overnight in, the jurisdiction of the claimed domicile.

### 3. Primary Factors: Time

*An analysis of where the individual spends time during the year.*

Another one of the primary factors is a quantitative analysis of where the individual spends his time during the tax year. The auditor should compare the time spent in New York in relationship to the time spent at the other locations. The "Time" factor is only one of the factors. A decision concerning domicile cannot be made based only upon the analysis of where the individual spends his time. The results of this comparison must be weighed with the results from the other primary factors to reach a decision.

That being said, the location where an individual spends his time is often an important consideration in ascertaining his intentions with regard to domicile. Taxpayers' declarations of a change of domicile are often belied by the fact that they spend considerably more time during the year in New York than their claimed place of domicile. For example, in *Matter of Donald C. Smith & Carol A. Groh, DTA Nos. 810532 & 813342*, the ALJ noted that during the audit period the taxpayers spent at least twice as much time and, in some years, three times as many days in New York than in either of the two locations where they were claiming to be domiciled. In confirming the ALJ, the Tax Appeals Tribunal stated that the "importance" of time as a factor "was underscored by the recent Appellate Division case of *Matter of Buzzard v. Tax Appeals Tribunal, 205 AD2d 852*," involving a married couple who claimed a change of domicile to Florida. Enumerating the continued ties the taxpayers retained with New York, the Court concluded that they had not changed their domicile, stating,

*"Most significantly, in the years in question petitioners spent more time in New York than in Florida."*

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On the other hand, the fact that a taxpayer spends more time in New York than in the state where he claims to be domiciled may not in and of itself be necessarily indicative of one's intentions. For example, a taxpayer who works in New York City may routinely stay overnight in his city apartment when working late rather than return to his home in New Jersey where he claims to be domiciled and where his family resides. The taxpayer spends most weekends in New Jersey with his family. Thus, the taxpayer spends more time in New York because he has to, but weekends in New Jersey because he wants to. In this situation New Jersey would likely be the place which the taxpayer intends to be his permanent home despite the fact that more time was spent in New York.

For example, in *Matter of Craig F. Knight, DTA No. 819485*, the Tax Appeals Tribunal reversed the ALJ in finding that a New Jersey domiciliary had not changed his domicile despite spending significant time in New York in connection with his partnership and visits to his girlfriend. According to the Tribunal,

*“The presence of a suburban commuter at work or play in New York on most days, without more, does not create a New York domicile and the frequency of theater attendance or restaurant meals seems to have little probative value on the issue of whether his or her home continues to be in the suburbs. The number of days spent in New York might well be one of the factors to be considered in a case where the taxpayer had substantial residences in New York and a distant city, and the issue was which of the two was the taxpayer’s domicile. If other factors indicate that an individual is a mere sojourner whose home is elsewhere, that status will not be elevated to domicile by the frequency of visits.”*

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A diary, appointment log, or calendar maintained by the individual can be used to support this analysis. Some individuals who are audited, however, do not keep extensive diaries or logs. It would not be expected that an individual who has retired from active employment would keep a detailed diary or log as to where he was every day of the year. A personal conversation with the taxpayer and the representative may help to clarify the situation and provide the auditor with the patterns of travel for the years under audit. The auditor should explain the importance of determining where the taxpayer actually spends his time and show the relationship to the audit conclusions.

During this analysis, the auditor should focus on the overall living pattern of the taxpayer, asking whether the patterns present strong evidence that the new location has become the taxpayer's domicile. For example, if an individual formerly lived and worked in New York during the entire year but has retired and moved south, seasonal visits to New York, such as an annual summer visit, should not be viewed negatively. This visit to New York is entirely consistent with the taxpayer's new pattern of living and purported change of domicile. An illustration of this is the comments of the ALJ in *Matter of Henry and Betty Karlin*, DTA No. 807996:

*“...it is clear that they (the Karlins) had significant and longterm as opposed to only recently acquired ties to Florida, and that by the years in question they had shifted their focus so as to make their permanent home (in retirement) and domicile in Florida. In sum, petitioners were ‘summering’ in New York, but lived in Florida. Hence, petitioners were properly considered domiciliaries of Florida during the years 1986 and 1987.”*

#### *Conclusion of Law E*

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By contrast, if the taxpayer merely changes from spending six months per year in the southern home to spending seven months per year, this minimal alteration, by itself, should not constitute strong evidence of a change of domicile.

At this point, if the audit is focused on domicile, the auditor need not account individually for every single day as long as patterns are established. The auditor should seek out credible testimony from the taxpayer and attempt to recreate the locations where the taxpayer spent time during the audit period. The information that the auditor receives as testimony or declarations from the taxpayer should be weighed along with the other factors relating

to any of the locations where the taxpayer resided during the audit period. If the individual provides diaries or logs, they should be randomly checked for their validity.

A good example where the taxpayers' credible testimony was instrumental in demonstrating an overall living pattern is *Matter of Jack & Helen Armel, DTA No. 811255*. The taxpayers were unable to provide documentation to substantiate their whereabouts during one month of the audit period that was vital in determining if they were statutory residents. The Tax Appeals Tribunal concluded, however, that the taxpayers' credible testimony, as corroborated by affidavits from friends and associates, was acceptable in lieu of documentation to show that they were not present in New York during the month in question. Although the issue in this case was statutory residency, the same reasoning would apply equally to matters of domicile.

As you can see, a taxpayer does not necessarily need additional documentation, beyond his or her own statements, as to the amount of time spent in New York. Since it is normal for people to display certain predictable and repetitive migratory patterns, and it is abnormal for people to document their presence in a particular location on every day of the year, an auditor should measure the credibility of a personal account in the context of an audit. The auditor should accept a taxpayer's credible and consistent account of routine travel.

In order to substantiate the entries in a diary, or if no diary exists, a taxpayer may be asked to provide other information such as credit card receipts, phone bills, or other information to identify where the taxpayer was during a specific period. (A complete list is contained in Chapter VIII). For example, a taxpayer might be asked to submit expense accounts or credit card receipts to demonstrate a presence IN or OUT of New York. In addition, telephone bills may be requested to show the activity at a particular location. This activity could also be used to demonstrate a presence either in or out of New York. Testimony should also be sought from the taxpayer which would substantiate the entries in the diary or log. Random sampling and test checking of the entries in a diary and/or other testimony submitted by the taxpayer will reduce the burdens placed upon the taxpayer to produce records and documentation.

The auditor should use all of this information to determine the pattern of activity both in and out of New York State. The information provided by the taxpayer will usually represent time spent at the New York location as well as the location of the claimed domicile. The auditor will analyze information pertaining to the time spent factor for the purpose of comparing time spent at the claimed domicile to the time spent in New York. Time spent in places other than these is not considered in this analysis. The auditor should review this material from both the New York perspective and that of the other location. The review of diaries and logs should be handled in an objective manner. The auditor should not concentrate only on conducting an exhaustive review of third-party records focusing on **NON-NEW YORK** days but should equally review information submitted by the taxpayer concerning out-of-state documentation of what appears to be a New York day.

"False" indicators that can mistakenly turn a non-New York day into a New York day include credit card purchases in New York by children, phone calls by housekeepers, and children or relatives staying at the New York address as a guest of the taxpayer when he may not be in New York. The auditor should carefully examine this type of documentation. When appropriate, an affidavit from a third-party individual



may clarify the situation (see Chapter VIII for a further discussion of affidavits). In addition, auditors should be alert for the same "false indicators" which might be used to verify a day spent out of the state.

When analyzing the time spent at the various locations, the auditor can ease the burden placed upon the taxpayer by being reasonable in the determination of the undocumented days. For example, if an individual has provided documentation for a Friday and Monday that they were vacationing out west, it is logical to assume that the individual spent Saturday and Sunday there also. If the taxpayer cannot provide specific documentation for the Saturday and Sunday, the auditor should not consider these days as New York days without evidence that the individual returned to New York for the weekend.

#### 4. Primary Factors: Items "Near and Dear"

*The location of items which the individual holds "near and dear" to his or her heart, or those items which have significant sentimental value, such as: family heirlooms, works of art, collections of books, stamps and coins, and those personal items which enhance the quality of lifestyle.*

Another primary factor is the location of pets, personal items or other sentimental possessions which the taxpayer holds "Near and Dear to their heart." These include specific items of value, such as a rare book, art or antique collection, or those of little monetary value such as a family photo album, which enhance and add quality to the individual's lifestyle. In some cases, it may be appropriate to review insurance policies which could disclose the actual location of such items, particularly if moved to a new location. As part of the opening interview with the taxpayer the auditor should discuss the location of the items, he places value on. This analysis of "Near and Dear" items can help to solidify the intent of the taxpayer concerning the location of his domicile. For example, a collector of rare books could show his intention to change domicile if a new residence is modified to accommodate the large collection and the collection is actually moved to the new location. However, if the same collector does not move the books, this, coupled with the results of the analysis of the other primary factors, may indicate that the taxpayer is not showing intent to give up and abandon the former domicile. In the following ALJ Determination, ***Matter of James K. & Helen C. Dittrich, DTA No. 811479***, the taxpayer's failure to remove near and dear items from their upstate New York home was one of several factors cited by the ALJ in holding that they had not changed their domicile:

*"As noted by the Division, petitioners did not remove special near and dear items from their home in Vestal. Although such failure is seemingly innocuous, one must remember that in domicile matters informal acts can be persuasive in determining a person's general habit of life (Matter of Silverman) and state of mind."*

*Conclusion of Law E*

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The items "Near and Dear" at all locations must be reviewed and a comparison made. The mere location of items "Near and Dear" is not conclusive in determining the location of one's domicile but is one factor which helps to give a picture of how the taxpayer views his domicile. The auditor must look not only at the items which remain in New York but must look at all items considered to be "Near and Dear" to the individual. The auditor should not ignore or dismiss the transfer of "Near and Dear" items to a non-New York location. Even though the transfer of these possessions to a non-New York location could be viewed by some as a mechanical or a self-serving act, consideration must be given for those items located outside New York. An example of this

is included in the comments made by an Administrative Law Judge in *Matter of William and Marion Langfan, DTA No. 808823*. The ALJ wrote:

*"Although the Division contended that petitioners left many important personal items in their New York residence, like crystal and furniture, it was established that the Langfans moved valuable artwork and sculptures created by Mrs. Langfan's father and her jewelry, which was kept in a safety deposit box in Florida, to Florida in 1985. These valuables and sentimental items represent a clear emotional tie to New York which was severed by petitioners when they removed them from the State of New York to the State of Florida."*

*Conclusion of Law E*

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If an item is valuable, we would expect the item to be moved by a first-rate carrier. For example, one would not expect an individual to move antique furniture in a U-Haul, but rather by a bonded and insured professional carrier. This type of move might be documented with "bills of lading" or insurance statements.

In assessing the nature of "near and dear" items, auditors must be sensitive to the unique circumstances of the individual being audited. Obviously, that which is "near and dear" to any individual will sometimes be highly subjective. Individuals with several residences usually have items enhancing the quality of their lifestyle in every residence that they maintain. For example, when a taxpayer is maintaining more than one residence, furniture appropriate to each residence will also be maintained. Antique furniture may stay in the New York residence because it is geographically inappropriate for the Florida home, and not because the taxpayer remains domiciled in New York. Similarly, one would not be expected to transfer furs or clothing suitable for a colder environment to a warm weather location.

Auditors should not assume that because a person has the wherewithal to own expensive possessions that such expensive items are "near and dear" to an individual in the sense of making a house a home. The appraised value of possessions, insurance bills, or the lack of moving bills therefore should not automatically lead to the conclusion that the taxpayer's domicile follows the location of such belongings. Auditors should consider the possibility that a taxpayer maintains such items in one location because they are not "near and dear" enough to move to the taxpayer's "home." Similarly, items with significant intrinsic value may be located in one location for reason of preservation or safe keeping, in which case the locus of the item is more an investment decision than a reflection on domicile.

Lastly, when developing the "near and dear" factor, the auditor is reminded to recognize that sentimental significance is different from monetary value, and the mere fact that valuable possessions are in one location or the other (or both) may not, in some cases, shed light on domicile.

## 5. Primary Factors: Family Connections

While analysis of the "time" factor presents us with the most quantitative factor in determining an individual's domicile, analysis of "family" is a much more subjective factor. Throughout the discussion of



the primary factors, it has been stressed that no single factor can be considered a "stand alone" indicator of domicile. This statement certainly holds true for the analysis of "family connections" as a factor in determining domicile.

The Department recognizes that the analysis of an individual's familial connections could be intrusive into one's private and personal lifestyle. The auditor should not request information regarding the family factor until the auditor has evaluated the initial residency questionnaire. To minimize the invasive nature of any audit, an analysis of family connections should generally be limited to the taxpayer's immediate family when necessary to reach a decision on domicile. The basic question of what constitutes an individual's immediate family is an area that could vary from individual to individual. Family, however, for the purposes of this analysis, will normally consist of the individual, the spouse or partner (in recognition of modern lifestyles and living arrangements), and any minor children.

The location where minor children attend school can be one of the most important factors in determining where someone is domiciled. This is because in deciding where to live an important consideration for taxpayers with minor children is frequently the quality of the schools. This is true whether the schools are public or private. For example, if minor children are attending a non-boarding school within reasonable commuting distance from the taxpayer's Connecticut residence, then it may be concluded, if supported by other factors, that the taxpayer intends this Connecticut residence to be his or her domicile. However, if minor children attend a boarding school located near a Connecticut residence, but rarely return to the Connecticut residence, and do return to New York on the weekends, this, if supported by other factors, could indicate that the individual is domiciled in New York.

In the **Smith/Groh** Tribunal decision that was referenced earlier in the discussion of time, the location where minor children attended school was another factor cited in concluding that the taxpayers remained domiciled in New York State and City for the years 1986 to 1991:

*“Petitioners’ children, ages five and nine in 1986, attended school in New York City during the entire audit period when they were allegedly domiciled in New Jersey and St. Croix, but school records indicate a New York City address for 1986 through 1991.”*

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Thus, when auditing taxpayers with children of school age, it is appropriate for auditors to ask where the children attended school during the audit period and the dates of attendance and, if necessary, request documentation. This would apply equally to children who are attending preschool.

As mentioned in the discussion of the time factor, the focus of the analysis should be on the living patterns established by the taxpayer. For example, if an individual formerly lived and worked in New York during the entire year, but has retired and moved south, seasonal visits to New York to visit family members, such as an annual summer visit, should not be viewed as indicative of domicile. This visit to New York is entirely consistent with the taxpayer's new pattern of living and purported changes of domicile.

The family connection can help determine the domicile of an individual when it is the bond that draws an individual back to a location whenever absent and encompasses his habit of life.

Having stressed the importance of family in the evaluation of domicile, it needs to be pointed out that spouses can have different domiciles. In *Matter of Martin Erdman & Joan Keyloun, DTA No. 810741*, the Tax Appeals Tribunal reversed the ALJ in ruling that a wife had not become a domiciliary of New York by marrying a New York domiciliary. The Tribunal accepted her claim that she had changed her domicile to Florida long before their marriage and that her contacts with New York were minimal. At the same time, the Tribunal affirmed the ALJ in holding that the husband remained a New York domiciliary.

As stated earlier, family is generally defined as the spouse or partner, and minor children. It should be stressed that this definition is not exclusive. There may be situations where the family may consist of other individuals such as adult children or aging parents. For example, in the Buzzard decision that was cited previously in connection with the time factor, the Tribunal also listed the taxpayers' relationship with their grandchildren as an important tie to New York:

*"... critical to our decision that there has been no change of domicile is petitioners' relationship with their family, an intangible factor which permeates the record. ... Petitioners have expressed their commitment to spending as much time as possible with their children and grandchildren ... returning to Buffalo to spend the warmer months and the Christmas holidays with them during the years at issue."*

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Although this decision illustrates that there may be situations where the inquiry into family may be expanded to include members other than the spouse/partner or minor children, we expect that these situations should be limited, and initiated only after consultation with the team leader and Field Audit Management.

## **B. EVALUATION OF THE FACTORS**

After the primary factors are analyzed, and sufficient information is gathered upon which a conclusion can be based, the auditor, possibly in conjunction with his team leader, must look at the information and formulate an opinion as to the domicile of the individual. This determination of an individual's domicile can often be facilitated by applying the accounting principle of a "T" account to the factors. By aligning the factors favoring a New York domicile on one side of the account and the factors favoring a domicile outside New York on the other side, the auditor and the taxpayer are provided with a visual summary of the reasons for a specific determination. Several principles should be kept in mind during this decision-making process. They are as follows:

- Evaluate the primary factors objectively. Look at the patterns that are established by the individual.
- Be open minded and fair in evaluating all factors in a balanced and reasonable manner.

- Be cognizant of the fact that individuals go through evolutionary changes during their lifetime.

Each primary factor must be analyzed, and a determination reached upon the conclusion of the analysis. In some instances, the analysis of the primary factors will present "clear and convincing" evidence relating to the individual's domicile. In other cases, the analysis of the primary factors may fail to provide convincing evidence or point equally to a domicile in more than one location. In these situations, the auditor must examine the "other" factors in an attempt to clarify the individual's domicile. Particular attention should be drawn to the concluding comments of the *Buzzard* decision. In this decision the Tribunal analyzed each of the factors and reached a conclusion based upon the facts. The Tax Appeals Tribunal stated that:

*"It may be argued that petitioners' life did not continue to focus exclusively on the Buffalo area to the extent it had prior to 1981; indeed, there is ample evidence that petitioner Clay Buzzard did move about extensively both for personal reasons as well as for the benefit of MAWDI. Further, it is acknowledged that petitioners also owned a home in Florida, belonged to two country clubs in Florida, developed social ties in their Florida neighborhood, demonstrated various formal connections to the State of Florida (e.g., driver's licenses, voter registration, etc), and, because of Mr. Buzzard's health concerns, were constrained as to where they could spend the winter months.*

*However, critical to our decision that there has been no change of domicile is petitioners' relationship with their family, an intangible factor which permeates the records. ...Petitioners have expressed their commitment to spending as much time as possible with their children and grandchildren ... returning to Buffalo to spend the warmer months and the Christmas holidays with them during the years at issue.*

*This, combined with their continued business and social activity in Buffalo, goes against petitioners' assertion of a change in domicile. ... It appears that but for Mr. Buzzard's medical condition petitioners would have spent an even greater amount of time in the Buffalo area. ... We determine that petitioners have not shown, in a clear and convincing manner, an intent to change their domicile to Florida."*

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A major change in the patterns surrounding the primary factors can signal a change in domicile. The auditor should never trivialize steps taken in the new location (such as the purchase of a new home, community activity, or business involvement) while magnifying the importance of the remaining New York connections. A lack of balance would create a heavy burden of proof for taxpayers, one which they feel they may not be able to overcome simply with statements of intent, or the existence of certain ties in the new location. As a result, some individuals may be given wrong advice that they can only accomplish the change with the severance of almost all ties to New York.

The auditor should recognize differences in use, including the possible conversion of a full-time principal home into a vacation residence, used only during the summer or during periodic visits to the state. The

auditor should determine whether the taxpayer has acquired a permanent place of abode in the new location and is actually living in the location. With respect to the retained New York property, the focus should shift to the purported change of use, a change which converts the residence from a year-round home, the principal place of domicile, to a vacation property or hotel substitute. If the taxpayer says that he intended a permanent move to another state, the auditor should focus on the use of the former New York home to confirm or discredit the taxpayer's stated intent. A dramatic change in use of the New York living quarters, such as a change from full-time to seasonal use, or a change from full-time use to use (e.g., by a cross border commuter) one or two nights per week would tend to confirm the stated intent. Mere retention of the residence may be an insignificant incident, especially where the taxpayer owns several properties in and out of New York.

The auditor must ask if the individual's business or work patterns have changed, and whether the individual has significantly altered their work habits by reducing their duties or transferring day-to-day responsibilities to others. Occasional use of the New York office and telephone, courier or fax communication with a New York business are not appropriately viewed as strong indicators of New York domicile if the individual's work pattern and responsibilities have significantly changed.

The auditor should concentrate on the overall living pattern, asking whether the pattern of time spent in various locations presents a body of evidence that supports the new location as the taxpayer's domicile. If the taxpayer formerly lived and worked in New York during the entire year, but has retired and moved to Florida, seasonal visits to New York, such as annual summer visits, should not be viewed negatively. They are entirely consistent with the taxpayer's new pattern of living and purported change of domicile.

Occasionally, the occurrence of an event forces a drastic change in lifestyle. Retirement, loss of employment, the death of a spouse, a divorce and re-marriage, or even the growing up of one's children can trigger a desire to change a lifestyle. The awareness of the auditor of the circumstances surrounding a dramatic change could explain a move to another location and ease the burden placed upon the individual to produce documentation of the change. By contrast, if the taxpayer merely changes from spending six months per year in Florida to spending seven months per year, this minimal alteration, by itself, would not constitute strong evidence of a change in lifestyle when determining domicile.

When the evidence supports a significant change in lifestyle, the change of domicile must be recognized. In the case of an individual who retires and moves out of New York, if the primary factors support a change, the change should be recognized, and the individual notified to that effect. Taxpayers who claim a change of domicile during the audit period should provide information to support the change of lifestyle. If the taxpayer or representative is not forthcoming with the information, the auditor should request this information to support the alleged change. This supports the Department's position concerning the benefit of an opening interview or conversation with the taxpayer. Much of this information concerning changes in lifestyle can be determined through careful questioning of the taxpayer and/or the representative early in the audit process.

When the fact patterns do not present a change in lifestyle, a conclusion similar to that reached by the Tax Appeals Tribunal in the *Matter of Colin & Delma Getz, DTA No. 809134*, is appropriate. The Tribunal, citing the ALJ's findings, stated:

*"...although the petitioners made certain formal declarations that they changed their domicile (e.g., voter registration and car registrations), such declarations are less persuasive than informal acts which demonstrate an individual's 'general habit of life.'*

*...other informal conduct by the petitioners such as maintaining a checking account in Florida and a savings account in New York... by itself was not sufficient to contradict the formal declarations of a change of domicile; however, given the aggregate of all these factors and the standard of proof that petitioners must sustain to show a change in domicile, it could not be concluded that the petitioners effected a permanent change in domicile from New York to Florida.*

*Further, while the petitioners may have very well intended Florida to be their permanent domicile, their "general habit of life" indicated, at best, an equal commitment to both locations."*

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Thus, the Tax Appeals Tribunal concluded that the petitioners had not established by "clear and convincing" evidence that they effected a change in domicile to Florida for the years in question.

### C. OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING DOMICILE

Apart from the primary factors, there are other factors which can provide some insight into a domicile determination. These factors, however, are subordinate to the primary factors. In most cases it is usually not necessary to review the "other" factors as part of the decision-making process on domicile. In order to underscore the ancillary nature of these factors, and to stress their lesser importance in a domicile decision, they have been grouped together as "other" factors.

An individual may continue to have ties to New York while being a nonresident. It is very possible that a nonresident could have many "other" factors linking them to New York but not have sufficient primary factors to conclude that the taxpayer is a resident. These "other" factors, by themselves, cannot be the basis for a residency determination. Thus, individuals need not worry about maintaining these "other" ties with New York while taking full advantage of what New York offers in business, financial, cultural, medical treatment facilities, social, and entertainment avenues.

An auditor need not be concerned with these "other" factors without first establishing a basis for consideration of New York as the individual's domicile from an analysis of the primary factors or where the primary factors are at least equal in weight for New York and another location. Where the primary factors indicate a New York

domicile, these other factors should be reviewed, but are not considered to carry the weight and significance of the primary factors. For situations in which it remains unclear as to the strength of a domicile determination by an analysis of the primary factors, an analysis of these "other" factors is warranted and takes on a greater significance.

**The "Other" Factors are:**

1. The address at which bank statements, bills, financial data and correspondence concerning other family business is primarily received.
2. The physical location of the safe deposit boxes used for family records and valuables.
3. Location of auto, boat, and airplane registrations as well as the individual's personal driver's or operator's license.
4. Where the taxpayer is registered to vote and an analysis of the exercise of said privilege. The auditor should not limit the review to the general elections in November, but also question the taxpayer's participation in primary or other off-season elections, including school board and budget elections.
5. Possession of a Manhattan Parking Tax exemption.
6. An analysis of telephone services at each residence including the nature of the listing, the type of service features, and the activity at the location.
7. The citation in legal documents that a particular location is to be considered the individual's place of domicile or that a particular residence is considered to be a primary residence. Examples would include, but are not limited to, wills; divorce decrees or separation agreements; applications for school tax relief exemption (STAR); leases for rent-controlled or rent-stabilized apartments.
8. Green cards indicating that an immigrant can legally reside in the United States on a permanent basis.

The above list of "other" factors, as we have indicated, are subordinate to the primary factors. The auditor's reliance on this information in determining domicile should be with the awareness that the individual has the ability to easily control and regulate many of these factors. For example, a taxpayer, because of varying residency rules, may be able to change his voter registration, auto registration, or driver's license to another state for convenience purposes, while never intending to change domicile. Other factors, not included on this list are considered incidental, with little bearing on determining one's domicile. All of the factors listed above may not be present in each situation. The existence of a factor when determining the domicile of an individual depends upon the specific circumstances of the situation.

After a review of the primary factors the auditor should determine if the factors point to a case of New York domicile. If the conclusion of the auditor, based on primary factors, is that there is not a case to support



New York domicile, there is no need to review the "other" factors. Even the diligent auditor who has first developed a basis for New York domicile from an analysis of the five primary factors, and now needs to examine these "other" factors in relationship to domicile, may still encounter a situation where the individual has taken several secondary steps to demonstrate a change of domicile while doing little to change the primary factors which reflect significant ties to New York.

*For example: John and Sarah were domiciled in New York when John retired in 2000. They have a large home in New York and a condominium in Florida. Prior to 2000, John and Sarah spent approximately 4 months in Florida and the remaining 8 months in New York State. John was president of a corporation when he retired and was retained as a consultant and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporate Board after retirement. They have many family and friends in both the New York and Florida area and are involved in the activities of the local country club, as well as other civic and service organizations at both locations. When John retired in 2000, he and his wife decided to spend more time in Florida, especially during the winter months. John & Sarah usually leave for Florida in the later part of October and return during the first part of April each year. During their first prolonged stay in Florida, they transferred their auto registrations to Florida, as well as acquiring new driver's licenses from Florida. They registered to vote in Florida and have voted there each year since retirement. They visit doctors and dentists in both locations as the need arises. They maintain bank accounts in both locations and have the mail sent to whichever location they are at. John & Sarah usually return to New York for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and John returns about once a month to attend the corporate board meetings.*

We can see that John & Sarah took many "other" factors steps in an effort to effectuate a change of domicile but did little to change the primary ties. The auditor must develop an analysis of the primary factors, those which were retained in New York and those that are in existence at the other location. This analysis is more than just a listing of the ties at one location versus the ties at another location. The analysis is a comparison of the activities associated with New York, versus the activities associated with the ties in the other location.

Other aspects of the taxpayer's lifestyle may emerge during the audit. It is one of the aims of these guidelines to identify what Audit believes to be the most important considerations in determining one's domicile, which we have grouped into primary and other factors depending on their level of importance. Having said that, however, we do recognize that in certain limited situations there could be other factors not specifically identified in these guidelines that may be more appropriate. For example, one taxpayer may have a passion for cultural activities which only New York with its abundance of museums, theaters, and concert venues could satisfy. On the other hand, another taxpayer may be more interested in outdoor activities such as boating or golf that are more suitable to a warm weather location. In those situations where other aspects of the taxpayer's lifestyle not specifically enumerated as "primary" or "other factors" in the guidelines appear to be relevant, the auditor should first discuss this with his team leader and Field Audit Management before informing the taxpayer.

## D. NONFACTORS OF DOMICILE

It is necessary to distinguish between factors not covered by the guidelines which may be appropriate and those factors which are irrelevant in determining one's domicile. The auditor should not request documentation concerning these "non-factors" nor should the auditor invest time in exploring their impact on the domicile issue. Should the taxpayer or the representative raise these factors during the course of the audit, the auditor should explain that these are "non-factors" that are not considered in the determination of domicile either for New York or elsewhere. These "non-factors" include but are not limited to the place of interment.

- the location where the taxpayer's will be probated.
- passive interest in partnerships or small corporations.
- the mere location of bank accounts.
- contributions made to political candidates or causes.
- the location where the taxpayer's individual income tax returns are prepared and filed.

Two specific "non-factors" which are not part of any decision of domicile are charitable contributions and volunteering for nonprofit organizations. It has long been the policy of the Department that charitable contributions in and of themselves are not considered in determining domicile. See TSB-M-84(17)I.

As a non-factor, there is no need for auditors to review, transcribe, or in any way cite contributions as a factor in a domicile case. In cases where the taxpayer cites contributions as a factor, the auditor should advise the taxpayer or representative that the Department's position is that charitable contributions are neither a factor to support residency nor to support nonresidency.

The status of charitable contributions was further clarified when Section 605 of the Tax Law was amended in 1994 by adding a new subsection (c). This new subsection prohibits not only the use of monetary contributions in determining an individual's domicile but donations of uncompensated time as well. Subsection (c) does not distinguish between tax deductible and non-tax-deductible charitable contributions. Therefore, whether or not a charitable contribution is tax deductible makes no difference in domicile cases. The definition of a charitable contribution contained in subsection (c) also includes the "volunteering, giving, or donation of uncompensated time." Thus, the fact that a taxpayer volunteers as a deacon in his New York church is precluded by Tax Law Section 605(c) from being used to show continuing ties to New York for the purpose of determining domicile. Any days spent in New York in connection with this role, however, can be counted for purposes of statutory residency, a subject that will be discussed further in chapter VI.

Taxpayers who do volunteer work for New York charities or nonprofits may claim that the sole reason for their presence in New York on a given day is in connection with their volunteer work. It is Audit's position, however, that the performance of any other activities unrelated to charitable work would allow these days to be considered in the analysis of the time factor for domicile. Thus, if the taxpayer spends part of the day engaged in fundraising and the remainder of the day at work, we will consider this to be a New York day.



Similarly, if the taxpayer spends a week in New York and does volunteer work only on Monday and Friday, we will consider the intervening days to be New York days in evaluating time spent in New York for domicile.

Section 605(c) applies to contributions made in taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1994.

## E. TAX RELIEF FOR A DOMICILIARY

Tax Law Section 605(b)(1)(A) and the related regulations in 20 NYCRR 105.20(b) provide tax relief for certain individuals who are New York State domiciliaries. A domiciliary who meets the criteria of either provision explained below would not be deemed a resident.

### ▪ **Thirty Day Rule:**

*To qualify under this provision, the taxpayer has to meet the following three conditions:*

1. he maintains no permanent place of abode in New York State during the year.
2. he maintains a permanent place of abode outside New York State during the entire year; *and*
3. he spends not more than 30 days of the taxable year in New York State.

In *Matter of Lane V. Gallman, 49 AD2d 963*, a domiciliary who left New York on March 1 to enter military service did not satisfy the above conditions to be exempt from taxation as a New York State resident. The Court concluded that the Department's interpretation that the above conditions must be met for the *entire* year was not "irrational or unreasonable."

Similarly, in *Matter of Patrick Regan, DTA No. 816588*, the ALJ concluded that the taxpayer did not satisfy all three conditions because he maintained an apartment in New York for part of the year.

### ▪ **548 Day Rule:**

*To qualify under this provision, the taxpayer has to meet the following three conditions:*

1. within any period of 548 consecutive days, the taxpayer is present in a foreign country or countries for at least 450 days.
2. during such period of 548 consecutive days the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse (unless legally separated) and the taxpayer's minor children are not present in New York State for more than 90 days; *and*
3. during the nonresident portion of the taxable year with or within which such period of 548 consecutive days begins and the nonresident portion of the taxable year with or within which such period of 548 consecutive days ends, the taxpayer is present in New York State for a number of days which does not exceed an amount which bears the same ratio to 90 as the number of days contained in such portion of the taxable year bears to 548.

In determining the minimum number of days that the taxpayer must be in a foreign country, and the maximum number of days the taxpayer, spouse and minor children can be in New York State, both full and part days are counted.

**Advisory Opinion TSB-A-11(3)I**

As long as an individual who is domiciled in New York State continues to meet the requirements of either the 30-day rule or the 548-day rule, the individual will be considered a nonresident of New York State for personal income tax purposes. But if the individual fails to meet these conditions, the individual will be subject to New York State personal income tax as a resident.

Where an individual domiciled in New York State claims to be a nonresident for any taxable year, or portion thereof, the burden is upon the individual to show that they satisfy the requirements set forth in either the 30-day rule or the 548-day rule.

**Example:**

A single individual who is domiciled in New York State was present in a foreign country or countries 463 days during the period July 2, 2009, through December 31, 2010. During this period, the individual was present in New York State a total of 50 days, 15 during the period July 2, 2009, through December 31, 2009, and 35 days during 2010. During this period of time, the individual did not maintain a permanent place of abode in this state at which his minor children were present for more than 90 days.

- Since the individual was present in a foreign country for 463 days, he meets requirement number 1 of the 548-day rule.
- The individual also meets requirement number 2 because the total of 50 days present in this State during the 548 consecutive day period is less than the maximum of 90 days allowed.
- To determine if the individual meets requirement number 3, the individual must determine if the number of days present in New York State during the period July 2, 2009, to December 31, 2009, (the short period) exceeds the maximum allowed for the nonresident portion of the taxable year within which the 548-day period began.

The maximum number of days the individual may be present in New York State during the short period is determined as follows:

<i>183 days in short period</i>	<i>X 90 =</i>	<i>Maximum number of days allowed in</i>
<i>-----</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>New York during the short period</i>
<i>548</i>		

Since the individual was present in New York State 15 days during the period July 2, 2009, through December 31, 2009, the individual did not exceed the maximum of 30 days allowed for the period. Therefore, the individual also meets requirement number 3.

Based on the information contained in the example, this individual meets all the requirements of the 548-day rule and would be considered a nonresident of New York State for income tax purposes during the period July 2, 2009, through December 31, 2010. Therefore, this individual would be required to file as a part year resident of New York State for the taxable year 2009 and as a nonresident of New York State for the taxable year 2010.

Of particular interest to the auditor is the fact that the taxpayer may claim any period of 548 consecutive days in order to seek treatment as a nonresident under this rule. This election permits the taxpayer to have multiple periods as well as overlapping periods during the audit.

Since many of the individuals selected for audit are involved in international travel as well as being assigned to foreign offices for periods of time, the auditor should be aware of the possibility of nonresident treatment based upon the 548-day rule.

If confronted with a claim of treatment as a nonresident based upon the 548-day rule, the auditor must examine each of the three requirements and determine if the taxpayer meets all three conditions. Failure to meet any one of the conditions can prevent the taxpayer from being treated as a nonresident and therefore taxed as a resident. The one condition, where an individual is often vulnerable, is the third requirement which is used to determine the maximum number of days one may spend in New York State during the short periods. The location of the taxpayer should be carefully examined during these periods. Remember, when claiming this treatment, the burden rests with the taxpayer to show that they satisfy the requirements set forth in this regulation.

For more information see also advisory opinion **TSB-A-90(11)I**.

## F. FOREIGN DOMICILE

### 1. Intent:

A change of domicile from New York to a foreign country presents a unique set of issues unlike those found in the typical nonresident audit. In such cases, a comparison of the domicile factors between New York and the foreign country may not necessarily be a true measure of the taxpayer's intent. This is particularly true for moves prompted by employment rather than retirement considerations. For example, the factors of time and active business ties will likely favor the foreign country which, other things being equal, may lead the auditor to conclude that the taxpayer has changed his domicile. This would not be the case, however, where the employment is of a temporary nature and the intention is to return to New York upon completion of the assignment.

This issue was addressed in *Matter of Newcomb, (192 NY 238)*, which was referenced earlier in Chapter IV. Although, strictly speaking, the case did not involve a foreign domicile change, it did address a temporary move as follows:

*“A temporary residence for a temporary purpose, with the intent to return to the old home when that purpose has been accomplished, leaves the domicile unchanged.”*

Unless the taxpayer intends to reside in the foreign country permanently, in most cases he will not have demonstrated a fixed intention to change his domicile by clear and convincing evidence. This view is reflected in the regulations in 20 NYCRR 105.20(d)(3) which state,

*“...a United States citizen will not ordinarily be deemed to have changed such citizen’s domicile by going to a foreign country unless it is clearly shown that such citizen intends to remain there permanently. For example, a United States citizen domiciled in New York State who goes abroad because of an assignment by such citizen’s employer or for study, research or recreation does not lose such citizen’s New York State domicile unless it is clearly shown that such citizen intends to remain abroad permanently and not to return.”*

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The courts have consistently held that more is involved in the decision to change one’s domicile to a foreign country than to another state and consequently have demanded more of the taxpayer to support the claimed change. To quote Newcomb again,

*“Less evidence is required to establish a change of domicile from one state to another than from one nation to another.”*

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This was underscored further in *Bodfish v. Gallman, 50 AD2d 457*, in which the Appellate Division stated,

*“The presumption against a foreign domicile is stronger than the general presumption against a change of domicile.”*

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**Note:** *The same reasoning would apply in auditing a foreign domiciliary who is residing in New York in connection with a temporary work assignment. Unless the individual has manifested an intention to remain in New York permanently as evidenced, for example, by applying for a green card, it is not likely that he would be deemed to be domiciled in New York. He would be subject to taxation as a statutory resident, however, in any year in which he maintains a permanent place of abode for substantially the entire year and spends more than 183 days in New York.*

**2. Factors:** To aid auditors in assessing the taxpayer’s intent in matters of foreign domicile, the following factors may be helpful:

a. Whether the taxpayer has been admitted for permanent residence in the foreign country.

The act of applying, and being approved, for permanent residence in a foreign country signals an intent that is lacking in taxpayers who have temporary work visas which need to be renewed periodically.

In concluding that the taxpayer had not changed his domicile to England during the years 1970 to 1973, one of the factors cited by the Appellate Division was the fact that he had obtained only a “working visa” which was renewable annually, as opposed to an “immigration visa” which would have allowed him to reside in England permanently.

*Matter of Harold A. Mercer et al, 92 AD2d 636*

Similarly, in *Matter of Louis R. Bodfish, 50 AD2d 457*, the Appellate Division affirmed that the taxpayers had not changed their domicile, noting that they

*“...entered Pakistan not on an immigration visa, but on a ‘Four Year Multiple Entry’ visa. It would seem that one who intends to make a domicile in a foreign country ordinarily would obtain an immigration visa.”*

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On the other hand, taxpayers who obtained resident visas were able to demonstrate a change of domicile. The taxpayers had left Albany in 1973 for Canada in connection with work and subsequently returned to New York in August 1976. One of the factors influencing the Court’s decision in *Matter of Francis L. McKone et al., 111 AD2d 1051*, that the taxpayers had changed their domicile during this period was that they were allowed to reside in Canada permanently.

b. Retention of the New York residence and/or periodic return visits:

Since domicile is defined, in part, as the place one returns to whenever absent, the retention of a New York residence to which the taxpayer regularly returns may suggest a lack of a fixed intention to abandon his New York domicile. In the context of foreign domicile, what is significant is not necessarily the amount of time a taxpayer spends in New York, but rather the fact that he regularly returns to New York for vacations or to visit family and friends.

In affirming that the taxpayers remained domiciled in New York, the Appellate Division in *Matter of Herbert D. Klein, et al., 55 AD2d 982* stated that the taxpayers

*“...returned to their New York residence on November 26, 1969 and lived there through the end of the year...”*

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In reversing the Appellate Division decision in *Matter of Rosser Reeves et al.*, 52 NY2d 959, the Court of Appeals accepted the dissenting opinion that the taxpayers had not shown by clear and convincing evidence an intention to relocate to Jamaica. The Court noted that Mr. Reeves made several trips to New York City during the year in question for a total of 105 days. In addition, the taxpayers retained their home in Westchester to which they eventually returned, albeit it had been unsuccessfully listed for sale.

Although in the following case the taxpayer had sold his Rochester home, the Court nevertheless concluded that he had not changed his domicile to the Netherlands, noting that “(h)e returned to this country on numerous occasions.”

***Matter of Saul A. Babbín, 49 NY2d 846***

**c. The nature of the taxpayer’s business ties:**

As stated earlier, a comparison of active business ties in foreign domicile cases would not necessarily be an accurate measure of one’s intention to change domicile if the foreign assignment is of a temporary nature. This is true whether the individual is an employee or a business owner. In a case involving an employee, *Matter of Eileen J. Taylor, DTA No. 822824*, the taxpayer was a New York City domiciliary who was relocated to London in what was to have been a three-year assignment ending in 2002. The taxpayer’s term of employment was subsequently extended in one-year increments through 2005.

In holding that the taxpayer remained domiciled in New York City during the years 2002 to 2004, the Tax Appeals Tribunal stated that during this period the taxpayer’s “*presence in London remained sufficiently tenuous and contingent upon her employer’s desire to keep her there...*” This was evidenced by the fact that her London assignment was extended for only one year at a time and that her employer had the right to terminate it and reassign her to her home location in New York. As the nature of the taxpayer’s assignment was short-term, the Tribunal concluded that her intention to relinquish her New York domicile was not clear and convincing.

In the following case, *Matter of Barry Minsky et al.*, 78 AD2d 955, it was the nature of the taxpayer’s business ties to New York that was an important factor in the Court’s decision that he had not intended to relinquish his domicile. The taxpayer claimed a change of domicile to Canada in 1972 in connection with the operation of a music partnership. While living in Toronto he made several trips to New York City where he “*retained viable business interests which he tended to*” during the year. In contrast, the taxpayer’s Canadian venture was not profitable and his “*sole income for the year was from New York and Florida interests.*” This and the continued maintenance of a New York City checking account convinced the Court that the taxpayer and his wife had not intended to change their domicile. The Court accorded little weight to his application for “landed immigrant” status as evidence of his intention to remain in Canada by noting that he “*was required, by the Canadian government, to acquire this status as a condition precedent to engaging in his planned business enterprise.*”

d. The filing of tax returns as a resident of the foreign country:

The fact that a U.S. citizen who has relocated to a foreign country files tax returns as a resident of that country reporting his worldwide income is not necessarily conclusive of a change of domicile. Nevertheless, as an action that it is consistent with the taxpayer's asserted change of domicile, it is deserving of some consideration.

In *Matter of McKone* cited above, the Court noted that during the period that the taxpayers were absent from New York they "paid Canadian income taxes." In *Matter of Anthony P. & Ilse L. Vogelpoel*, a small claims case, the State Tax Commission noted in finding of fact nine that the taxpayers "became subject to and paid taxes to West Germany" as a factor in acknowledging a change of domicile.

In the following case, however, a taxpayer was able to demonstrate a change of domicile for the years 1988 to 1990 despite not having filed resident income tax returns for those years in Venezuela (Finding of Fact #8). This failure and her continued ownership of three apartments in New York City were outweighed by the fact that she requested a job transfer to Venezuela to be with her newly-married husband, a citizen and lifelong resident of Venezuela (Finding of Facts #23 and 25).

***Matter of Marta R. Santelices-Maldonado, DTA No. 812831***

### 3. Citizenship:

Finally, it should be noted that whether or not the taxpayer acquires citizenship in the foreign country is generally of little consequence in and of itself. According to NYCRR 105.20(d)(3), "domicile is not dependent on citizenship." In *Matter of John L. Bernbach, 98 AD2d 559*, the Appellate Division reversed the State Tax Commission in holding that the taxpayer had changed his domicile to France. The Court dismissed the Department's argument that the taxpayer had not applied for French citizenship stating,

*"Finally, the Tax Commission relied upon petitioner's failure to apply for French nationality after residing in France for five years. We find it irrational, however, to require a taxpayer to give up his United States citizenship in order to prove to the Tax Commission that he abandoned his New York domicile."*

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This decision was later cited by the ALJ in a series of cases involving a married couple and their two adult daughters who were found to have changed their domicile to Bermuda.

***Matter of John & Pamela T. Mariani, DTA No. 813188***  
***Matter of Diana F. Mariani, DTA No. 813189***  
***Matter of Christina N. Mariani, DTA No. 813190***



## VI. STATUTORY RESIDENCE

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### A. DEFINITION

A statutory resident is an individual who "is not domiciled in this state but *maintains* a *permanent* place of abode in New York State and spends in the aggregate more than one hundred and eighty-three days of the taxable year in this state, unless such individual is in the active service of the armed forces of the United States," (Tax Law section 605(b)(1)(B)). This provision is commonly known as the 183-day rule.

### B. PERMANENT PLACE OF ABODE, PART I: The Basics

A permanent place of abode (PPA) can be a house, co-op, apartment, condo, or other dwelling. New York State Income Tax Regulation Section 105.20(e) defines a permanent place of abode, in part, as a

*"dwelling place of a permanent nature maintained by the taxpayer, whether or not owned by him, and will generally include a dwelling place owned or leased by his or her spouse."*

The meaning of the terms "*permanent*" and "*maintained*" was addressed by the Tax Appeals Tribunal in ***Matter of John M. Evans, 199 AD2d 840***. The case, which was affirmed by the Appellate Division, involved a taxpayer who owned a home in Dutchess County where he was domiciled, and shared living quarters with a priest in a rectory in New York City which was near his office. The taxpayer would typically commute to the city on Sunday or Monday and stay at the rectory during the week, returning to his home on weekends. In concluding that the rectory constituted a permanent place of abode to Mr. Evans, the Tribunal stated

*"Permanence, in this context, must encompass the physical aspects of the dwelling place as well as the individual's relationship to the place."*

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These two key concepts - *physical aspects and the nature of the relationship* - are discussed below.

### 1. Physical Attributes

For a dwelling to be permanent, it must be suitable for year-round use. Thus, "a mere camp or cottage, which is suitable and used only for vacations, is not a permanent place of abode" according to the regulations in 20 NYCRR 105.20(e)(1). The fact that a taxpayer's use of a dwelling was limited, for example, to the summer months, does not mean that the dwelling was not suitable for year-round use. Suitability for year-round use turns on the physical attributes of the dwelling, that is, whether its construction and other features make it suitable for year-round use. The issue of permanence in the context of a vacation home was addressed in ***Matter of John J. & Laura Barker, DTA No. 822324***. In that case, the taxpayers were domiciliaries of Connecticut who owned a



second home in the Hamptons. The taxpayers' actual use of the New York residence was minimal, generally limited to the summer months. In fact, the wife's parents used the home more than the taxpayers themselves throughout the year, suggesting that it was clearly suitable for year-round use.

The Tribunal rejected the taxpayers' argument that "the subjective use of a dwelling by a taxpayer" determines whether it is a permanent place of abode. Thus, because the Barkers used the Hamptons home only for vacations does not mean that it was not suitable for year-round use. This suitability and the fact that the taxpayers maintained "dominion and control over the dwelling" were sufficient for the Tribunal to conclude that the home was a permanent place of abode.

In addition to being suitable for year-round use, a place of abode must generally contain "facilities ordinarily found in a dwelling, such as facilities for cooking, bathing, etc." in order for it be permanent according to the regulations in NYCRR 105.20(e)(1). Despite the absence of cooking facilities, however, a hotel room and an apartment were both deemed to be permanent places of abode in an advisory opinion, *Paul Gajkowski, TSB-A-02(7)I*. The opinion based its conclusion in both instances on the fact that the living arrangements will be maintained on a permanent basis.

## 2. The Nature of the Relationship:

In *Evans*, the rectory was determined to be the taxpayer's PPA even though he had no legal right to remain there as evidenced by a deed or a lease. According to the Tribunal,

*"...the permanence of a dwelling place for purposes of the personal income tax can depend on a variety of factors and cannot be limited to circumstances which establish a property right in the dwelling."*

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In the Tribunal's view, Evans' *relationship* to the rectory was comparable to that of a shared rental. Although he did not pay rent, he did contribute to the food and housekeeping expenses. His living quarters at the rectory were furnished with his own furniture and personal effects. He had his own key and unfettered access.

Thus, for Evans, the rectory satisfied both conditions of permanence: his living quarters were suitable for year-round use, and he had developed a longstanding relationship to them by living there during the workweek, keeping personal items there, and contributing to the upkeep.

With regard to his contributions, the Tribunal also addressed whether they were sufficient to conclude that Evans was *maintaining* a permanent place of abode. In concluding that they were, the Tribunal defined the term expansively to include,

***“...doing whatever is necessary to continue one’s living arrangements in a particular dwelling place. This would include making contributions to the household, in money or otherwise.”***

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One may maintain a residence by making monetary contributions to the household expenses in a variety of ways, either by sharing the costs of ownership such as the mortgage, or operating costs such as utilities or repairs, or by paying specific expenses. Or in lieu of money one may make in kind contributions by providing services in the form of repairs, cleaning or cooking.

The meaning of the term “maintains a permanent place of abode” was further addressed by the Court of Appeals in *Matter of John Gaied*. Gaied, unlike Evans, did have ownership rights in the property, in this case a multi-family apartment on Staten Island where his parents lived in one of the units. In addition to owning the residence, he paid all the expenses and admitted to staying there occasionally in his parents’ apartment. Moreover, the residence in question was located within two miles of the taxpayer’s business, a 24-hour service station. The Department concluded that based on the above facts Mr. Gaied was maintaining a permanent place of abode.

This conclusion was subsequently upheld by both the Tax Appeals Tribunal and the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. In its decision, the Tribunal, citing *Matter of Robert & Judith Roth* (DTA No. 802212), stated that “(t)here is no requirement that the petitioner actually dwell in the abode, but simply that he maintains it.”

In unanimously overturning the lower court decision, however, the Court of Appeals concluded that “*there is no rational basis for this interpretation.*” Instead, the Court stated that for a taxpayer to be maintaining a permanent place of abode, he must have a “residential interest” in the dwelling. Thus, “*there must be some basis to conclude that the dwelling was utilized as the taxpayer’s residence.*”

The Court’s finding is consistent with current Audit policy that the taxpayer must have a relationship to the dwelling for it to constitute a permanent place of abode. The following examples are intended to clarify when such a relationship or “residential interest” exists:

**Example 1:**

The Browns rent an apartment in New York City which they use in connection with attending cultural events during the evening rather than driving back to their home in New Jersey where they are domiciled. They let friends and relatives use the apartment occasionally but no one else lives there on a regular basis.

In the Department’s view, the taxpayers would have a residential interest in the property and therefore it would constitute a PPA. This position is consistent with an earlier advisory opinion, *Freundlich & Company*, TSB-A-94(14)I. In that opinion, a domiciliary of Florida

was contemplating the purchase of a cooperative apartment in New York City where he would stay from June to September. The apartment would be vacant the rest of the year except for an occasional “gratuitous use” by friends or family. The opinion concluded that the taxpayer would be maintaining a PPA in New York State, stating that it is immaterial that it will be vacant a portion of the taxable year. A residence that is owned and maintained by a taxpayer with unfettered access will generally be deemed to be a permanent place of abode regardless of how often the taxpayer actually uses it.

**Example 2:**

In connection with her change of domicile to Florida, a taxpayer listed her New York home for sale. The home remained fully furnished and the taxpayer had unfettered access although she no longer resided there.

In the Department’s view, the taxpayer retained a residential interest in the home, and it would constitute a PPA despite the fact that it was listed for sale. This is because the taxpayer continues to have unfettered access to the home which had been her primary residence in the past and *no one else is using it as a residence currently*. Therefore, she will be subject to being a statutory resident in any year in which she spends more than 183 days in New York while the property is for sale.

**Example 3:**

Same facts as in Example 2 except that the taxpayer demonstrated that the contents of the home were moved to her Florida residence and the New York home was vacant.

In this situation, the taxpayer would *not* have a residential interest in the property as it would not be reasonable to expect her to use a vacant home despite having unfettered access.

Similarly, in *Advisory Opinion TSB-A-11(9)I*, it was determined that taxpayers who changed their domicile to Connecticut and listed their New York apartment for sale were not maintaining a PPA. The listing agreement stipulated that during the sales process the taxpayers would not live in the apartment, would remove all their personal possessions, and turn over all the keys to the listing agent. Based on these facts, the taxpayers would *not* have a residential interest in the property as they did not have unfettered use of the apartment.

**Example 4:**

Jim buys a one-bedroom apartment for his elderly mother in the Bronx where she has historically lived since she is no longer able to maintain a large home by herself. Jim is the legal owner and pays all of his mother’s expenses. He has a key to the apartment and will occasionally sleep on the couch when visiting his mother. Jim lives in Connecticut and regularly commutes to Manhattan for work.

In the Department’s view, Jim does *not* have a residential interest in the property, and it will therefore *not* constitute a PPA. Although a number of the factors described below are present that would indicate it is a PPA- ownership, maintenance, unfettered access, actual use- the overriding point is that the residence is used *primarily* by the mother and the taxpayer’s occasional use should not change its character. Moreover,

Jim does not have his own accommodations and the apartment is not located in the vicinity of his regular employment. (Refer to the *Panico* case discussed in the next section on page 56).

While the possession of property rights and the making of contributions either in cash or in kind are two important aspects to be considered in evaluating a taxpayer's relationship to a residence, by themselves they would not necessarily make a dwelling a PPA, *without more*. Listed below are other factors to consider in determining whether a taxpayer has a relationship to, or a residential interest in, a property:

**a. Whether the taxpayer uses the dwelling or has unfettered access:**

A taxpayer would not have the requisite relationship to a dwelling that is used *exclusively* by others despite having ownership rights. For example, an apartment owned by a taxpayer that is rented to someone else would not constitute a PPA to that taxpayer. This is true even during periods when the apartment is temporarily not being rented provided the taxpayer has made efforts to secure a new tenant and there is no evidence that it has been converted to personal use.

Similarly, a taxpayer may not necessarily have the requisite relationship to a dwelling which he owns if it can be shown that it is used *primarily* by others. This situation may arise where a taxpayer acquires and maintains an apartment for the intended use of elderly parents as in the *Gaied* case described earlier or for a child who is attending college in New York. In determining whether the residence is a PPA for the taxpayer, such factors as the size of the apartment, whether personal items are kept there, and the extent of use, would be important considerations.

In the ALJ Determination, Matter of Louis A. & Amelia (Deceased) Panico, *DTA No. 805810*, a Long Island home was deemed to be the permanent place of abode of the taxpayers' daughter who actually lived there and not that of taxpayers' who owned and maintained it through payment of the mortgage and phone bills. The ALJ reasoned that the taxpayers

*“...could not have been expected to rent out the Medford house when it was, of necessity, occupied by their daughter and grandchild. Accordingly, the Medford house was the permanent place of abode of petitioners' daughter and grandchild during 1981, not that of petitioners...”*

*Conclusion of Law D*

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During the year in question the taxpayers were living in Arizona where Mr. Panico was employed, and spent three weeks in New York, presumably at the Long Island residence.

**b. The taxpayer's relationship to the co-habitants of the dwelling:**

A taxpayer may have the requisite relationship to a dwelling in which he has no ownership or property rights as the Evans case illustrates. In addition to contributing to the common expenses and keeping his

personal effects in the rectory, Evans was also friends with the priest who lived there. Thus, in determining whether a taxpayer has a relationship to a dwelling, the taxpayer's relationship to other people using the dwelling can be an important consideration.

In two separate Tax Appeals Tribunal cases, *Matter of Rhoda Miller, DTA No. 812849* and *Matter of William & Junko Donovan, DTA No. 818803*, a residence that was either rented or owned by one spouse prior to marriage was determined to be the PPA of the other spouse as well despite the absence of any ownership or property rights.

In another case, however, the Tax Appeals Tribunal ruled that a New York City apartment that was rented by a wife was *not* a PPA for her husband. The Tribunal distinguished the facts in *Matter of Leon Moed, DTA No. 810997*, from those in *Evans* by noting that there was no evidence of a shared rental nor did Mr. Moed have free and continuous access to the apartment. While acknowledging that “*marital status is clearly a pertinent factor to be considered among the totality of factors in determining domicile and residency,*” the Tribunal concluded that the taxpayers had established separate lifestyles and were separated in fact, if not legally.

**c. Whether the taxpayer has his own room or keeps personal items at the dwelling:**

A taxpayer with an ownership or property right in a dwelling would normally be considered to have the requisite relationship to that dwelling if he has access to his own living quarters where personal items are kept. In the example above involving a parent who maintains an apartment for use by a child, the question as to whether it represents a PPA to the parent may well depend on the physical aspects of the apartment. In such cases, a two-bedroom apartment would more likely constitute his PPA than a studio apartment lacking separate sleeping quarters.

**d. Registration for Governmental/Business services:**

Another indication that the taxpayer has established a relationship to a dwelling is if the address is used for various government and business purposes. Using the address to receive mail, for voter and car registrations, or for phone service would be evidence of such a relationship.

An apartment leased by the taxpayer's husband prior to their marriage was held to be a permanent place of abode for her as well. In *Matter of Rhoda Miller, DTA No. 812849*, (which was discussed earlier under the home factor), the Tax Appeals Tribunal noted that that she “occasionally received mail” at the apartment, including two 1099's.

### 3. Conclusion:

The Tax Appeals Tribunal in *Evans* identified two components of permanence that must be present in order to establish that a taxpayer is maintaining a permanent place of abode. These are the physical attributes of the dwelling and the nature of the taxpayer's relationship to that dwelling. With regard to the physical

attributes, a dwelling must be suitable for year-round use and normally contain facilities for bathing and cooking.

In determining whether the taxpayer has the requisite relationship to a dwelling, the guidelines have identified certain factors that should be considered in such an analysis: whether the taxpayer has a legal right to the dwelling; whether he maintains the dwelling either in money or in kind; whether he uses the dwelling or otherwise has access to it; his relationship to other occupants of the dwelling; whether he has separate living quarters or keeps personal items at the dwelling; and whether he uses the address of the dwelling for government or business purposes. These factors are summarized on a chart which is included in the Appendix.

By using these factors to determine whether a taxpayer has the requisite relationship to a dwelling, we are also satisfying the Court of Appeals' requirement in *Gaied* that the taxpayer have a "residential interest" in the dwelling in order to be maintaining a permanent place of abode.

Just as with most domicile cases an auditor needs to evaluate *all* the primary factors since no one factor is generally controlling, so, too, should all of the above factors be evaluated in determining whether a taxpayer's relationship to a New York dwelling rises to the level of a permanent place of abode. Not all factors will be present in every case and of those that are, some may be more important than others depending on the particular facts and circumstances of each case.

## C. PERMANENT PLACE OF ABODE, PART II: Other Issues

### 1. Residence Not Habitable:

Occasionally a taxpayer will claim that a New York residence is uninhabitable because it is undergoing extensive renovations either because of property damage or personal choice of the taxpayer. In these situations, it is necessary to distinguish between major renovations which render a residence unlivable such as inadequate plumbing or a lack of sleeping quarters, and minor repairs which merely make it inconvenient but still possible for the taxpayer to use.

Regulation Section 105.20(e) states, in part, that a place of abode will generally not be deemed permanent if it "...does not contain facilities ordinarily found in a dwelling, such as facilities for cooking, bathing, etc." It is audit policy that a residence lacking basic necessities (but see the exception explained earlier in TSB-A-02(7) I) will ordinarily not be deemed a permanent place of abode. An Advisory Opinion, *Marano Distante Crombie LLC, TSB-A-04(2)I*, addressed the issue of an apartment that was uninhabitable and required extensive renovations. The opinion concluded that it was a PPA once the work was completed.

Of course, the burden of proof is on the taxpayer to provide adequate documentation such as repair bills, certificates of occupancy, or homeowner's insurance claims detailing the extent of the renovation to be performed in order to substantiate his claim that the residence was not in habitable condition.



## 2. Corporate Apartments:

Living quarters suitable for permanent year-round use are permanent places of abode even if used only for shopping trips, visits, etc. These living quarters would include a house, apartment, co-op, or any other living quarters maintained or paid for by the taxpayer or his spouse, or any New York State living quarters maintained for the taxpayer's primary use by another person, family member or employer.

For example, if a company was to lease an apartment for the use of the company's president or chief executive officer, and the dwelling was principally available to that individual, the individual would be considered as maintaining a permanent place of abode in New York even though others might use the apartment on an occasional basis.

A corporate apartment would not be considered a permanent place of abode for the taxpayer if the primary purpose and use of the corporate apartment is for reasons other than as living quarters for the taxpayer or the taxpayer's family.

For example, it is common for corporations to maintain a corporate apartment for the use of its top executives, salesmen, or important clients when they are visiting the corporate headquarters. In this situation, if the taxpayers use of the corporate apartment is determined on a first come, first serve basis or other similar arrangement, or if other users of the apartment (such as important clients) have priority over the taxpayer's use of the apartment, and the taxpayer is but one of many people using the apartment, then the corporate apartment will not be treated as a permanent place of abode for the taxpayer.

In *Matter of Craig F. Knight, DTA No. 819485*, (which was discussed earlier in connection with the time factor), the Tax Appeals Tribunal reversed the ALJ in finding that a New York City apartment that was leased to a partnership was not the taxpayer's PPA. In its decision the Tribunal enumerated the following factors as significant in determining whether a so-called corporate apartment rises to the level of a permanent place of abode:

- 1) whether the taxpayer shares in the expenses.
- 2) whether the taxpayer maintains clothing or personal effects.
- 3) whether there is a dedicated room for one's own use with free and continuous access.
- 4) whether it is used for daily attendance in connection with employment.

Of the four factors, the only one that was present in the case in the Tribunal's opinion was the first as the taxpayer, as a 40% partner, "bore a proportionate share of the expenses by reason of being a part owner of the business." Nevertheless, the Tribunal concluded that the apartment was not maintained solely for the taxpayer's use but rather for the partnership's clients.

## 3. Change of Ownership:

In the *Evans* case discussed earlier, the Court stated that "the permanence of a dwelling place ... cannot be limited to circumstances which establish a property right in the dwelling place." This is also true when

ownership of a residence that is occupied by taxpayers is transferred to another entity controlled by the same taxpayers. In Audit’s view, the residence is still used and maintained by the taxpayer and constitutes a permanent place of abode.

In *Matter of Sidney & Helen Esikoff, DTA Nos. 815861 & 815862*, the taxpayers transferred ownership of a condominium they owned in New York to a family trust. For the years in question, they took the position that they were not maintaining a PPA in New York. The ALJ rejected this argument as “completely specious” noting that,

*“There is no dispute that Mr. Esikoff provided funds to a trust which used the money to maintain a residence which he and his wife utilized when they were in New York.”*

### *Conclusion of Law G*

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In sustaining the ALJ determination, the Tax Appeals Tribunal also sustained the imposition of negligence and substantial understatement penalties under Tax Law Sections 685(b) and (p), respectively.

The same reasoning would apply to taxpayers who transfer ownership of a dwelling place to other entities, such as limited liability companies, and continue to use the dwelling place as a residence.

#### 4. Life Estate Interests:

A taxpayer who held a life estate interest in a New York home was found to be maintaining a permanent place of abode. In *Matter of David Leiman, DTA No. 822385*, the ALJ noted that the taxpayer “*is the owner of the property and as such is entitled to the full and exclusive possession, control, and enjoyment of the property for the duration of his life.*”

#### 5. Minor Children:

A minor child can maintain a permanent place of abode and thus be taxable as a statutory resident according to an Advice of Counsel dated August 13, 2001 (File No. LBW-7070). The child lived with his mother from January to August 1996 in New York City where they were domiciled. At the end of August, they moved to Connecticut, but the mother retained her city apartment. Both the mother and child were present in New York for more than 183 days during 1996.

In concluding that the child was a statutory resident, Counsel cited *First Trust & Deposit v. Goodrich, 3 NY2d 410*, which held that the domicile of two minor children followed that of their legal guardians who resided in California. In Counsel’s view,

*“Just as the domicile of a parent controls the domicile of the child, so should the parent or guardian’s permanent place of abode control the child’s permanent place of abode.”*

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## 6. College Students:

The regulations were amended in 2009 to exclude from the definition of a permanent place of abode dwellings maintained by college students:

*“A dwelling place maintained by a full-time student enrolled in an institution of higher education, as defined in section 606(t)(3) of the Tax Law, in an undergraduate degree program leading to a baccalaureate degree, and occupied by the student while attending the institution is not a permanent place of abode with respect to that student.”*  
**20 NYCRR 105.20(e)(1)**

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Thus, a dwelling will not be deemed to be permanent if the following **two** conditions are met:

- 1) the student is an undergraduate; and
- 2) is attending college full-time.

### ***Examples:***

Lee is domiciled in New Jersey and enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program at a college in New York City. In 2010, he rents an apartment in Manhattan for substantially the entire year and spends 190 days in New York City. He will **not** be deemed to be a statutory resident of New York State or City.

Lia is domiciled in Connecticut and attends an upstate New York law school full-time. She rents an apartment in Albany for substantially the entire year in 2010 and spends 200 days in New York State. She **will** be a statutory resident of New York State because she is not an undergraduate.

**For more information see TSB-M-09(15)I.**

## **D. SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE YEAR**

For statutory resident purposes, an individual who maintains a permanent place of abode in New York State, must maintain such abode for “substantially all of the taxable year” (generally, the entire taxable year disregarding small portions of such year) pursuant to Regulation 105.20(a)(2). Prior to tax year 2022, Audit Division policy defined “substantially all of the year” to mean a period exceeding 11 months. Beginning with tax year 2022, Audit Division policy will define “substantially all of the year” to generally mean a period exceeding 10 months. This “10-month rule” will be applied by Audit in tax years where a taxpayer either acquires or disposes of their residence. For example, a taxpayer who works in New York City throughout the year and initially begins renting an apartment in New York City in March generally will not be deemed a statutory resident on account of spending more than 183 days in New York in that year because it occurred in the year of acquisition. However, a taxpayer who rents out his Saratoga Springs home for a few months each summer will still be determined to be maintaining a PPA in New York for substantially all of the year since that rental did not occur during the year of acquisition or disposition and it is available for use on a regular, continuing basis but for occasional or brief absences including short term rentals.

*Note that the same permanent place of abode need not be maintained under this definition. Thus, an individual who rents an apartment in Queens until June 30 and then another apartment in Nassau County from July 1 until the end of the year will be deemed to be maintaining a permanent place of abode for substantially the entire year. If the individual spends more than 183 days in New York State during the year he will be held to be a statutory resident of the state.*

In an advisory opinion, ***Marcum & Kliegman, TSB-A-04(4)I***, a taxpayer asked whether he would be maintaining a PPA for substantially the entire year if he donated use of his New York home to a charity for three months pursuant to a written lease. The opinion concluded that he would not. At the same time, however, it reaffirmed Audit policy that the then 11-month rule was a general rule and not an absolute rule. Moreover, it said that the taxpayer may be deemed to maintain a PPA if this arrangement continued in the future.

In ***Matter of Michael Brodman & Karen Grimm, DTA No. 818594***, the ALJ ruled that the taxpayers' maintenance of a New York City apartment for 10 ½ months during the year was "substantial" in holding that they were statutory residents. In so concluding, the ALJ accepted Audit's characterization of the then 11-month rule as a general rather than an absolute rule. In footnote #3 of his determination, the ALJ stated,

*“Defining ‘substantially’ by the implementation of an absolute ‘11-month rule’ in every instance, as petitioners urge, would allow the statutory resident provisions of the Administrative Code and the implementing regulations to be easily circumvented by the simple expedient of giving exclusive use of one’s place of abode to another person for a period in excess of one month for any reason (e.g., while on vacation).”*

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Note: The matters of ***Marcum & Kliegman, TSB-A-04(4)I*** and ***Matter of Michael Brodman & Karen Grimm, DTA No. 818594*** as mentioned above were decided under the then “11-month rule”, but they are both remain consistent with current Audit Division policy which considers the "substantial part of a year" rule to be a *general* rule rather than an *absolute* rule.

## E. WHEN DOMICILE CHANGES

The issue of "substantial part of the year" applies only to statutory resident cases. However, as shown below, the test for statutory residency may apply even in a situation where an individual changes domicile during the tax year.

The statutory residence test is applied to a taxable year during which a taxpayer has changed domicile from or to New York State.

The statutory residence test requires that a permanent place of abode be maintained "for substantially all of the taxable year," which prior to tax year 2022, Audit Division policy had interpreted to mean a period exceeding 11 months. Beginning with tax year 2022, Audit Division policy will define "substantially all of the year" to mean a period exceeding 10 months.

This test is applied if the taxpayer spent more than 183 days in the State and maintained a permanent place of abode for substantially all of the year. If the taxpayer is determined to be a statutory resident, he will be taxed for the entire year even though his domicile may have changed during the year. To clarify this matter Tax Law § 605(b)(1)(B) revised the definition of a resident individual by stating, "who maintains a permanent place of abode in this state and spends in the aggregate more than one hundred eighty-three days of the taxable year in this state, whether or not domiciled in this state for any portion of the taxable year...."

In *Smith v STC, 68 AD2d 993*, the taxpayers moved from New York to Florida in July of 1970, but were unable to sell their home until 1971 leaving their furniture there, maintaining the home, and continuing the telephone and utility service. In September 1970 the taxpayer sold a large amount of corporate stock. Initially, the stock was taxed on the grounds that there was no change of domicile in 1970 and, therefore, the taxpayers were New York residents for the entire year. After a hearing held on June 24, 1977, the Tax Commission held that although a change of domicile did occur in July, 1970, the taxpayers were taxable as residents for the entire year under Tax Law section 605(a)(2) since they maintained a permanent place of abode in New York for the entire year and spent more than 183 days in New York State. The Appellate Division affirmed the Commission decision stating:

*"Furthermore, a fair reading of section 605(a)(1) reveals that if the taxpayer could not establish domicile in Florida, they would at least in part have to establish that they did not maintain a 'permanent place of abode' in New York and did not spend more than 30 days of the taxable year here. On the other hand, if domicile was not in issue, then they would have had to show that no permanent place of abode was maintained in this State and no more than 183 days of the taxable year were spent here (Tax Law, section 605(a)(2)."*

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This question was posed in an Advisory Opinion, *David & Leslee Rogath, TSB-A-94(9)I*, which concerned taxpayers who alleged a change of domicile from New York in the middle of the year but retained their New York home. The opinion concluded that:

*“...it is unnecessary to resolve the question of Petitioners domicile because regardless of their domicile, they maintained a permanent place of abode in New York State for the entire taxable year 1989, and they spent in the aggregate more than 183 days of the taxable year 1989 in New York State.”*

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## **F. A DAY SPENT IN NEW YORK**

A taxpayer who is maintaining a permanent place of abode bears the burden of proving that he spent less than 184 days in New York State or City for each year of the audit period. The requirement to keep adequate records is set forth in 20 NYCRR 105.20(c), as follows:

*“Any person domiciled outside New York State who maintains a permanent place of abode within New York State during any taxable year, and claims to be a nonresident, must keep and have available for examination by the Department of Taxation and Finance adequate records to substantiate the fact that such person did not spend more than 183 days of such taxable year within New York State.”*

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The standard of proof for statutory resident audits is the same one applicable to matters of domicile, that is, the evidence must be *clear and convincing*.

Taxpayers can meet their burden of proof in a variety of ways as was explained in ***Matter of Julian H. & Josephine Robertson, DTA No. 822004***. This could consist of “*testimonial evidence, documentary evidence, or a combination of the two.*” For example, past Tribunal decisions have held that taxpayers were able to meet their burden of proof that they were not statutory residents through a combination of documentary evidence and affidavits that showed an overall living pattern (***Matter of Armel***); through contemporaneously maintained diaries or calendars supported by credible testimony (***Matter of Moss***); and by credible testimony alone (***Matter of Avildsen***). The recordkeeping requirements are discussed further in Chapter VIII, and the above cases are summarized in the Appendix.

As to whether the evidence will be clear and convincing will depend on the facts and circumstances of each case. For example, if a taxpayer submits phone bills showing that calls were made from his Connecticut home from early morning until late afternoon, *and there is no evidence placing the taxpayer in New York on that day*, it would be reasonable to conclude that the taxpayer was not in New York. On the other hand, the presumption that the taxpayer was not in New York would *not* apply if phone bills for the New York residence showed calls on the same day. This would also be true where the taxpayer has not complied with the auditor’s requests for records or where the taxpayer has demonstrated a pattern of being in both locations on the same day.



In attempting to meet their burden of proof that they spent less than 184 days in New York, taxpayers may not always leave a paper trail to substantiate their whereabouts on weekend days when they claim to be at home in their state of domicile. In such situations, auditors should generally accept the taxpayer's allegations absent evidence to the contrary such as a clear pattern of regularly being in New York on weekends.

The description of a day in New York is not defined by statute. Section 105.20 of the New York Personal Income Tax regulations, however, states that "presence within New York State for any part of a calendar day constitutes a day spent within New York State." This regulation was challenged in *Leach v Chu*, 150 AD2d 842, and upheld by the Appellate Division. Thus, any part of a day spent in New York State, for whatever reason (business or pleasure), would count as a day toward the 183-day rule, even if the taxpayer comes into New York and leaves on the same day. The literal interpretation of "any part of a day" could mean stepping over the state line for one second; however, no audit is ever expected to be based on such a minimal amount of time spent in New York. Common sense must prevail.

That being said, presence in New York for brief periods of time would normally constitute days in the state. In *Matter of John & Patricia D. Klingenstein*, DTA No. 815156, taxpayers who lived in Connecticut on the border with New York came into New York on 21 and 22 days in 1989 and 1990, respectively, for shopping and dining. In ruling that these days were days spent in New York, (and that the taxpayers were consequently statutory residents) the ALJ stated,

*“There is, unfortunately, no shopping or dining exception in the statute, regulation, or caselaw. In fact, the recognized exceptions stand in contrast to purposeful presence in the State. Here, petitioners’ presence in New York on the border days was not an in-transit presence, and was not unintended, unavoidable, unplanned, inadvertent or involuntary. Rather, petitioners’ presence was purposeful and voluntary.”*

#### *Conclusion of Law H*

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The statutory residency rules do not require that the taxpayer utilize the New York place of abode on every day that New York presence is demonstrated. The 183-day rule and the permanent place of abode test are separate and distinct factors in determining statutory residence.

There are two instances where presence in New York State does not count as a day:

1) *Travel – NYCRR 105.20(c)*

*Presence in New York is disregarded if it is solely for:*

- *“boarding a “plane, ship, train or bus for a destination outside New York State.”* For example, if a Connecticut resident travels to JFK airport to board a plane to Europe, the day is not counted toward presence in New York State.

- continuing travel, begun outside the state, by "automobile, plane or train" to a point outside the state.

In deciding what level of extraneous activity makes presence in New York not incidental to the travel, the relevant criteria are (1) whether the traveler's activity is incidental to his presence for travel purposes and (2) the degree of control the taxpayer exercises over his travel arrangements. For example, someone who arrives a day early for a cruise, in order to attend a business meeting, would be present for that day, whereas time spent by someone who visits a friend during an unavoidable delay or stopover would not count as a day present in New York. Quite often, activity incidental to travel takes place on route to, or at a transportation terminal.

Such activity as the purchase of meals or other items at a terminal, access to an automatic teller machine (ATM), stopping for gas or a meal while driving through New York, stopping to pick up a traveling companion on route to the terminal, parking the car in New York in order to meet a limousine or other conveyance that takes the individual to the airport or terminal should not change the treatment of this day as a travel day for the purpose of the 183-day count.

## 2) Medical Days

### ***Stranahan v State Tax Commission, 68 AD2d 250,416 NYS2d 836 (3d Dept 1979)***

addresses the issue of time spent in New York by a non-domiciliary for medical treatment. The Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court ruled that "when a nondomiciliary seeks treatment for a serious illness, the time spent in a medical facility for the treatment of that illness should not be counted toward the number of days the taxpayer is determined to be in New York for statutory residency purposes. As a result of that decision, it is Audit policy that confinement to a medical institution for any reason in New York (serious or otherwise), does not constitute a day spent in New York. This would include situations where an incompetent person is placed in a facility in New York, situations where the individual suffers a medical emergency while present in the state for other purposes and the patient cannot realistically be removed from the state, or a situation where an individual is confined to an institution as a result of seeking treatment in New York. For example, if an individual suffers a heart attack while in the state on business and cannot be removed, the time spent confined to a New York medical institution would not count toward the 183-day rule.

It should be noted that the above exclusion does not extend to outpatient care. In ***Matter of Ralph and Leona Kern, 240 AD2d 969***, the Appellate Division sustained the decisions of the Tribunal and the ALJ that the taxpayers were statutory residents of New York City. Among the issues in dispute in that case was the status of days Mr. Kern spent in New York City as an outpatient or visiting doctors. The Court found the taxpayers contention that these days were covered by *Stranahan* to be lacking in merit.

The issue in another New York City residency case was whether to count days a husband spent in New York City visiting his wife who was hospitalized. Although neither taxpayer was determined to be a statutory resident of the city in *Matter of Dr. Charles F. Brush III & The Estate of Ellen S. Brush*, DTA No. 817204, the ALJ concluded *Stranahan* did not apply to the husband's days. According to the ALJ,

*“...there appears to be no basis upon which to treat Mrs. Brush's hospital days as non-New York City days for petitioner, and petitioner has not pointed to any such clear basis for doing so.”*

*Conclusion of Law N*

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Audit recognizes that the issue of medical days spent in New York whether to receive inpatient or outpatient care is a sensitive one for the taxpayer and should be handled accordingly by the auditor in consultation with his team leader.

## G. TEMPORARY STAY

**Note:** *The rules contained in this section are applicable for tax years prior to January 1, 2008 only. Effective January 1, 2008, the temporary stay provision has been eliminated from the regulations. See TSB-M-09(2)I.*

By now it is clear that a taxpayer who maintains a permanent place of abode for a substantial part of the year and spends more than 183 days in New York State and/or City would be taxable as a statutory resident. The regulations contain an exception to this general rule. A place of abode, whether in New York or elsewhere, is not deemed permanent if it is maintained only during a temporary stay for the accomplishment of a particular purpose.

The question of a temporary stay is addressed in Section 105.20(e)(1) of the Personal Income Tax Regulations which reads, in pertinent part:

*“A permanent place of abode means a dwelling place permanently maintained by the taxpayer, whether or not owned by such taxpayer, and will generally include a dwelling place owned or leased by such taxpayer's spouse... (A) place of abode is not deemed permanent if it is maintained only during a temporary stay for the accomplishment of a particular purpose. For example, an individual domiciled in another state may be assigned to such individual's employer's New York State office for a fixed and limited period, after which such individual is to return to such individual's permanent location. If such individual takes an apartment in New York State during this period, such individual is not deemed a resident, even though such individual spends more than 183 days of the taxable year in New York State...”*

It is the Department's position that for a place of abode not to be permanent, both of the above regulatory conditions must be met. That is, (1) the stay in New York must be temporary (i.e., for a fixed and limited period) and (2) the stay must be for the accomplishment of a particular purpose.

### **1. Fixed and Limited Period:**

The term "fixed and limited period" is not defined in the regulations. However, it is clear that the regulation contemplates that the term applies to a temporary stay as opposed to a stay of indefinite duration. Accordingly, it is the Department's position that an employee will be presumed present in New York State for a fixed and limited period (i.e., the stay in New York is temporary) if the duration of the stay in New York is reasonably expected to last for three years or less, in the absence of facts and circumstances that would indicate otherwise. In the alternative, a stay is of indefinite duration if the stay is realistically expected to last for more than three years, even if it does not actually exceed three years. The employee must determine if the stay will be temporary or indefinite at the time the employee starts work in New York.

### **2. Particular Purpose:**

It is the Department's position that the term "particular purpose" means that the individual is present in New York State to accomplish a specific assignment that has readily ascertainable and specific goals and conclusions, as opposed to a general assignment with general goals and conclusions. For example, an individual working in California is assigned to New York to install a piece of equipment. Once the equipment is installed, the individual returns to California. That assignment would be for a particular purpose. In general, an assignment to New York for general duties, such as to be an executive of the company, a sales manager or a production line worker, would not constitute a particular purpose since these positions involve more generalized goals. This would be true even if the individual's assignment to New York were related to some specialized skill or attributes that the individual may possess.

For example, a salesman with years of experience in a particular product line of the company is assigned to New York as the sales manager because New York sales are weak with regard to that product. It is expected that the individual will devote substantial efforts towards improving those sales. However, work performed as a sales manager still constitutes general duties as opposed to a particular purpose, since it is the general goal of every company to sell its products.

In two related advisory opinions, *Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro*, TSB-A-98(10)I and *Roberto Mancone*, TSB-A-98(11)I, the issue concerned employees of an Italian bank who are transferred to the New York branch under an exchange program to enlarge the employees' knowledge of multinational banking. In both instances the goal was determined to be general in nature with general goals and conclusions.

An employer who may be assigning employees to what might be considered temporary duties in New York could supply the employee with written documentation concerning the exact duties to be performed in New York and the duration of the stay. This documentation will be helpful to the employee should the department question the employee's resident status.

It is preferable that the documentation be contemporaneous with the onset of the employee's duties in New York. This could include an employment agreement or any internal memoranda informing staff of the nature of the employee's role and anticipated duties.

Often an employee in New York on a foreign work assignment will argue that a visa is evidence of its temporary nature since it is issued for a limited time. While it is true that a visa is issued for a limited duration it may be renewed periodically and generally will not suffice as proof that a work assignment is temporary.

For example, in *Matter of Laurent A. Sebah, DTA No. 819888*, the taxpayer's argument that his H-1B visa was proof that his employment in New York was for a fixed and limited period was rejected by the ALJ who stated that,

*"...the fact that petitioner was able to renew his visa on several occasions evidences the fact that it was not a fixed constraint on the length of the term of his employment."*

*Conclusion of Law F*

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The following situations are intended to illustrate how the Audit Division would apply the temporary stay provision to a variety of job assignments.

**Situation 1:**

Employees for key positions such as the Deputy Manager, General Manager and Controller are sent to the New York office from an out of state office. It is important to the Employer that individuals in these positions understand the philosophy of the Employer and have the necessary contacts with the home office. These are rotational positions. The individuals who staff these jobs remain in New York for only a temporary period. These employees might be present in New York for a fixed and limited period, provided their stay is reasonably expected to be for three years or less. However, even if that were the case, their presence here is not to accomplish a particular purpose. The duties of being a manager or controller, even in a rotational capacity, do not fit the definition of specific duties to accomplish a particular purpose as previously discussed. Therefore, these individuals will be maintaining a permanent place of abode in New York.

**Situation 2:**

Employer sends a systems analyst from the home office to implement a new computer system in the New York office. The employee will return to the home office upon completion of the implementation project.

In this situation, the employee would be present in New York for a fixed and limited period if the stay in New York is reasonably expected to last three years or less. In addition, the person would be present for the accomplishment of a particular purpose since the implementation of a particular system would have a readily ascertainable and specific conclusion. Accordingly, if this person is

deemed to be here for a fixed and limited period, the person would be maintaining a temporary place of abode in New York.

**Situation 3:**

Employer sends an attorney from an out of state office to the New York office to handle litigation involving a class action lawsuit. The litigation is expected to last three years at which time the attorney will return to the out of state office.

The person would be in New York for a fixed and limited period if the assignment was reasonably expected to last three years or less. In addition, if his **sole** purpose for coming to New York was to work on the class action suit it would also qualify as a particular purpose since it has a measurable level of achievement - the resolution of the suit - that would trigger the individual's return to the former work location. Therefore, the person would be deemed to be in New York for a temporary stay for the accomplishment of a particular purpose.

**Note:** If the attorney worked on other legal matters in addition to the class action suit during his time in New York, it would be Audit's position that this would not qualify as a particular purpose. This is because he would be mixing general assignments with a specific assignment and when viewed in totality the combined activities would not constitute a particular purpose.

**Situation 4:**

The same facts as in Situation 3 except that after the lawsuit is resolved, the attorney is asked to stay on in the New York office for an additional period of time to provide technical assistance on another lawsuit which is also anticipated to last no more than three years.

It is the Department's position that an individual cannot have multiple or consecutive fixed and limited periods nor multiple or consecutive particular purposes. Therefore, a change in duties would indicate that the individual is no longer here for a fixed and limited period nor for the accomplishment of a particular purpose. However, the fact that the person would be maintaining a permanent place of abode after the duty changes does not negate the fact that the person had a temporary place of abode for the initial duty period. Accordingly, in this situation, and assuming that the individual met the two conditions for the initial period, the individual would not be maintaining a permanent place of place of abode up to the time the first function is completed and *would* be maintaining a permanent place of abode from that point forward.

**Situation 5:**

The parent corporation sends an employee to its subsidiary located in New York to develop a particular segment of the market. It is estimated that the employee will remain in New York for 15 months.



Since the employer realistically expects that the employee will be present in New York for three years or less, the employee would be here for a fixed and limited period. The question then becomes whether or not the nature of the employee's duties constitutes a particular purpose. Whether or not the employee is here to accomplish a particular purpose would be dependent upon what is involved in developing the market. As previously related, sales and market development, even if it involves a specific area of the market, constitutes general duties which do not qualify as a particular purpose. However, if for example, development meant that the individual's duties would be limited to hiring and training the staff needed to develop the market segment, and after the completion of that phase the general duties of directing the sales effort would be left to others, then the hiring and training function would constitute a particular purpose. Accordingly, based upon the actual nature of the duties, the person in this situation may or may not be maintaining a permanent place of abode.

It should be pointed out that even where one of the preceding individuals is maintaining a permanent place of abode in New York, such abode pursuant to section 105.20(a)(2) of the personal income tax regulations must be maintained for substantially all the year for the person to be held a resident of New York State. Based on this provision, it is possible that the individuals who are held to be maintaining permanent places of abode in their particular situations would not be residents of New York for the years in which they enter or leave the state.

Admittedly, there will be few situations where a taxpayer will qualify for relief under the temporary stay provision for employment-related reasons. This is because it is often difficult for employees to meet both prongs of the test for a temporary stay, i.e., limited duration *and* particular purpose. That both conditions have to be satisfied was addressed in *Matter of Pablo Goldberg, DTA No. 820248*, where the ALJ concluded "that, if the place of abode is to be deemed not permanent, it must be maintained during a temporary stay *and* the stay must be for the accomplishment of a particular purpose." In the same case the ALJ strongly implied that the Department's interpretation of the temporary stay provision was neither "irrational or unreasonable." (Conclusion of Law D).

An area where the taxpayer is more likely to be successful involves education. Taxpayers who are matriculated full-time in an educational institution in New York for a course of study leading to a degree will generally be found to be in New York for a temporary stay for the accomplishment of a particular purpose.

## **H. AUDITOR ADVISORY**

The fact that a taxpayer states a certain number of New York days on a nonresident return for allocation purposes does not mean that the taxpayer was physically present in New York on those days. Different rules (e.g. employee convenience rule) apply for the purpose of computing days for allocation purposes. For example, a New Jersey resident who works at home for his own convenience 20 days during the tax year would be required to include these days in the allocation formula for employee compensation. These

20 days would not be counted in the 183-day computation unless the taxpayer was physically present in New York for another purpose.

## VII. RESIDENT CREDIT

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### A. GENERAL

A taxpayer who has been determined to be a resident of New York State, either because of domicile or statutory residency, may be entitled to a **resident credit** for taxes paid to other states, localities within states, the District of Columbia or a province of Canada. The purpose of the credit is to alleviate the impact of double taxation on the same income by New York and other jurisdictions. The resident credit reduces New York State taxes only; *it may not be claimed against New York City resident taxes*. The rules governing the application of the resident credit are found in Tax Law Section 620 and the regulations contained in 20 NYCRR 120. The credit is computed on Form IT-112-R or, for taxes paid to a Canadian province, Form IT-112-C.

### B. REQUIREMENTS

In *Matter of Jane A. Mallinckrodt, DTA No. 807553*, the Tax Appeals Tribunal explained that Tax Law 620(a) requires that three elements must be proved in order for a taxpayer to receive the credit:

- 1) that the income was subject to tax by the other state or political subdivision;
- 2) that the income was derived from the other state; and
- 3) that the income was subject to tax under Article 22.

The income in question consisted of a distributive share of dividend and interest income from a Missouri resident trust that was subject to tax in Missouri, thus satisfying the first prong. Since the recipient was a New York State resident, the income was clearly taxable under Article 22, satisfying the third prong.

In disallowing the credit, however, the Tribunal noted that the income was from intangible sources that were not employed in a business, trade, profession or occupation. Therefore, the income was not “derived” from sources within the other state.

In defining what it means for income to be “derived from sources within another state” for purposes of the resident credit, 20 NYCRR 120.4(d) uses the definition of New York source income contained in Tax Law Section 631. Thus, those items taxable to a nonresident of New York- wages, business income, income from real property, etc.- are the same items of income for which a resident would be allowed the credit.

In the above case, the Tribunal reasoned that since a *nonresident* of New York would not be taxable on the trust income, neither should a *resident* be allowed the credit.

Similarly, a resident was not allowed a resident credit for taxes paid to New Jersey on slot machine winnings from a casino. The taxpayer, a domiciliary of New York State, won a jackpot at a casino in Atlantic City and paid taxes on the winnings to New Jersey as a nonresident. *Advisory Opinion TSB-A-02(4)I* concluded that the income was not derived from sources within New Jersey within the meaning of 20 NYCRR 120.4(d), and therefore the taxpayer was not entitled to the credit.

Note that this regulation addresses only the *type* of income for which a resident would generally be allowed the credit and not necessarily *how* the income is calculated in the other state. This becomes an issue when auditing a resident claiming a credit for taxes paid to another state on flow through income, such as from a partnership. For New York purposes, the partnership would normally compute a business allocation percentage (BAP) for its nonresident partners using the three factors of property, payroll and gross income. The other state in which the partnership does business may use only two factors or different factors entirely. Regardless what method the other state uses, a resident would be allowed a resident credit for the actual taxes paid to the other state. The auditor *should not* recompute the partnership income taxable by the other state using New York's rules.

***Example:***

Lia is a New York resident partner of ABC partnership which does business in New York and New Jersey. The partnership has nonresident partners and computes a New York BAP of 30%. For New Jersey, it reports a 94% allocation which is what Lia uses to allocate her distributive share of income on her nonresident return. Although the partnership earned only 70% of its income outside New York under its rules, the resident credit allowable is computed on the taxes paid to New Jersey based on *its* rules.

The determination whether income is derived from sources within another state using New York's sourcing rules for nonresidents is not difficult in most cases. For example, wages earned for services performed in New Jersey, a capital gain from the sale of real property located in Connecticut, or a distributive share of income from a partnership or S corporation doing business in multiple states, would all likely qualify for the credit.

With other items of income, however, the answer is not as clear. For example, a resident employee who worked for a company in another state may receive a W-2 upon separation from employment for past services. In this situation, it may be necessary to distinguish between deferred compensation, which would qualify for the credit, and a distribution from a nonqualified retirement plan meeting the criteria of Title 4, Section 114 of the United States Code, which would not. As a result of federal legislation enacted in 1996, New York and other states are barred from taxing nonresidents on such distributions; therefore, a New York resident who erroneously paid tax to another state on these payments would not be entitled to the credit.

Similarly, a resident partner may claim a credit for taxes paid to another state on K-1 income. If the partnership is trading for its own account within the meaning of Tax Law Section 631(d), however, it would not be considered to be engaged in a trade or business. Therefore, the resident would not be allowed the credit despite the fact that taxes were paid to another state on the income.

In the above situations, it may be necessary to request assistance from Field Audit Management for purposes of contacting either the Office of Counsel or tax agencies from other states in order to resolve the issue.

### C. LIMITATIONS

Once it has been determined that the income being taxed by another jurisdiction qualifies for the resident credit, the amount allowable is subject to the following limitations in NYCRR 120.2:

**1. The credit for the taxable year cannot exceed the total of income taxes payable to the other jurisdictions.**

If the tax paid to another jurisdiction is subsequently adjusted, NYCRR 120.2(a) requires the taxpayer to amend his resident New York return to report the change. In the following two ALJ cases, the taxpayers failed to report the reduction in the taxes they paid to Massachusetts as shareholders of an S corporation for which they had earlier claimed a resident credit on their New York returns.

The taxpayers were billed for the additional liability after the normal three-year statute of limitations. In canceling the deficiencies, the ALJ noted that, unlike Tax Law Section 659 requiring taxpayers to report Federal changes, there is no comparable statutory provision requiring the reporting of state changes. Barring that, “there is no similar exception to the three-year limitations period for failure to report changes in a taxpayer’s liability to another state.”

*Matter of Philip Mayerson & Joy G. Ungerleider Mayerson  
(deceased), DTA No. 815137*

*Matter of Armand P. Bartos & Celeste G. Bartos, DTA No. 815138*

**2. The credit for the taxable year cannot exceed the amount obtained by multiplying the New York State tax payable by the percentage determined by dividing the portion of the taxpayer’s New York income subject to taxation in the other jurisdiction (numerator) by the taxpayer’s total New York income (the denominator).**

These figures are obtained from lines 26 and 27 of Form IT-112-R. *Note that the percentage may exceed 100%.*

**3. The credit for the taxable year cannot reduce the New York State tax payable to an amount less than would have been due if the income subject to taxation by the other jurisdiction was excluded from the taxpayer’s New York income.**

***This provision is illustrated by the following example:*** Leo is a resident who reported New York AGI of \$100,000 in 2010 consisting of the following: wages of \$150,000 and a partnership loss of \$50,000. The wages were earned in another state whose tax rate was 6% resulting in a tax of \$9,000. Leo's New York tax before any allowance for a resident credit is \$7,000. Without this limitation, Leo would be entitled to a refund of \$2,000 since the taxes paid to the other state (\$9,000) exceeds his New York tax (\$7,000). As a result of this limitation, however, the credit is capped at \$7,000, the amount of the New York tax. By excluding the wages from his New York income, Leo would owe no tax. Since the credit cannot reduce the New York tax below zero, no refund is allowable.

**Thus, the resident credit is not a refundable credit.**

#### D. DUAL RESIDENTS

Taxpayers who are determined to be residents of New York, either because of domicile or statutory residency, and are residents of another state as well, are subject to an additional limitation. This typically occurs where a taxpayer who is domiciled in a neighboring state regularly works in New York and is determined to be a statutory resident. These so-called dual residents are taxable on all their income, regardless of source, by both states.

Since the income includes items for which a resident credit would normally not be allowed, such as interest and dividends, the tax paid to the other state must be prorated by the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Other State Income Subject to the Resident Credit} \times \text{Total Tax Due to Other State}}{\text{Total Income Taxable by the Other State}}$$

It is this adjusted figure, and **not** the tax that was actually computed on the other state's resident return, that is entered on line 24 of Form IT-112-R. Note that the "Total Tax Due to Other State" that is subject to proration *is before any credit previously claimed for taxes paid to New York.*

#### **Example:**

Rosa is a domiciliary of Connecticut who was determined to be a statutory resident of New York State in 2012. She is a shareholder of a New York S corporation which does business in both Connecticut and New York. She received a K-1 for 2012 showing ordinary income of one million dollars, of which \$800,000 was allocated to New York and the remaining \$200,000 was derived from Connecticut. She had no other income that year.

Assume the following facts:

- the tax rate for both states was 6%;
- her Connecticut resident tax before any credit was \$60,000 (\$1,000,000 x 6%);

- Rosa paid NY tax of \$48,000 as a nonresident (\$800,000 x 6%);
- Her CT tax after allowance for the resident credit was \$12,000 (\$60,000 -\$48,000).

The dual resident calculation is as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Connecticut Income Subject to Resident Credit}}{\text{Total Income Taxable by Connecticut}} = \frac{\$200,000}{\$1,000,000} \times \$60,000 = \mathbf{\$12,000}$$

The \$12,000 represents the amount of the other state’s tax that would be entered on Line 24 of Form IT-112-R. In this case it is also the amount of the New York resident credit, as illustrated below:

IT-112-R (2012) (back)

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**Part 2 – Computing your resident credit for taxes paid to another state, local government, or the District of Columbia**

23	Enter the two-letter abbreviation of the other state, including the District of Columbia, where tax was paid (see instructions).....	23	CT
	Also enter the locality name, if applicable (Locality name:.....)		
24	Enter the amount of income tax computed on this year’s return for the other state or local government (see instructions).....	24	Dual Resident Calculation..... 12000.00
25	New York State tax payable (see instructions).....	25	60000.00
26	Divide line 22, column B, by line 22, column A (round to the fourth decimal place; see instructions) ....	26	0.2000
27	Multiply line 25 by line 26.....	27	12000.00
28	Enter amount from line 24 or line 27, whichever is less (see instructions).....	28	12000.00
29	Total line 28 amounts from additional Form(s) IT-112-R and line 44 amounts from Form(s) IT-112-C, if any (see instructions) .....	29	.00
30	Add lines 28 and 29.....	30	.00

For more information, see the section on “taxpayers with dual residency status” in the instructions for Form IT-112-R.

The double taxation of investment income to which dual residents are subjected was the basis for a legal challenge to New York’s statutory residency law. In *Matter of John S. & Janet B. Tamagni, 91 NY2d 530*, the Court of Appeals ruled that it was not unconstitutional for New York State to tax the intangible income of taxpayers who were determined to be statutory residents.

**E. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

1. When the Credit Can be Claimed

*Matter of Earle W. & Judith A. Kazis, DTA No. 817387*



The taxpayers were resident partners in a partnership which did business in several states, including Massachusetts from 1978 to 1986. They did not file nonresident returns for this period. They were subsequently assessed and paid the back taxes in 1994 and claimed a resident credit on their New York return in the same year.

In disallowing the credit, the Tribunal referenced Tax Law Section 620(a) which states that a credit may be claimed “for any income tax imposed for the taxable year” by another jurisdiction. Thus, the credit can only be claimed on the New York return for the *same year* in which the tax is imposed by the other jurisdiction. In this case, the taxpayers would have had to claim the resident credit on their New York returns in each of the years, 1978 to 1986, which by this time were past the period for amending.

## 2. Accrual

### ***Matter of William & Patricia Longson, DTA No. 814583***

The taxpayers were New York State residents who sold real property located in New Jersey on the installment basis in 1991. In April 1992 they moved to Florida but failed to accrue the remaining gain on their part-year New York resident return as required in the absence of posting a bond. While acknowledging that the entire gain had to be accrued, the taxpayers were also requesting to accrue the entire resident credit for future taxes owing to New Jersey. The Tax Appeals Tribunal affirmed the ALJ in holding that Tax Law Section 620 does not allow for an accrual of the resident credit.

## 3. S Corporation Shareholders

A New York resident who is a shareholder of an S corporation for Federal purposes which has not made the election to be treated as an S corporation for New York would not be entitled to a resident credit for taxes paid to other states on the income, *even if the shareholder is personally liable for those taxes*. This is because, as was explained earlier in Section B on page 72, the income must also be subject to tax under Article 22. As a C corporation for New York, however, the income would be taxable under Article 9-A and not Article 22.

**See Publication 35 dated March 2000.**

## 4. Taxpayer Advisory

As soon as it appears a case is heading toward holding the taxpayer a resident of New York based on domicile or statutory residence, the taxpayer and their representative should be advised to consider filing a protective claim with his claimed state of domicile before the statute of limitations expires, in order to recover any taxes, he may be entitled to. This becomes necessary since the New York State waiver to extend the statute of limitations does not extend the period of limitation for returns filed in other states.

## VIII. AUDIT TECHNIQUES

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### A. PRE-AUDIT ANALYSIS

#### 1. Prior Audits

The auditor should review the file as well as all other available information during the pre-audit analysis to determine if a prior audit was conducted. The focus of the audit can be directly affected by the results of a prior audit. If the taxpayer was determined to be a domiciliary of New York in a prior audit, then it becomes the taxpayer's burden to demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that his domicile changed in a subsequent audit period. Conversely, if the taxpayer was determined to be domiciled outside New York, then that should be accepted unless there is evidence to suggest the possibility of a change back to New York.

For statutory residence and the allocation of New York income, each year stands on its own, and the auditor should not be unduly influenced by prior audit results. Statutory residence and allocation issues, in particular, change from year to year and the days allocated to New York in one year may have little bearing on the allocation of days in a subsequent period. However, if the work pattern and/or lifestyle of the taxpayer is consistent with the results of the previous audit, then the auditor should exercise good judgment when determining the scope of the audit. For example, if the day count determined per an analysis of prior years on audit was determined to be substantially below the 183-day count and the work patterns and lifestyle of the individual remain consistent in the reaudit years, the auditor may decide to drop the statutory resident aspect of the audit and proceed with a review of the allocation of income to New York. The auditor must be aware of the heavy burden placed upon the taxpayer to produce documentation to substantiate a position and therefore should be practical when requesting these records. Changes in work patterns or employment responsibilities should be explored, rather than a verification of days or income.

For example, if a taxpayer has successfully verified days worked in New York for several years with a diary and supporting documentation, and the current year is consistent with the previous years, then the auditor could test check entries in the diary rather than requesting full substantiation. In another example, if a taxpayer changes employment responsibility from that of an Outside Salesman covering several Northeast states to the District Sales Manager, with an office in Manhattan, then the auditor would be correct in requesting more detailed documentation or substantiation of the diary entries.

#### 2. New York Address

The auditor should review the entire return paying particular attention to the New York addresses identified on the tax return. For example, the W-2 or IT-2 form may reveal that it was sent to the taxpayer's New York address. At the same time, attention should be paid as well to a non-street or an unusual address from a state other than New York. For example, a c/o address or post office box number located outside New York would not tell you where the taxpayer actually resides.

The IT-203 return (New York State Nonresident Return) starting with the 1988 tax year requires the taxpayer to identify any living quarters maintained in New York State. Starting in 2002, a similar question relating to living quarters in New York City appears on the IT-201 Resident return. This question was modified starting in 2006 to require an affirmative or negative answer from the taxpayer rather than merely marking an “X” if he maintained living quarters in New York City. Those taxpayers having a PPA in New York City are further required to indicate the number of full or part days spent in the city beginning with tax year 2010.

One of the most effective ways to uncover a New York address is through the use of Lexis Nexus which is available in every office. A Lexis search should be routinely done especially in cases with high dollar potential.

In addition, the Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) file should be checked to determine if the taxpayer or spouse was a purchaser (grantee) or seller (grantor) of New York property.

The auditor should make note of any New York address identified during the pre-audit analysis and explore the taxpayer's connection to these addresses during the audit. The auditor should be aware of both the City of New York and Yonkers city income taxes which would be due as a result of either residency or, in the case of Yonkers, earnings in these communities.

### 3. Business Relations

An analysis of the supporting schedules attached to the New York return (Schedule C, Schedule E, and the partnership or S Corporation K-1's) can provide an insight into the taxpayer's business involvement within New York. Significant active involvement with New York partnerships or other business entities will support a position that the taxpayer is domiciled in New York. In addition, the W-2 or IT-2 form may reveal a relationship between the employer and the employee. The inclusion of the taxpayer's surname or initials as part of the employer's name implies closely held ownership which may be found to include a degree of active participation which would have to be explored during the audit.

Use of the internet is encouraged to determine the extent of the taxpayer's business involvement and nature of business activities.

### 4. Capital Gains

Past audit experience has identified many taxpayers who have claimed a change in domicile immediately prior to the occurrence of a large capital gain. As a nonresident, a taxpayer generally avoids paying New York State income tax on capital gains. Large capital gains are uncommon, and often the only change in lifestyle demonstrated by the individual is the fact that a substantial gain was realized in the year of, or immediately after, the alleged change of domicile.

## **B. COMMUNICATING WITH THE TAXPAYER**

The auditor is responsible for scheduling an initial appointment for a newly assigned case and being at the appointed place on time. In order to efficiently utilize the available time and to reduce the inconvenience and disruption caused to the taxpayer's schedule, auditors are encouraged to arrange their schedules with the taxpayer, or his representative, in such a manner as to spend a sufficient number of consecutive days at the audit site to complete the audit without having to make return visits. Additional information clarifying an issue or substantiating a diary entry can be sent through the mail, if necessary.

Appointments should be arranged to ensure that the auditor, as well as the taxpayer, have sufficient lead time to adequately address the issues. In most cases, the first communication a taxpayer receives from the Department is a cover letter with the residency questionnaire requesting information on domicile and the number of days spent in New York. If after the commencement of the audit it appears that the audit cannot be completed before the statute of limitations expires, the auditor must request a waiver extending the statute.

This orderly procedure is to be followed in all cases. An audit is not to be commenced near the end of a statute of limitation period when an insufficient period of time remains to adequately address the issues of the audit. The first communication with the taxpayer should never be a request for voluminous documentation and a statement that the taxpayer will be assessed as a resident unless all the material is produced in an unreasonably short period of time or the taxpayer agrees to extend the statute. Such requests are unreasonable and assessing additional taxes automatically unless the taxpayer agrees to extend the period is contrary to Audit Division policies and procedures.

The auditor, as well as the Team Leader and Section Head, must review the audit period on new cases in order to be sure to provide the taxpayer and the auditor with a reasonable period of time to conduct the audit.

*As a general rule, nonresident audits should not be started unless the auditor and the taxpayer have at least 120 days (without extending the assessment limitation period) to present and review material. Note that this rule will normally not apply in situations where an audit has been ongoing, and the auditor is merely updating the audit period. Nevertheless, the auditor should give the taxpayer sufficient notice that the audit period is being extended.*

The residency questionnaire provided in the Appendix has been designed to request a minimal amount of information from an individual during the initial review of the return. The answering of a few general questions may permit the auditor to determine whether an audit is actually necessary or to narrow the focus of the audit. Although the questions relate specifically to nonresidents of New York State, they can be modified in situations where New York State residents are being audited and the audit issue is New York City residency only.

Subsequent requests of the individual should be modified and streamlined to fit the specific needs of the case at hand. This modification will ease the heavy burden placed upon the taxpayer to produce records and

documentation which are not essential to the audit. The questionnaire has been developed to enhance the gathering of information in order to facilitate the audit of a nonresident return.

The auditor must exercise judgment when sending a letter to a taxpayer. The letter should be molded to the audit issues identified for the particular taxpayer. The taxpayer should not be asked to produce unnecessary documentation, nor should he be asked to answer irrelevant questions. For example, a non-domiciliary who does not maintain a permanent place of abode in New York should not be asked to provide information concerning their domicile. The auditor should, however, question the allocation method selected as well as the actual computation.

## C. ACCUMULATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

### 1. *Analysis of the Federal Return*

If the taxpayer has not attached the appropriate and required Federal schedules to the State return, the auditor should request a copy of the complete Federal return including all schedules, attachments and W-2s. A close review of the schedules may provide information that will support your position.

Scrutiny of Schedule A (Itemized Deductions) can reveal information concerning the location of a New York residence from the real estate taxes claimed, the mortgage interest paid, or a casualty loss suffered. Presence in New York can be documented by expenditures for New York medical practitioners, and business & educational involvement in New York can be verified by amounts deducted as Miscellaneous deductions. Travel and entertainment expenses reported on Form 2106, which are also a component of itemized deductions, could be used to verify days spent either in or outside New York while in travel status.

### 2. *Analysis of Records*

Earlier it was explained that the regulations require that any person domiciled outside New York who maintains a PPA in New York have available “adequate” records to prove that he did not spend more than 183 days in the state. The importance of maintaining adequate records was emphasized in the Tax Appeals Tribunal decision, ***Matter of R. Michael Holt, DTA No. 821018***, which involved statutory residency. The Tribunal stated that such audits,

*“...are very fact intensive and require specific evidence through substantiating contemporaneous records to show a taxpayer’s whereabouts on a day-to-day basis during each year in question. Such records could include not only day calendars but airline tickets, restaurant and hotel receipts and credit card statements.”*

---

When analyzing records, either business or personal, the auditor must keep the audit's objective in mind. Unlike a substantiation audit, the objective of a residency case is not the verification of each deductible item on the tax return but, if the issue is domicile, the depth of ties to New York or, if statutory residency, presence in New York. An auditor may, however, request verification of items that appear to be excessive or unreasonable.

The following are examples of personal and business records that are typically requested during the course of a residency audit. The list is intended to be a general guide and not meant to suggest that every item need be requested; the exact records needed will be determined by the particular facts and circumstances of each audit.

a. Personal Records

- Personal diaries and calendars, in written or electronic form.
- Credit card statements and receipts.
- Bank records including monthly statements, canceled checks and ATM receipts. Bank statements should be reviewed for the address to which they are sent. An analysis of canceled checks may provide clues to the taxpayer's presence in New York, as well as revealing the existence of other credit cards not mentioned by the taxpayer. ATM receipts would indicate the location of withdrawals.
- Telephone records for both the New York and non-New York residences.
- Utility bills for both New York and non-New York residences that may reflect regular or seasonal use.
- Homeowner's insurance policies to show the location where valuable items are kept.
- Itineraries for commercial flights or flight logs for private carriers.
- Hotel receipts.
- EZ Pass records for automobile usage.
- Moving bills to show that furniture and other items have been transferred to a new residence.
- Security or swipe cards providing access to office buildings.

b. Business Records:

- Business logs or diaries.
- Corporate credit card statements and receipts.
- Corporate minutes.
- Employment contracts;
- Expense vouchers.

3. Personal Observations

The auditor should make every attempt to visit the New York place of abode. The location of the neighborhood, the facility itself, and the relationship to the lifestyle of the taxpayer are important to the establishment of residency in New York. This personal observation should include checking the names on the mailbox, checking the license numbers of any vehicles on the premises, interviewing the doorman, building superintendent and mailman, if necessary. The auditor should make notes of his observations and, if possible, take pictures of the residence.

It is also recommended that the auditor or investigative aide make arrangements with the representative to visit the taxpayer's residence(s) outside New York as well for purposes of comparison, especially if the residence is located within the metropolitan area. This would also be true if the issue is city residency only and the taxpayer is claiming to be domiciled in Westchester or on Long Island.



#### 4. Affidavits

An affidavit is a written statement made under oath before a notary public or other duly authorized person. In the context of a nonresident audit, affidavits may be used by taxpayers attempting to meet their burden of proof that they either changed their domicile from New York or spent less than 184 days in the state. As to how much weight an auditor should give affidavits will generally depend on how they are used and the basis for the assertions they contain.

An affidavit will generally be viewed differently if it is used merely to bridge a gap in the documentary record rather than in lieu of providing any records at all. For example, in the *Armel* case discussed earlier in connection with time, the taxpayers successfully used affidavits from friends and neighbors to show that they were in Florida in the month of December for which there were no other records. For the rest of the year, they were able to provide documentation which, in conjunction with the affidavits and credible testimony, was sufficient to meet their burden of proof that they were not statutory residents.

The basis for the statements made in an affidavit is also a factor when considering how much weight to give it. For example, a taxpayer may claim other people used his New York City apartment during the audit period and submits affidavits from these individuals to support his allegation. In such cases it would be important to know what the individuals are relying on for their recollection of an event that occurred several years in the past.

Submitting an affidavit does not end the audit process. The auditor is still free to request records from the taxpayer and, if necessary, subpoena them. An affidavit should be subject to the same verification procedures as with a calendar or diary. That is, just as an auditor would test check certain entries on a calendar in order to determine if it can be relied on, so, too, should efforts be made to verify the veracity of an affidavit. In the above example, it would be appropriate to contact the individuals claiming to have used the taxpayer's residence for the source of their recollection- a diary, a definable event such as a birthday party, etc. - and request proof, if necessary. In sum, an affidavit is another form of evidence available to taxpayers and should be evaluated by the auditor in conjunction with the totality of evidence which includes documentation and as will be discussed in the next section, credible testimony.

#### 5. Credible Testimony

Up to this point the discussion of what constitutes sufficient evidence to prove whether a taxpayer is either a domiciliary or statutory resident of New York State or City has focused on documentary proof. The Tax Appeals Tribunal in *Matter of John G. Avildsen, DTA No. 809722*, expanded the scope of what is acceptable proof in holding that credible testimony by itself may be sufficient. In that case, it was not the testimony of the taxpayer himself but rather that of a personal secretary who tracked his whereabouts which was determined to be credible. The secretary testified that she maintained the taxpayer's business diaries which were not produced at the hearing for a variety of personal reasons. Although the ALJ found her to be credible, he ruled that credible testimony alone was insufficient to meet the taxpayer's burden of proof that he was not a statutory resident of New York City absent corroborating documentary evidence.

In reversing the ALJ, the Tribunal held that,

*“we find no support in the statute or regulation for the Administrative Law Judge’s conclusion that testimony alone was insufficient as a matter of law to prove that the petitioner did not spend more than 183 days in New York.”*

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The Tribunal explained that there are two components to credibility: *Competency* and *veracity*. *Competency* is the ability to be in a position to know what the facts are while *veracity* is the ability to accurately remember them. In the *Avildsen* case, the secretary was deemed to be a competent witness because she maintained the taxpayer’s diaries and therefore was able to testify as to their contents. Moreover, she was found to be truthful, and, in the Tribunal’s words, it is “*the truthfulness of the witness*” which “*determines his veracity.*”

The ruling in *Avildsen* highlights the importance of conducting a personal interview with taxpayers in residency cases whenever possible. In audits involving domicile, questioning by the auditor should focus on the taxpayer’s intentions regarding a claimed change of domicile and actions taken by the taxpayer to support those intentions. Where the issue is statutory residency, the objective might be whether there is an overall living pattern that could explain undocumented days. In all cases, the auditor should evaluate the credibility of the responses and record his observations on the DO-220.5. Depending on the responses, an interview done at the outset of the audit may even shorten the audit process by reducing the amount of additional documentation necessary.

While an interview is strongly encouraged, we recognize that it may not always be possible since representatives may bar access to the taxpayer. This poses a particular challenge to auditors who must be cognizant of credible testimony as a result of *Avildsen* yet are denied the opportunity to interview taxpayers or witnesses to determine their credibility. The decision does provide some helpful guidance for the auditor, however. Taxpayers who rely solely on credible testimony to make their case run the risk that they will not be found to be credible. The Tribunal noted that,

*“...the Division can utilize information gathered during the audit process to controvert the facts as stated by the taxpayer.”*

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Such is what happened in *Matter of Charles J. Hull Jr. and Mary Hull, DTA No. 810833*, where information obtained on audit was used successfully to discredit statements made by taxpayers regarding a claimed change of domicile. Based on third party confirmation, it was shown that the taxpayers continued to maintain memberships in New York organizations which they asserted they had resigned from upon changing their domicile to Florida. Moreover, they did not surrender their New York drivers’ licenses when they said they did and continued to register motor vehicles in the state after their purported change of domicile. Finally, the auditor’s analysis of checking account activity revealed that both the Florida and New York accounts were used equally, contrary to the taxpayers’ claim that a majority of checks were

drawn on the Florida bank. Largely as a result of these inconsistencies, the Tax Appeals Tribunal confirmed the ALJ determination that the taxpayers did not abandon their New York domicile.

The Tax Appeals Tribunal in *Avildsen* cited one further tool available to the auditor:

*“...if the Division wishes to obtain documents in the possession of the taxpayer that the taxpayer refuses to introduce into evidence, the Division can use its subpoena power to obtain these documents.”*

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Use of the subpoena is authorized by Article 8, Section 174 of the Tax Law. It generally should be used as a last resort when taxpayers have been uncooperative in providing information despite multiple requests. It would also be appropriate to use subpoenas in situations where taxpayers are unable to obtain the records on their own. For example, an employee who left a job on bad terms may be unable to obtain records from a prior employer.

In the context of credible testimony, there are situations when it may even be advisable to use the subpoena power to interview a taxpayer to allow the auditor to assess his credibility. *When considering the use of a subpoena for this purpose, it is mandatory that the audit staff contact Field Audit Management for guidance.*

**For more information on subpoenas, consult Executive Policy Memorandum No. 100 dated October 3, 2013.**

#### D. CONCLUDING THE AUDIT

##### 1. *Making a Determination*

After the auditor has accumulated sufficient information to reach a conclusion, he should prepare a summary of the facts developed during the audit and compare these facts with Department policy and established case law. The auditor should discuss the findings with the team leader and, if necessary, request assistance from Field Audit Management. After reaching a preliminary decision, the auditor should determine if a secondary position exists. For example, if the preliminary decision holds the taxpayer to be a domiciliary of New York, is there sufficient information to hold the taxpayer as a statutory resident or does the wage allocation change if both positions are successfully defeated by the taxpayer. The auditor must cite not only the primary position, but also any alternative positions on the "Proposed Statement of Audit Changes" when prepared. Failure to do so could prevent these issues from being addressed during the appeals process.

When all three issues have been addressed during the audit and changes are appropriate in each area, **the following wording is suggested:**

- ***"As you have not established by clear and convincing evidence that you intended to change your domicile from New York State, you are considered New York State***

*residents for income tax purposes. As residents you are subject to tax on all income regardless of the source.*

- *Alternatively, if it is decided that you are not domiciled in New York State, you are being held as statutory residents of New York State because you maintained a permanent place of abode and spent more than 183 days of the tax year in New York State.*
- *Alternatively, if it is decided that you are not residents of New York State for income tax purposes, your income is subject to taxation as a nonresident.”*

Keep in mind that the above wording represents suggested phrasing. The actual wording on the "Statement of Audit Changes" should be modified to reflect the actual facts and circumstances.

## 2. Penalty Considerations

If it is determined that the taxpayer is a domiciliary and/or statutory resident, the auditor and the team leader next need to address whether it is appropriate to impose penalties. Particular attention should be paid to Negligence penalty, Section 685(b), and the penalty for Substantial Understatement, Section 685(p). The auditor, when asserting these penalties, must bear the burden in justifying the appropriateness of the penalty assessed. Entries concerning the imposition of penalty should appear in the DO-220.5 or be noted in a separate memorandum attached to the case outlining the reasons for imposing the penalty. The mere size of an assessment, or the lack of specific records, does not in itself constitute negligence or substantial understatement, but combined with other factors may warrant the imposition of one or both of these penalties.

For example, if an individual with a permanent place of abode in New York State files an IT-203 Nonresident return and answers "NO" to question 74 concerning the maintenance of living quarters in the State, then the auditor might be justified in asserting a negligence penalty if it is determined that the taxpayer is actually a resident. A good example of this is the *Matter of Corley R. Barnes, DTA No. 809496*, in which the taxpayer claimed that a computerized tax service had inadvertently checked the "NO" box in answer to the question on the former NYC-203 about maintaining living quarters in New York City. The Administrative Law Judge upheld the imposition of the 685(B) penalty for negligence because,

*"Petitioner signed the return and must take responsibility for its contents, especially since the information on the return was obviously wrong and not technical in nature."*

*Conclusion of Law F*

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In the nonresident program, as with any case, when the taxpayer demonstrates a flagrant and intentional disregard for New York State Tax Law, consideration must be made for the imposition of fraud penalties or referral to the Criminal Investigations Unit (CID) for possible criminal prosecution. Team leaders need to

keep a watchful eye for cases with fraud indicators. For these cases, referral for criminal action or civil fraud penalties may be appropriate.

### *3. Communicating the Results*

The auditor must present the examination results to the taxpayer and/or the representative at the conclusion of the audit. During the concluding phase of the audit, the auditor should present to the taxpayer and the representatives' copies of work papers and schedules and explain the methodology of the audit as well as Department procedures in plain and simple, nontechnical terms. The findings can also include recommended changes in record keeping practices to correct accounting errors found during the audit, as well as an explanation of the proper interpretation of the tax law in areas where errors were made.

There are occasions, however, when the preliminary audit results should be communicated to the taxpayer and the representative as soon as it appears that a case is developing in a particular direction. One important example of this is in regard to the resident credit. As soon as it appears that a case is heading toward holding the taxpayer a resident of New York by virtue of domicile or statutory resident rules, the taxpayer should be advised to consider filing a protective claim with his claimed state of domicile before a statute of limitations expires, in order to recover any credits to which he may be entitled.

Upon the conclusion of an audit, the taxpayer and the representative must be notified of the results of the audit, regardless of the outcome. If the audit results in the acceptance of the return filed, the taxpayer should be notified of that fact. If the taxpayer is being held as a resident, either a domiciliary or a statutory resident, the taxpayer should be notified of that fact. This notification will protect the individual from subsequent audits covering the same issue for the same period and relieve the burden of producing documentation for a period for which a resolution was reached.

Auditors should attempt to be as accurate as possible in determining the date of a change in domicile. The taxpayer and the auditor may agree on a date part way through a year, so that the taxpayer would be taxable as a resident for part of that year and as a nonresident for the remainder of the year. If a date for a change of domicile is determined as a result of an audit, the date and specifics on the reasoning for the allowance for the change must be noted in the audit report. In addition, the taxpayer should be notified of this conclusion.

Once the decision has been communicated to the taxpayer, he should be given sufficient time to review the audit results and present additional information, if possible. The auditor must carefully consider any additional explanations offered by the taxpayer and evaluate any new documentation submitted.

If changes are warranted, the auditor should recompute the additional tax and present a revised statement of audit changes to the taxpayer as soon as possible.

#### 4. *Closing Conference*

Developing and maintaining a good dialogue with the taxpayer and/or the representative is essential for the successful conclusion of the case. The taxpayer and the representative must be given the opportunity to fully understand and refute the findings developed during the audit without the necessity of a BCMS conference. A closing conference at the district level with the team leader and section head, program manager or district audit manager, who are prepared to explain the findings and present favorable hearing decisions which parallel the taxpayer's situation, could result in the successful resolution of the case. This is beneficial to both the taxpayer and the Department as well in that collections will be enhanced, and litigation costs kept to a minimum. If an issue can be resolved at the audit level, we should strive to do so. Even if the case remains disagreed, the auditor will be in a better position to defend the audit during the appeals process.

#### 5. *Work Papers*

Throughout the audit, the auditor should have prepared work papers which adequately support the conclusions drawn upon the completion of the audit. These work papers will become an integral part of the case file and will be used to resolve any questions the taxpayer has. The work papers take on a greater significance in a disagreed case, when the auditor or team leader will be called upon to defend the Department's position throughout the appeals process.

In developing the case, as part of the objective decision-making process the auditor should develop the "T" account analysis as described earlier, to arrive at an informed conclusion. The analysis must reflect the factors favorable to a New York domicile as well as those factors which endorse a domicile outside New York. It is also recommended that the auditor prepare a clear and concise explanation of the factors considered in arriving at the decision. The analysis of the factors should be presented in the work paper summary. The comparison of the New York factors to those existing in other locations should be clearly outlined with the conclusion evident from the facts presented. This brief, or position paper should be prepared regardless of whether the case is agreed or disagreed. This work paper will provide the basis of the appeals presentation as well as establish the focus of any future audits.

#### 6. *The Income Tax Report*

The "Income Tax Audit Report," AU-241.26, was designed to explain the assertion of penalty, the results of an informal closing conference and to identify specific areas of disagreement. The narrative should include a summary of the Department's position, a listing of areas of disagreement and finally a listing of any rebuttal evidence which will refute the taxpayer's position. The auditor should prepare this report, especially for disagreed cases, as if he were preparing a brief of the Department's position. Very often, the Administrative Law Judge or the Department's attorney will use the Audit report in conjunction with the DO-220.5 for a picture of what occurred during the audit.

The auditor can enhance the defense of the case throughout the appeals process if reference is made to hearing decisions and court rulings which resemble or parallel the case at hand. Reference to these



decisions should be cited in the audit report in order to illustrate their application to the case at hand. In the Appendix is a synopsis of cases involving various aspects of the residency issue.

## APPENDIX - RESIDENCY QUESTIONNAIRE

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**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE**  
**NONRESIDENT AUDIT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Audit Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Case #: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What was the last year a New York State Resident Personal Income Tax Return was filed by you?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. If you were at any time a domiciliary of New York State, what was done to change your status from a resident to a nonresident? Please provide detailed information relative to your intentions. Attach additional sheets, if necessary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. For the audit period indicated above, give your employer's name and address, or if self-employed, the name and address where you carry on your business, trade, profession or occupation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer ID (EIN): \_\_\_\_\_

- 4. Were you associated with any other business activities conducted in New York State? (Partnerships, LLCs, S Corps, etc) during the audit period? Attach additional sheets, if necessary.

Yes ( ) No ( )

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of the Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer ID (EIN): \_\_\_\_\_

- 5. For the above audit period, did you maintain living quarters in New York State (owned or rented) or otherwise had living quarters provided for you by another individual or your employer?

Yes ( ) No ( )

If yes, please supply the following:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide inclusive dates that such living quarters were maintained.

\_\_\_\_\_

- 6. If you answered yes to question 5, please check any of the following that applied to your living quarters:

Rent Controlled	Yes ( ) No ( )
Rent Stabilized	Yes ( ) No ( )
STAR Exemption	Yes ( ) No ( )
Manhattan Parking Exemption	Yes ( ) No ( )

- 7. If you do not maintain living quarters in New York State, where do you regularly stay while in New York State?

\_\_\_\_\_

- 8. For each year of the audit period, how many days or part days were you physically present in New York State for work purposes?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 9. For each year of the audit period, how many days or part days were you physically present in New York State for nonworking days such as weekends, vacations, holidays, illness and any other nonworking days during each year.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 10. Use this space for any additional information you may wish to provide.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

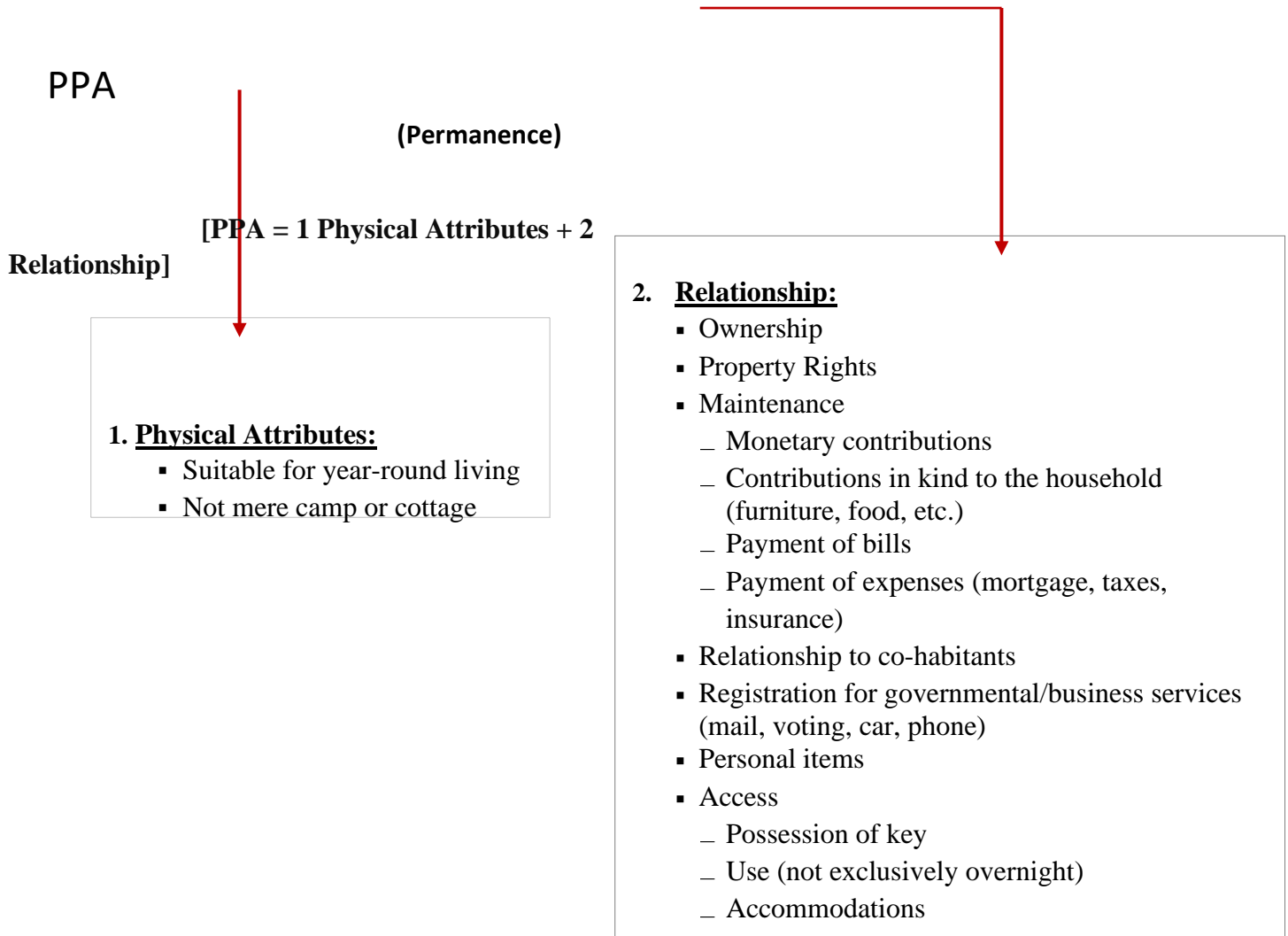
**TAXPAYER(S):**

I DECLARE THAT THE ABOVE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE, CORRECT AND COMPLETE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF.

\_\_\_\_\_ Your  
 Signature                      Date                      Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth  
 Spouse's Signature                      Date                      Date of Birth  
*(If filed jointly)*

## APPENDIX - PERMANENT PLACE OF ABODE



## APPENDIX - CITATION OF DOMICILE AND STATUTORY RESIDENCY CASES

The cases listed below represent cases which have been resolved by the New York State Tax Appeals Tribunal or the New York State Courts. While Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) determinations occasionally are referred to in the guidelines, they are not included here due to the non-precedential nature of the determination. Note that the Department as of September 2004 stopped assigning TSB-D numbers to Tribunal decisions. Therefore, all D numbers have been deleted and replaced by the DTA numbers assigned by the Division of Tax Appeals.

### **AETNA NATIONAL BANK V. CATHERINE A. KRAMER AS EXECUTRIX, ETC. OF ETTA M. BROWER, DECEASED, 142 AD 444**

**Issue: DOMICILE**

**Key Point: CHANGE OF RESIDENCE COUPLED WITH AN INTENTION TO ABANDON THE FORMER DOMICILE AND ACQUIRE A NEW ONE**

A decedent was deemed to have changed her domicile to New York even though she lived in the new location only one week before she died. What was significant in the court's view was the decedent's intention to abandon her former domicile in New Jersey and to reside in Brooklyn with the intention of acquiring a domicile there. As the court said "*...there was both a change of residence and an intention to acquire another domicile.*"

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### **ALLEN, SAMUEL G., DTA NO. 808589**

**Issue: DOMICILE/STATUTORY RESIDENCE**

**Key Points: BURDEN OF PROOF, FAILURE TO FILE**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal determined that the taxpayer had not met his burden of proof to show that he was neither a domiciliary nor a statutory resident of New York State and City. The taxpayer was convicted for repeated failure to file New York returns for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985. The conviction followed an investigation begun by the state of Connecticut for the years 1982-1985. The taxpayer filed Federal returns for these years showing a Connecticut post office box. It was later determined that this was his only tie to Connecticut. However, he and his mother were co-tenants on a lease of a New York City apartment during one of the years in question. He also acknowledged that he spent more than thirty days in New York in 1982. The Tribunal cited the ALJ that the "*mere allegation that he never intended New York to be his permanent home*" was inadequate and agreed that he was a resident of New York.

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**ANDREWS, HARRIET H., 288 NY 660****Issue: FOREIGN DOMICILE**

While acknowledging that tax avoidance may be valid motivation for a change of domicile, the State Supreme Court asserted that *"there must be a fixed intention to abandon one domicile and acquire another"* which was clearly lacking in the taxpayer's alleged change of domicile to Bermuda. The taxpayer continued to divide time between her homes in New York and Bermuda. Although she sold the New York home, she retained the right to occupy it during her lifetime and similarly transferred title to her home in Bermuda. Moreover, she kept her American citizenship and never applied to become a citizen of Great Britain. Noting that there had been no change in the taxpayer's lifestyle, the court concluded that she had not demonstrated a "clear intent" to change her domicile.

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**ANGELICO, SEBASTIAN AND FLORENCE, DTA NO. 807985****Issue: CHANGE OF DOMICILE****WHETHER STATUTORY RESIDENCE WAS PROPERLY RAISED****Key Point: SPOUSES WITH DIFFERENT DOMICILES**

In January 1984 Mr. Angelico moved out of his New York home with the intention of obtaining a divorce in the future and permanently making his home in a New Jersey condominium he owned. Although he continued to maintain a home in New York for his family and there was no formal separation agreement, he stated that from January, 1984 to the middle of 1985 he did not enter the New York house. Under NYCRR 105.20(d)(5)(i), a husband and wife who are separated *"may each, under some circumstances, acquire their own separate domiciles, even though there be no judgment or decree of separation."* The taxpayer proved that the separation was not merely temporary by submitting an affidavit from his attorney corroborating his plans to get a divorce.

As importantly, the Tribunal emphasized that the statutory residency issue was not clearly raised either in the Statement of Audit Changes or pre-hearing communications. As such, the Tribunal concluded that the taxpayer was not given sufficient notice that *"he must prove he was not a statutory resident of New York in addition to proving that he was not a New York resident based on domicile."*

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**ARMEL, JACK & HELEN, DTA NO. 811255****Issue: STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: CREDIBLE TESTIMONY & AFFIDAVITS**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal reversed the ALJ and concluded that the taxpayers “*through their testimonial and documentary evidence, have clearly and convincingly proven that they were in New York less than 184 days in 1988.*” At issue was the period from December 7 through December 31, 1988 for which the taxpayers lacked both phone bills and Visa statements to substantiate their whereabouts. “*Second, the issue of petitioners' location on these days arises in the context that they claimed they spent the entire winter in Florida in 1988, as was their custom since 1984.*” The Tribunal stated that the taxpayers “*need not establish their whereabouts each specific day.*” The Tribunal concluded that Mr. Armel's credible testimony, corroborated by affidavits and letters submitted by the taxpayers' friends and neighbors support a finding that they were in Florida for the month of December.

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**AUSNIT, PETER C., 212 AD2d 911, DTA NO. 808144****Issue: DOMICILE/STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Point: BURDEN OF PROOF**

The Appellate Division affirmed the Tax Appeals Tribunal that the taxpayer had failed to present sufficient evidence to prove that he had changed his domicile to Connecticut and that he had spent less than 184 days in New York in 1985. Mr. Ausnit had filed personal income tax returns as a resident of New York City in the years before and after 1985. However, in 1985 he filed as a nonresident listing a newly purchased Connecticut house as his address on his tax returns. During that year, he continued to maintain strong ties to New York, including the presence of his former spouse and children, who were living in New York, six partnerships, rental properties, and an apartment, which he never proved he vacated. The Tax Appeals Tribunal found that the petitioner, having introduced only minimal documentary evidence and no testimonial evidence failed to prove that he had changed his domicile or that any of his New York residential properties were not a permanent place of abode.

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**AVILDSEN, JOHN G., DTA NO. 809722****Issue: NYC STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Point: CREDIBLE TESTIMONY**

The Tribunal reversed the determination of the ALJ in finding that the taxpayer was not a statutory resident of New York City. The Tribunal found that *"the ALJ erred in concluding that documentary evidence was required, as a matter of law, and that credible testimony was necessarily insufficient to satisfy petitioner's burden with respect to the 183-day issue."*

The ALJ found taxpayer's secretary's testimony credible because her testimony was based on her examination of diaries that she maintained with respect to his activities and the diaries were created at the time the activities were scheduled. The Tribunal concluded that had the secretary's "testimony simply been a general statement that petitioner was not present in New York for more than 183 days each year and was based simply on her recollections of events occurring five years ago, rather than on records she had made of these events, it is doubtful that the ALJ would have found the testimony credible."

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**BABBIN, SAUL A., 49 NY2d 846****Issue: FOREIGN DOMICILE**

A taxpayer who was transferred by his employer to the Netherlands did not change his domicile according to Appellate Division. The taxpayer began renting a house in the Netherlands in February 1973 and was subsequently joined by his wife and children after their New York home was sold in June. In concluding that the taxpayer remained domiciled in New York during 1973, the Court noted that he had no employment contract and could have been transferred at any time, had a renewable visa, and returned to the United States on numerous occasions.

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**BARKER, JOHN & LAURA, DTA NO. 822324****Issues: PPA, VACATION HOME**

The taxpayers' vacation home in the Hamptons constituted a permanent place of abode despite their minimal use of the home. According to the Tribunal, what matters is not the taxpayers' "subjective use" of the dwelling but that it was suitable for year-round use.

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**BERNBACH, JOHN L., 98 AD2d 559****Issue: FOREIGN DOMICILE****Key Point: CITIZENSHIP**

The Appellate Division reversed the finding of the State Tax Commission in holding that the taxpayer changed his domicile to France during 1972. The taxpayer and his wife had previously moved from New Jersey to New York in the fall of 1971 so that she could be closer to her psychiatrist. In May 1972 the taxpayer and his children left New York for France and moved in with a woman there who eventually became his wife after his divorce was finalized. Regarding his failure to give up his U.S. citizenship, the Court stated that it was “irrational” to require a taxpayer to do so in order to prove a change of domicile.

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**BODFISH, LOUIS R., 50 AD2d 457****Issue: FOREIGN DOMICILE****Key Point: PRESUMPTION AGAINST A FOREIGN DOMICILE STRONGER THAN THE GENERAL PRESUMPTION AGAINST A CHANGE OF DOMICILE**

Stating that the presumption against a foreign domicile is stronger than the general presumption against a change of domicile, the State Supreme Court rejected the taxpayer's claim that he changed domicile when he was relocated to Pakistan on business. Citing *Matter of Newcomb*, the Court said “*less evidence is required to establish a change of domicile from one state to another than from one nation to another.*” The test of intent with respect to a purported new domicile has been stated as “*whether the place of habitation is the permanent home of a person with the range of sentiment, feeling and permanent association with it.*”

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**BOYD, JOHN & GAIL, DTA NO. 808599****Issue: PPA**

Citing *Matter of Evans*, the Tax Appeals Tribunal upheld the determination of the ALJ in finding that the taxpayers were maintaining a permanent place of abode. The residence in question was located in Flushing and was owned by Mr. Boyd's mother. The determining factors were Mr. Boyd's admission that he provided more than 50% of the upkeep of his mother's home and claimed her as a dependent on his Federal return. Although acknowledging that he spent more than 183 days in New York during the audit period, he was “*vague and inconclusive*” about where he stayed in New York, stating only that it was with “*family and friends.*”

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**BUZZARD, CLAY E. & RITA M., 205 AD2d 852****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Points: TIME, FAMILY TIES**

The Appellate Division confirmed the decision of the Tax Appeals Tribunal that the taxpayers, who retained substantial ties to the Buffalo area, did not provide clear and convincing evidence that they had intended to make their Florida residence a fixed and permanent home. Upon retirement in 1981 they bought a house in Florida and sold their only New York residence. However, after renting residences during the summers of 1982 and 1983, they had a house constructed in the Buffalo area. *"In addition, they continued to maintain their memberships in two Buffalo area country clubs, continued to maintain charge accounts in Buffalo stores and had their primary bank accounts in Buffalo banks. They also continued to engage the services of Buffalo attorneys and accountants. Further, their primary physician is located in Buffalo. Most significantly, in the years in question petitioners spent more time in New York than in Florida."*

The Appellate Division continued that, *"Although petitioners have established strong contacts with Florida, we are not at liberty to substitute our judgment for a reasonable determination by the Tribunal which is supported by substantial evidence merely because it is possible to reasonably reach a different conclusion... Therefore, we shall confirm the Tribunal's determination because, in view of the above noted New York contacts, it is a reasonable determination supported by substantial evidence."*

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**CHRISMAN, GEORGE F., SR., 43 AD2d 771****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Point: LACK OF INTENT TO CHANGE DOMICILE**

The Appellate Division was asked to decide the domicile of a decedent in order to determine where his will would be probated. The taxpayer had lived with his wife in their New York home for many years until July 1967, when they sold it and rented an apartment elsewhere in the state. A year later they moved to Florida where they lived the rest of their lives, mostly in a friend's house. Despite these two moves, the taxpayer-maintained ties to his original New York domicile. These ties included rental property, an active checking account, and the use of a New York post office box for his tax return and the mailing of dividend checks. The taxpayer had declared in his will, however, that he was a domiciliary of Cortland County, New York, where he lived briefly between the time, he sold his New York home and moved to Florida. The court, in dismissing his subsequent moves to Cortland and Florida, declared that they *"were merely changes of residence"* and that the

taxpayer "*never had the intention necessary to acquire a new domicile.*" Citing prior Appellate Division decisions, the Court said that to effectuate a change of domicile there must not only be a change of residence but also "*an intention to abandon the former domicile and to acquire another*" (*Matter of Ratkowsky v. Browne*), and that one without the other "*leaves the last established domicile unaffected.*" (*Clapp v. Clapp*).

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### **CLUTE, WARREN W., JR., 106 AD2d 841**

**Issue: DOMICILE**

**Key Points: USE OF NY HOME GREATER THAN FLORIDA HOME, SPOUSES WITH DIFFERENT DOMICILES**

Conceding that "*there was substantial evidence which supported both the position of petitioner and that of the Tax Commission,*" the Appellate Division let stand as reasonable the latter's decision that the taxpayer remained a New York domiciliary. The taxpayer had claimed a change of domicile to Florida in October 1976 when he negotiated the sale of his family business which was completed by the end of the year. The State Tax Commission cited the retention of the New York home which the taxpayer used more than his Florida residence and continuing business ties as director in two New York banks, as evidence that he had not abandoned his New York domicile.

Although the taxpayer was held to be a New York domiciliary, his wife, who was residing in Florida at the time of their marriage in January 1976, was **not** assessed as a New York resident.

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### **DOMAN, NICHOLAS R. & KATHERINE B., DTA NOS. 805521 AND 805520**

**Issue: CHANGE OF DOMICILE FROM NYC**

**Key Points: CREDIBLE TESTIMONY, GENERAL HABIT OF LIFE**

The ALJ had determined that the taxpayers had changed their domicile from New York City to Shelter Island in Suffolk County during the years in question. The basis for her determination was a combination of the taxpayers' credible testimony coupled with the weight of evidence which showed that the focus of their lives had shifted to Shelter Island. At the same time, she denied a motion by the Tax Department to amend the pleading to include the issue of statutory residency since it was not specifically referred to on the Statement of Audit Changes or the Notice of Deficiency, having been raised for the first time at the hearing. While agreeing that the taxpayers had changed their domicile, the Tax Appeals Tribunal reversed the ALJ's denial of the motion to amend the proceedings and remanded the case back to the ALJ to consider the issue of statutory residency. Upon remand it was determined that the taxpayers were not statutory residents of New York City.

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**DONOVAN, WILLIAM M. & JUNKO G., DTA NO. 818803****Issue: PPA****Key Point: USE OF HUSBAND'S APARTMENT**

An apartment that was owned by the taxpayer's husband prior to their marriage was deemed to be a permanent place of abode for the wife. The wife had a key and unfettered access, had in fact stayed overnight a total of 28 nights, and maintained it together with her husband, each of whom contributing to the monthly expenses.

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**ERDMAN, MARTIN & KEYLOUN, JOAN, DTA NO. 810741****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Point: SPOUSES WITH DIFFERENT DOMICILES**

The Tribunal affirmed the determination of the ALJ that Mr. Erdman failed to demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence a change of domicile. In reaching this conclusion the Tribunal stressed the importance of Mr. Erdman's continued active business interests and substantial time spent in New York. At the same time, The Tribunal reversed the ALJ determination with regard to Ms. Keyloun in finding that she was not a domiciliary of New York, having changed her domicile to Florida long before their marriage.

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**EVANS, JOHN M., 199 AD2d 840, DTA NO. 806515****Issue: PPA****Key Points: MEANING OF "PERMANENCE" AND "MAINTAINS"**

The Appellate Division upheld the decision of the Tax Appeals Tribunal that the taxpayer was maintaining a permanent place of abode. The PPA in question consisted of a rectory that the taxpayer shared with a priest during the workweek.

The taxpayer asserted that his living quarters were neither "maintained" by him, nor were they "permanent." The Tribunal had stated that "*one maintains a place of abode by doing whatever is necessary to continue one's living arrangements in a particular dwelling place. This would include making contributions to the household, in money or otherwise.*" It rejected the petitioner's assertion that since he did not pay for many of the operating expenses of the dwelling, he was not "maintaining" the living quarters as required by the statute. As there can be many financial or other arrangements that determine how the costs of a dwelling are paid for (such as where expenses are shared or provided by another, or where an individual's contribution to the household is not in the form of money), the nature of the expenses incurred in and of themselves cannot determine whether an individual is maintaining a place of abode.



With regard to whether a place of abode is "permanent" within the meaning of the statute, the Appellate Division disagreed with the petitioner that the statute requires that the place of abode be owned, leased or otherwise based upon some legal right in order for it to be permanent and rejected petitioner's argument that he could have been asked to leave at any time. According to the Tribunal, *"the permanence of a dwelling place for purpose of personal income tax depends on a variety of factors and cannot be limited to circumstances which establish a property right in the dwelling place. Permanence, in this context, must encompass the physical aspects of the dwelling place as well as the individual's relationship to the place."*

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**FARKAS, RICHARD & CAROLYN, DTA NOS. 809927 & 809928**

**Issues: DOMICILE/STATUTORY RESIDENCE**

**Key Points: FILING OF NONRESIDENT RETURNS DOES NOT SATISFY BURDEN OF PROOF, RENT-STABILIZED APARTMENT**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal affirmed the ALJ in concluding that Mr. Farkas was not able to prove that he spent less than 184 days in New York in 1985 and was not domiciliary.

The taxpayer's contention that he had changed his domicile prior to the audit period as evidenced by the filing of non-resident returns from 1978 to 1984 did *"not satisfy his burden of proving that a change of domicile occurred and, in addition, when that change took place"* since the returns had not been audited. The act of renewing the lease to his rent-stabilized apartment in Manhattan on September 25, 1986 affirming that it was his primary residence, *"seriously brings into question petitioner's veracity"* that a change of domicile had occurred, according to the ALJ.

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**FELDMAN, SOL & LILLIAN, DTA NO. 802955**

**Issue: DOMICILE**

**Key Points: RETENTION OF NY HOME AND MEDICAL PRACTICE**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal found that the taxpayers were still domiciled in New York based on the retention of their two-family home which was used both as a residence and office for the husband's limited medical practice. The taxpayers alleged a change of domicile in November 1979 with the purchase of a condominium in Florida despite maintaining two residences in New York, a two-family home in Brooklyn and a summer home upstate. The Tribunal agreed that the summer home was not a permanent place of abode within the meaning of NYCRR 105.20(e)(1) as it was not suitable for year-round use. The Tribunal likewise agreed, however, that the Brooklyn home was still being "permanently maintained" as a place of abode through continued ownership of the house and continued maintenance of the lower floor. The Tribunal also determined that the taxpayers were statutory residents. Citing the Matter of Smith, the Tribunal stated that it was the obligation of the taxpayers to keep adequate records of their days in and out of New York. Oral testimony was deemed insufficient to meet their burden of proof.

**GAIED, JOHN,****Issue: PPA**

The Court of Appeals unanimously reversed lower court and Tax Appeals Tribunal decisions in ruling that the taxpayer was *not* maintaining a permanent place of abode in New York. The PPA in question was a multifamily home that was owned by the taxpayer and located on Staten Island within two miles of his business, a 24-hour service station. The taxpayer's parents lived in one of the units. The taxpayer paid all the expenses for their apartment as they had no source of income. The taxpayer indicated that he would occasionally stay at his parents' apartment. The Court rejected the view that maintenance of a dwelling does not require residing in it, stating that "the taxpayer must, himself, have a residential interest in the property" for it to be deemed a PPA.

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**GETZ, COLIN W. & DELMA K., DTA NO. 809134****Issues: DOMICILE/STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE, GENERAL HABIT OF LIFE**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal determined that "*while the petitioners may have very well intended Florida to be their permanent domicile, their general habit of life indicated, at best, an equal commitment to both locations.*" Thus, they did not establish by clear and convincing evidence that there was a change in domicile to Florida. Further, the taxpayers failed to submit adequate documentation, such as credit card slips to support the claim that they did not spend more than 183 days in New York. Upon retirement they continued to maintain their house and country club membership in New York after they purchased a Florida condominium. They also made numerous trips to New York in order for the petitioner to serve as a bank director and to spend time with their son.

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**GRAY, RICHARD E. & JEAN M., 235 AD2d 641, DTA NO. 808982****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Points: ACTIVE BUSINESS TIES, PART-YEAR RESIDENTS**

The Appellate Division, Third Department, by Memorandum and Judgment dated January 9, 1997 unanimously confirmed the Tax Appeals Tribunal decision holding that petitioners were domiciled in New York until the sale of their Syracuse business in September 1987. Mr. Gray was the controlling shareholder and chairman of the board of Gray-Syracuse Inc. and believed that his involvement was "*vital to the health of the company*". In the Court's view, "*the evidence indicating that petitioners retained their New York domicile until Gray's primary business interest had been sold provided substantial evidence for the conclusion that petitioners had not abandoned their New York domicile until September 15, 1987.*" In addition, the Court also stated that, "*Although petitioners were renting residential property in Florida, they continued to maintain their home...in [New York] and spent considerable time there.*"

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**GREEN, JAMES A. & JOYCE, DTA NO. 808436****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Point: TEMPORARY JOB ASSIGNMENTS**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal determined that the taxpayers had not changed their domicile and should be taxed as residents of New York until October 1983. They claimed that they had permanently left the state and should only be taxed until April 1983. At that time Mr. Green had lost his job and moved with his family to four other states to obtain employment, using his parents' address in Newburgh, New York, for mailing purposes. The last move to Indiana in October 1983 resulted in permanent employment and the subsequent purchase of a home the following month. During 1983 the taxpayers filed a New York State Resident Return (IT201) but did not indicate the number of months they were in New York as part year residents.

The Tax Appeals Tribunal affirms that the taxpayers were residents of New York until October 1983 because the temporary work assignments do not show a clear intent to permanently change domicile.

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**HANEY, WALTER G. & MADGE K., DTA NO. 806889****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Point: TEMPORARY JOB ASSIGNMENT**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal canceled a Notice and Demand on the grounds that it was invalid due to the fact that the Division failed to properly inquire about the taxpayers' claim that they were nonresidents prior to issuing a tax assessment. Their claim for refund of taxes withheld, however, was denied.

The Tribunal found that the taxpayers were domiciled in New York for the tax year at issue because they did not establish a new domicile elsewhere during this period and that they maintained a permanent place of abode in New York in 1985. They stated that they never intended to return to New York to live and, thus, were no longer domiciliaries of New York State. Petitioners had moved to Florida in 1984 on a temporary job assignment. They were not certain at that time whether they would return to New York or not. They resided in a motor home in Florida and spent only two weeks in New York while on vacation. They sold their New York home in June 1987. When Mr. Haney retired from his Florida position in October 1987, he and his wife subsequently moved to Texas.

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**HOLT, R. MICHAEL, DTA NO. 821018****Issue: STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Point: RECORDKEEPING**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal sustained the ALJ that the taxpayer was a statutory resident of New York State and City for 2000 and 2001. The ALJ had concluded that photocopies of pocket calendars for both years were of poor quality and frequently illegible. She also noted that the taxpayer's testimony was vague and not supported by corroborating records. In affirming the ALJ determination, the Tax Appeals Tribunal stated that *"statutory residence cases under Tax law 605(b)(1) are very fact intensive and require specific evidence through substantiating contemporaneous records to show a taxpayer's whereabouts on a day-to-day basis during each year in question."*

**HULL, CHARLES J., JR. & MARY, DTA NO. 810833****Issues: DOMICILE/STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: THIRD PARTY VERIFICATION, PENALTIES SUSTAINED**

This decision is a good example of how third-party information obtained by an auditor can be used to refute a taxpayer's testimony. The Tribunal found several inconsistencies in the taxpayers' statements. It cited the finding of the ALJ, "*that many of the organizations that the petitioners asserted they resigned from upon changing their domicile to Florida in 1988 did, in fact, show activity or membership well after that date.*" Among the other findings which the Tribunal cited in the determination of the ALJ was that petitioners did not surrender their New York drivers' licenses when they said they did, continued to register motor vehicles in New York State after their purported change of domicile and did not use their Florida checking account more than their New York checking account as they had asserted. Finally, the ALJ noted as further evidence of the taxpayers' true state of mind was that on several dates in Mrs. Hull's appointment book, she referred to Rochester as "home" when indicating a return to that location.

This is also a good example of how the fact that taxpayers were "*less than candid with the auditor's direct requests for information*" can be used to refute alleged reasonable cause arguments for abatement of penalties.

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**KARTIGANER, HERBERT L. & MARJORIE N., 194 AD2d 879, DTA NOS. 805836 & 807026****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Point: ACTIVE BUSINESS TIES**

The Appellate Division determined that the petitioners had not proven a change of domicile from New York to Florida.

Although the Appellate Division gave consideration to the petitioners' "formal" Florida residence declarations such as voter registration, address on will, licenses, etc., petitioners' informal acts, namely, petitioner husband's active involvement in his New York engineering business and the maintenance of their New York home, contradicted their declarations. Many factors indicated that they failed to abandon their New York domicile and sever their ties to New York. The most significant factor was the petitioner's constant supervision and review of his business interest in New York. He testified that he reviewed contracts and gave advice on personal liability and past and future projects. Internal controls required his approval of all projects, his supervision of progress, check points of on-going projects and his final review before submission to clients. The evidence in the record clearly showed the petitioner retained overall control of his New York business interest.

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**KLEIN, Herbert D. et al., 55 AD2d 982 Issue: FOREIGN DOMILE**

A taxpayer's claim of a change of domicile to Switzerland in May 1969 was rejected by the Appellate Division which found that he still had substantial ties to New York. Among these were the maintenance of bank accounts and a New York City residence to which he returned in November and lived in through the end of the year. Although noting that the taxpayer had taken some steps in 1969 to change his domicile, the Court described them as "*preparations to effect such a change, but they did not, in our opinion, unequivocally demonstrate that the change had occurred.*"

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**KNIGHT, CRAIG F., DTA NO. 819485****Issues: DOMICILE/STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: PPA, TIME, CORPORATE APARTMENT**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal reversed the ALJ in finding that the taxpayer was not a domiciliary of New York State and City in 1996 and 1997 and did not maintain a PPA to be taxable as a statutory resident in 1997. In March 1996 the taxpayer moved out of his marital home and back with his parents, both of which were in New Jersey. That same month he formed an LLC with an office in New York City. In April 1996 he entered into a lease on behalf of the LLC for a two-bedroom apartment nearby his office. According to the lease, the sole occupants of the apartment were to be Mr. Knight and two other people associated with the LLC.

In finding that the taxpayer had not changed his domicile from New Jersey, the Tribunal characterized him as a "mere sojourner" whose home was elsewhere despite the frequency of his visits to New York. As for the apartment maintained by the LLC, the Tribunal ruled that it was not for the taxpayer's exclusive use and therefore not a PPA.

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**KORNBLUM, ELI & BEATRICE, 194 A.D.2d 882, DTA NOS. 807810 & 807811****Issues: DOMICILE/STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Point: CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE**

The Appellate Division determined that the taxpayers' ties to both New York and Florida were equally strong and therefore they had not "*clearly and convincingly proven a change of domicile*" to Florida. Alternatively, they failed to prove they spent less than 184 days in New York State.

The Kornblums maintained a Brooklyn residence since 1949. Mr. Kornblum retired in July 1983 with a continued salary from his company, of which he was president of two subsidiaries, through December 1983. The taxpayers closed title to a Florida condominium on October 29, 1983 and subsequently accomplished all indicators of Florida residence such as driver's license and voter registration. Bank accounts were maintained in both states with monthly statements mailed to Florida. They used their Florida residence from early October to early May returning to Brooklyn for the remainder of the year.

The Court noted that the taxpayers continued to maintain their New York home, did not move any furniture from New York to Florida, and traveled between both locations throughout the years at issue, 1983 to 1985.

As for statutory residency, the ALJ had found that that the telephone bills submitted by the taxpayers were not adequate to prove their whereabouts because there were gaps between the bills for the periods in question.

Lastly, the court emphasized the point that petitioners' reliance on another Administrative Law Judge determination was improper since they are not precedential.

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**LEACH, ET. AL. AS EXECUTORS OF ESTATE OF SIGMAN V. CHU, 150 AD2d 842**

**Issue: STATUTORY RESIDENCE**

**Key Points: DEFINITION OF A DAY, RESIDENT CREDIT**

The Appellate Division reversed the decision of a lower court and upheld the determination of the State Tax Commission that the decedent was a statutory resident of New York State. In controversy was the Tax Commission's regulation interpreting the statute which defined a day for the purpose of calculating the 183-day requirement as "presence within New York State for any part of a calendar day."

The decedent had worked five days a week in New York City as a stockbroker from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. While he was domiciled in Connecticut and usually returned to his home after the workday, he also maintained a studio apartment in New York City. The apartment was used approximately one night per week except in the summer. On his tax returns, decedent stated that he worked 200, 192 and 192 days in New York for years 1979, 1980 and 1981 respectively.

Petitioners had argued that while the legislature could enact a statute defining a day to include a fraction of a 24-hour period, here it did not do so; and, therefore, the Tax Commission usurped the Legislature's power by expanding the term day to consist of a period of time to less than 24 hours. The Appellate Division held, however, that the Tax Commission properly elaborated on the word "days" in the statute by defining a day as "any part" of a day and it cannot be said that its regulation was irrational or unreasonable.

Next, they turned to the issue of whether the decedent was entitled to a resident tax credit for taxes paid to other jurisdictions under Tax Law Section 620(a) which provides for a credit upon income both derived from another state and subject to tax under Article 22. In this case, the taxes paid to Connecticut were on income from intangibles in the form of dividends and gains from securities, none of which was employed in a business carried on in Connecticut.

The Court held that Section 620(a) specifically applies only to income not derived in New York and no proof was offered to controvert the Tax Commission's finding that the income was not derived in Connecticut. It also rejected petitioner's argument that the imposition of tax violates the privileges and immunities clause of the U.S. Constitution on the claim that New York domiciliaries are granted a credit for income tax paid to another state but nondomiciliaries are denied such a credit. The court held that the requirement of the income being derived in the other state applies equally to those in decedent's

position as well as New York domiciliaries. The decedent was, therefore, not being denied any benefits granted to New York domiciliaries; and the tax did not violate decedent's equal protection rights since he was not being treated less favorably than others under similar circumstances.

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**MARX, EMILY, 286 AD 913****Issue: STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Point: EACH YEAR STANDS ON ITS OWN**

The Appellate Division rejected the taxpayer's argument that the Tax Commission is barred from holding her as a resident for later years after having previously determined that she was a nonresident for an earlier period. The court declared that each year stands on its own and *"may be decided differently than in previous years, either because the taxpayer's status has actually changed or because the tax officials became possessed of information to indicate it should be treated differently."*

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**MCKONE, FRANCIS L., 111 AD2d 1051****Issue: FOREIGN DOMICILE****Key Point: ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE**

The Court of Appeals determined that petitioners were not domiciled in New York from 1973 to 1976. The Court agreed with the petitioners that they had changed their domicile from New York to Canada in 1973 and did not become New York domiciliaries again until returning in 1976.

The Court found that petitioners, who had originally moved to New York as a result of a corporate promotion, had changed their domicile when they moved to Canada as 1973 and did not become New York domiciliaries again until returning in 1976.

The Court found that petitioners, who had originally moved to New York as a result of a corporate promotion, had changed their domicile when they moved to Canada as the result of another corporate promotion. The fact that they had sold their New York home, severed all ties with New York and had no foreseeable plans to return was proof of change of domicile. Petitioners entered Canada with permanent visas, enrolled their children in local schools and paid Canadian income taxes. Despite the usual foreign assignment being of a fixed temporary period, the taxpayer's assignment to the position in Quebec was indefinite.

It was this intention to remain for an indefinite period which was considered sufficient to prove change of domicile.

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**MERCER, HAROLD A., 92 AD2d 636****Issue:** ***FOREIGN DOMICILE***

Stating that there is a “strong presumption” against acquiring a foreign domicile, the Appellate Division found that the taxpayers had not changed their domicile to England during the years 1970 to 1973. The taxpayers had sold their home in Lewiston, NY in the fall of 1969 and bought a home in England which they moved into in 1970. While abroad Mr. Mercer suffered a stroke which prompted his return to NY in March, 1973. The Court concluded that it was never the taxpayers’ intention to remain in England but actually to move to Florida when Mr. Mercer retired. The Court noted further that Mr. Mercer had only a working visa that was renewable annually rather than an immigration visa which would have allowed for permanent residence. Acknowledging that there was “a reasonable basis for a finding either for or against” the taxpayers, the Court agreed with the Department that the evidence was not clear and convincing to support a change of domicile.

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**MILLER, RHODA, DTA NO. 812849****Issues:** **DOMICILE/STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points:** **LACK OF EVIDENCE, USE OF HUSBAND’S RENTED APARTMENT, SIZE OF HOMES**

The Tribunal affirmed the finding of the ALJ that the taxpayer was a statutory resident, but not a domiciliary, of New York State and City. She failed to meet her burden of proof in documenting that she spent fewer than 184 days in New York. The ALJ found that the testimony presented in support of this issue *"did not purport to establish petitioner's whereabouts on any specific days during the years at issue, but rather sought to establish a general pattern of activity. Given the lack of documentation in the record, as noted, the testimony presented is clearly insufficient to meet petitioner's burden of proof on this issue."* The ALJ agreed with the Division that petitioner *"never gave specific details on her presence in or out of NY."* Although her accountant testified about his recollection of what he had seen in petitioner's social diary, it was never produced at the hearing, nor was any summary of it provided. The Tribunal stated that, *"The ALJ herein properly found that general testimony about a diary, without more information, was not credible."*

The Tribunal also held that the negligence penalty should be sustained because the taxpayer had failed to disclose her husband’s rented apartment.

The Tribunal agreed with the ALJ that the taxpayer was domiciled in Connecticut, citing his finding that the difference in size between the Connecticut home and the New York apartment was an important factor.

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**MINSKY, BARRY, 78 AD2d 955****Issue: FOREIGN DOMICILE****Key Point: NY BUSINESS TIES**

In order to create a change of domicile, both the intention to make a new location a fixed and permanent home and the actual residence at that location must be present. Thus, the Appellate Division said that the evidence was not clear and convincing that the taxpayer intended to change his domicile to Canada despite renting an apartment there. The Court noted that the taxpayer still returned to New York to tend to his substantial business interests and eventually returned there to live. Moreover, he testified that neither he nor his wife ever considered giving up their U.S. citizenship. While acknowledging that domicile is not dependent on citizenship, the Court stated that becoming a citizen of the new country *"is relevant on the issue of intent."*

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**MOED, LEON, DTA NO. 810997****Issue: PPA****Key Point: WIFE'S APARTMENT NOT HUSBAND'S**

A husband was not deemed to be maintaining a permanent place of abode in New York City that was rented by his wife, from whom he was separated in fact (but not legally). The Tribunal distinguished this case from Evans by saying that there was no evidence of a shared rental nor did the husband have free and continuous access to the apartment.

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**MOSS, RONALD J., DTA NO. 806280****Issue: NYC STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: CREDIBLE TESTIMONY, CORPORATE APARTMENT**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal affirmed the ALJ determination that the taxpayer was not a statutory resident of New York City during the years 1982 to 1984. The Department had challenged the taxpayer's business diaries since the entries were not always clear as to the taxpayer's location and some were not contemporaneous. The Tribunal concluded, however, that the diaries, as supplemented by the taxpayer's credible testimony and travel reports, were sufficient to meet his burden of proof.

The Tribunal agreed with the ALJ that the NYC apartment, which was provided and maintained by the taxpayer's employer, constituted a permanent place of abode.

The Department did not challenge the ALJ conclusion that the taxpayer was domiciled in Quogue, in Suffolk County.

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**NASK, FRANK P. & FRANCES T., DTA NOS. 802736 & 803414****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Point: INTENT**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal had to decide whether leaving New York for work related reasons constitutes a change of domicile. In this case, the taxpayer, a lifelong New York resident and domiciliary, signed a three-year employment contract in December 1982 to work in Pennsylvania. During 1983 the taxpayer was promoted and relocated from Pennsylvania where he rented a one-bedroom apartment, to Maryland where he purchased a condominium. His family remained in their New York home throughout 1983. Although the taxpayer never returned to New York to reside and in fact was subsequently divorced, the Tribunal found that he never intended to change his domicile from New York to either Pennsylvania or Maryland. Citing Minsky, the Tribunal declared that both intention and actual residence must be present to effect a change of domicile.

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**NEWCOMB, ESTATE OF JOSEPHINE L., 192 NY 238****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Points: INTENT, RESIDENCY VS. DOMICILE, TEMPORARY CHANGE OF RESIDENCE**

The New York Court of Appeals enunciated basic concepts of residency which have been restated and refined in numerous cases ever since. Distinguishing between residency and domicile, the Court said that the former "*means living in a particular locality*" while the latter "*means living in that locality with intent to make it a fixed and permanent home.*"

Once established, domicile "*continues until a new one is acquired*" and that to change domicile "*there must be a union of residence and intention.*" A temporary change of residence for the accomplishment of a particular purpose is not a change of domicile. The motives behind a change of domicile are irrelevant "*except as they indicate intention*" confirmed through acts of the individual.

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**REEVES, ROSSER, 52 NY2d 959****Issue: FOREIGN DOMICILE**

The Court of Appeals reversed the Appellate Division in ruling that the taxpayers had not changed their domicile to Jamaica, West Indies. The taxpayers had moved to Jamaica in January 1966 after arranging to sell their NY home. They subsequently returned to NY later that year because of the wife's health and resumed living in their home which had not yet been sold. The Court concluded that the taxpayers had not shown by clear and convincing evidence an intent to abandon their domicile, noting that Mr. Reeves had made numerous trips to New York City during the year for a total of 105 days.

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**REID, ANDREW M., DTA NO. 811009****Issue: STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: CREDIBLE TESTIMONY, RAISING NEW ISSUES**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal reversed the ALJ in holding that the taxpayer was not a statutory resident of New York State and City in 1986 and 1987. The ALJ had previously determined that the taxpayer's credible testimony regarding his general habit of life prior to the audit period supported his claimed change of domicile to Connecticut. The Tribunal stated that there was no reason to conclude that his testimony was not equally credible regarding statutory residency, in particular where he spent weekends during the audit period.

At the Tribunal, the taxpayer raised the additional argument that his NYC apartment was not maintained as a permanent place of abode but for investment purposes. The Tribunal ruled, however, that this was a factual and not a legal issue that may not be raised on exception.

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**ROBERTSON, JULIAN H. & JOSEPHINE, DTA NO. 822004****Issue: NYC STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: CREDIBLE TESTIMONY, DIARY**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal affirmed the ALJ determination that the taxpayers were not statutory residents of New York City in 2000. The taxpayers had acknowledged on audit that they spent 183 days in the city during that year. Of the four days that the Department had disputed, the ALJ concluded, and the Tribunal agreed, that the taxpayers had established by clear and convincing evidence that they were not in the city. This consisted of the taxpayers' credible testimony supported by a contemporaneously maintained diary.

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**ROTH, ROBERT & JUDITH, DTA NO. 802212****Issues: DOMICILE/STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: NY APARTMENT UNDERGOING RENOVATIONS, CONNECTICUT HOME ONLY TEMPORARY**

In rejecting the taxpayer's alleged change of domicile, the Tax Appeals Tribunal declared that his home in Connecticut was never intended to be other than a *"temporary gathering place"* for the taxpayer and his children while his New York co-op was being renovated. Noting that the taxpayer resumed living at the New York co-op upon completion of the renovations, the Tribunal cited Matter of Newcomb for the proposition that *"a temporary residence for a temporary purpose, with intent to return to the old home when that purpose has been accomplished, leaves the domicile unchanged."* The Tribunal also dismissed the issue of statutory residency in finding that the taxpayer's diaries were "illegible" and "meaningless" in determining the days in and out of the New York.

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**RUBIN, RICHARD & HAZEL, DTA NO. 817675 Issues: DOMICILE/ STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: NY DOMICILE CONTINUED UNTIL NEW ONE ESTABLISHED, NO PPA**

This is an example of a domicile continuing until a new one was established elsewhere, even when a residence was no longer maintained at the old location. In July 1994, the taxpayers sold their home in Scarsdale, NY, where they were domiciled, with the intention of moving to Connecticut. They were unable to find a suitable home until nearly a year later, in June 1995. In the interim they lived in one of their New York City apartments. Although the auditor determined that the taxpayers changed their domicile from Scarsdale to NYC, the Tax Appeals Tribunal concluded that it was never their intention to make the city their new domicile. Therefore, their existing domicile in Scarsdale remained until the taxpayers closed on their Connecticut home in June 1995, despite not maintaining a residence in Scarsdale between July 1994 and June 1995.

The Tribunal also affirmed the ALJ determination that the taxpayers were statutory residents of New York State and City since neither one maintained contemporaneous records of their whereabouts and their testimony lacked specificity.

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**SHAPIRO, DANIEL & OLGA W., DTA NOS. 802925 & 802926****Issue: PPA**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal determined that a New York residence was a place of abode within the meaning of Section 605 of the Tax Law. The taxpayers alleged a change of domicile with the purchase of a home in Pennsylvania, relegating the New York residence to an office and occasional place to stay overnight. While not specifically addressing the issue of domicile, the Tribunal nevertheless found that the taxpayers were residents as they maintained a permanent place of abode and could not prove that they spent less than 184 days in New York.

**Silverman, Jack & Frances DTA NO. 802313****Issue: Domicile****Key Point: ATTEMPTS TO SELL HOME**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal decided that the taxpayers were still domiciliaries of New York for 1978 through 1982. The taxpayers maintained their historical New York home as well as extensive business and social ties to New York throughout this period. Although efforts were made to sell the New York home, it was not clear how serious these efforts were, calling into question the taxpayers' intention to abandon their New York domicile.

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**SIMON, JAMES E., DTA NO. 801309****Issue: CHANGE OF DOMICILE****Key Point: RELIANCE ON NEW YORK STATE PUBLICATIONS**

In his appeal of an Administrative Law Judge's determination denying his change of domicile, the taxpayer raised an additional argument: that in his attempt to change domicile, he relied detrimentally on official New York State publications which failed to provide him with the necessary assistance. The taxpayer was a Buffalo native who came full circle: in September of 1978 he moved to Florida where he lived three years, then moved to Pennsylvania where he lived until January 1988 when he returned to Buffalo. The taxpayer maintained that he changed domicile first, when he moved to Florida and, then again, in September 1981 when he moved to Pennsylvania. The Tax Appeals Tribunal noted that throughout this period the taxpayer maintained his home in Buffalo where his wife and son lived. Moreover, he made frequent and extended visits to Buffalo and ultimately returned there to live. As for his reliance on New York State publications, the Tribunal stated that *"A change in domicile is not a form of chess where a given set of maneuvers, of themselves, will carry the day for a taxpayer claiming to have changed his domicile. Instead, the taxpayer must prove his subjective intent based upon the objective manifestation of that intent displayed through his conduct."*

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**SMITH, DONALD C. & GROH, CAROL A., DTA NOS. 810532 & 813342****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Points: TIME, CHILDREN ATTENDING NY SCHOOLS**

The taxpayers' lack of credibility was key in the Tax Appeals Tribunal's decision reaffirming the ALJ that they remained domiciliaries of New York State and City. The Tribunal noted that the ALJ had found that the taxpayers' oral testimony was contradicted by the evidence, including their own audit questionnaire. Family ties and time were two important factors. The taxpayers' children attended school in New York City during the audit period when they were allegedly domiciled in New Jersey and St. Croix. Moreover, the ALJ found that they spent at least twice as much time in New York City than they did in either location.

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**SMITH, EDWARD L., 68 AD2d 993 Issue:****STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Point: STATUTORY RESIDENCY IN YEAR WHEN DOMICILE CHANGES.**

The taxpayers were unable to prove that they spent less than 184 days in New York in 1970 and were found to be statutory residents. Although the Department agreed that they had changed their domicile to Florida in July 1970, they continued to maintain a permanent place of abode in the state for the balance of the year. The Appellate Division noted that it was the taxpayer's *"obligation to keep and have*

*available for examination by the Tax Commission adequate records to substantiate the fact that he did not spend more than 183 days of such taxable year within the State."*

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## **STRANAHAN, ROBERT A., JR., 68 AD2d 250**

### **Issue: STATUTORY RESIDENCE Key Point: MEDICAL DAYS**

The Appellate Division in a 3-2 decision annulled the State Tax Commission decision that the decedent was a statutory resident of New York City by virtue of the fact that more than 183 days were spent there during the year at issue. The taxpayer (deceased) maintained a two and one-half room apartment in the City which was normally used for brief shopping trips, as a stopover place on trips to Europe and to attend dances sponsored by a social group.

The taxpayer became ill during the year in issue and came to New York for treatment of her cancer and was immediately hospitalized. When discharged on a strict regimen of medication and treatment she was advised to remain in New York. She was readmitted two more times and ultimately died in the hospital. Consequently, a total of 215 days were spent in New York of which 148 days were spent in the hospital and 67 days were spent in her New York apartment.

The arguments made were that the apartment in New York was similar to a vacation cottage and should not be considered a permanent place of abode under the Tax Law. Further, it was asserted that the exemption for members of the armed forces living in New York and the exemption of a place of abode maintained only during a temporary stay for the accomplishment of a particular purpose evidences legislative and regulatory intent to avoid taxing foreign domiciliaries whose presence in New York is involuntary.

The court held that the concept of involuntary presence in the State, as distinguished from a voluntary presence, has no express statutory or regulatory basis. However, it noted that no rational basis existed for distinction between an employee domiciled elsewhere who comes in for a fixed and limited period for the accomplishment of a particular purpose and a foreign domiciliary who comes into the State for a limited purpose of obtaining medical treatment and is prevented from leaving the State before the expiration of 183 days by reason of physical condition and inability to leave. Therefore, the time spent in a medical facility for the treatment of that illness should not be counted in determining residency during such confinement.

The decedent's apartment was determined to be a permanent place of abode since it was suitable for other uses than vacations although it might be used by a person of considerable means only for activities which might be considered vacation purposes.

It should be noted that one of the judges concurred for annulment for the reason that the statute was never intended to extend to a non-domiciliary forced to remain within this jurisdiction. The essential difference seen was the fact that the petitioner was unable to remove herself from this jurisdiction following her release from the hospital despite her wish to do so.

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**SUTTON, ELLIOTT & GHISLANE, DTA NO. 802019****Issues: DOMICILE/STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: CREDIBLE TESTIMONY, PASSIVE BUSINESS TIES, RENT-STABILIZED APARTMENT**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal found that the taxpayer's credible testimony coupled with the weight of documentary evidence demonstrated his intent to change his domicile to Florida prior to the audit years, 1981 and 1982, and that he did not spend more than 183 days in New York in either year.

Mr. Sutton was born and raised in Brooklyn lived there until his divorce from his first wife in 1974. Upon his divorce, he obtained a one-bedroom, rent-stabilized 700 squarefoot apartment in Manhattan. Shortly after the divorce, he started spending time in Florida during most of the winter months, staying at the Jockey Club in Miami Beach from 1974 through 1977. In 1977, he and his brother jointly purchased, through their corporation, a condominium in Miami which consisted of about 6500 square feet of living space which included two separate suites, and common living areas of the kitchen, living room and roof deck. The actual closing took place on April 27, 1981. He had filed a declaration of domicile and registered to vote in Florida on June 9, 1980.

Sometime during 1980, he undertook negotiations to obtain Florida franchise rights to a well-known restaurant chain with the intention to establish the restaurants throughout Florida. This never materialized after a year of negotiations; however, litigation remained ongoing at least through 1989. He belonged to a number of social clubs and actively pursued the sport of racing power boats in Florida. His minor son visited him in Florida nearly every holiday as well as extensively during the summers. The taxpayer's remaining connections to New York consisted of income from businesses which he owned for approximately 20 years, and the rent-stabilized apartment. He described himself as a "silent partner" as each business was operated by an independent manager making all business decisions. As for the apartment, he testified that it was maintained because it provided relatively inexpensive accommodations when he came back to New York 60 to 75 days per year. In December 1985, he was served with a notice of eviction from the apartment because he was not occupying it as his primary or principal place of residence

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**TAMAGNI, JOHN S. & JANET B., 91 NY2d 530, DTA NO. 811237****Issue: STATUTORY RESIDENCE Key Point: DOUBLE TAXATION OF INTANGIBLE INCOME**

The Court of Appeals ruled that it was not unconstitutional for New York State to tax the intangible income of taxpayers who were determined to be statutory residents of the state even though it resulted in double taxation since the income was also taxed by their state of domicile.

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**TAYLOR, EILEEN J., DTA NO. 822824****Issue: FOREIGN DOMICILE**

A New York City domiciliary who was working in London was found not to have changed her domicile during the years 2002 to 2004. The taxpayer's **foreign** assignment began in 1999 and was originally scheduled to last three years, ending in August 2002. Her employment contract was subsequently extended for a year at a time until 2005.

In concluding that the taxpayer remained a New York domiciliary, the Tax Appeals Tribunal stated that her "*presence in London remained sufficiently tenuous and contingent upon her employer's desire to keep her there...*" The Tribunal pointed to the fact that her contract was extended for a year each time, she continued to receive a housing allowance, and she owned two residences in New York State during the years 2002 to 2004. Therefore, there was no fixed intention to relinquish her New York domicile during these years.

At the same time, the Tribunal noted that what started out as a temporary assignment became permanent after the years in question when the taxpayer became a British citizen and adopted London as her domicile.

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**TROWBRIDGE, ESTATE OF JAMES A, 266 NY 283****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Points: GENERAL HABIT OF LIFE, FORMAL DECLARATIONS**

An individual's "*general habit of life*" is more indicative of his intention regarding domicile than formal declarations. Thus, in an estate tax proceeding involving the states of Connecticut and New York, the New York Court of Appeals stressed that actions of the taxpayer prior to his death should be given more weight than declarations of domicile he made in his will and to tax authorities in both states. Deciding in favor of

Connecticut where the taxpayer lived with his wife and son during his final several years, the Court concluded that "*if at a given time a man exclusively makes his home with his family in a complete domestic establishment, intending so to occupy it for the rest of his days, the place of that habitation is then his domicile, no matter what he may say to the contrary.*" During the same period the New York residence was boarded up, telephone service discontinued, and furnishings and silver transferred to Connecticut.

**VEEDER, HAROLD M. & PEARL M., DTA NO. 809846****Issues: STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Point: FIELD AUDIT GUIDELINES**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal determined that petitioners are residents by virtue of their maintaining a permanent place of abode in the state and not providing evidence that they did not spend more than 183 days in New York. The taxpayers had asserted that the majority of their days were spent in Florida but provided no substantiation of this. Instead, they said the audit guidelines permit taxpayers to use secondary evidence where no diary is available. Their secondary evidence consisted of a log of days for the audit period which was referred to in testimony but never produced. The taxpayers' records did not contain sufficient evidence that would demonstrate a presence in and out of New York. For this reason, the Tribunal found that they did not sustain their burden of proof that they spent less than 184 days in New York State. The importance of this decision is that the Tribunal quoted the guidelines and deemed the conduct of the audit consistent with the guidelines.

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**WACHSMAN, HARVEY & KATHRYN, 241 AD2d 708, DTA NOS. 806930 & 806931****Issue: STATUTORY RESIDENCE****Key Points: TESTIMONY, DIARY FOUND NOT CREDIBLE**

The Tribunal reversed the determination of the ALJ and found that the ALJ erred in finding petitioners spent less than 184 days in New York. Petitioners had relied upon a diary to show their daily activities. The Tribunal found the diary to be unreliable largely because it was the source of three inconsistent accounts of petitioners' days in New York. The Tribunal then concluded that, *"Dr. Wachsman's testimony is similarly unreliable and that the ALJ erred in finding the testimony credible."*

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**WECHSLER, HERMAN & ROSALIND, DTA NO. 806431****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Points: CONTINUED USE OF NY HOME, MEDICAL CONSULTING**

The Tax Appeals Tribunal emphasized the taxpayers' retention of their New York home and the husband's limited medical consulting as evidence that they were still domiciled in New York for 1985. The taxpayers had contended that they maintained their New York home until October 1985 at which time it became the principal residence of their son who was having marital problems. Noting the extensive use, the taxpayers made of their New York home during the first ten months of 1985, the Tribunal concluded that they had not established by clear and convincing evidence their intention to change their domicile in December of 1984.

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**ZAPKA, RUDOLPH (DECD) & LORETTA, DTA NO. 804111****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Point: CHANGE OF DOMICILE NOT CLEAR AND CONVINCING**

The taxpayers had significant ties to both Florida and New York allowing for persuasive arguments to be made in support of either state as their domicile. This very fact, concluded the Tribunal, indicated that they had not clearly and convincingly evidenced an intent to change their New York domicile. The Tribunal compared the taxpayer's retention of their New York home where they spent three months compared with their leasing of a furnished condominium in Florida.

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**ZINN, SOLOMON, 54 NY2d 713****Issue: DOMICILE****Key Point: ACTIVE BUSINESS TIES**

The New York Court of Appeals determined taxpayers to be domiciled in New York based upon the retention of their New York house and businesses. Their business interests were substantial and required frequent trips to New York to manage them.

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