

Section 1105 of the Tax Law provides in part:

Imposition of sales tax. On or after June first, nineteen hundred seventy-one, there is hereby imposed and there shall be paid a tax of four percent upon: (a) the receipts from every retail sale of tangible personal property, except as otherwise provided in this article...

Section 1110 of the Tax Law provides in part:

Imposition of compensating use tax. (a) Except to the extent that property or services have already been or will be subject to the sales tax under this article, there is hereby imposed on every person a use tax for the use within this state on or after June first, nineteen hundred seventy-one except as otherwise exempted under this article (A) of any tangible personal property purchased at retail...

Section 1101 of the Tax Law provides in part:

Definitions. (b) When used in this article for purposes of the taxes imposed by subdivisions (a)(b)(c) and (d) of section eleven hundred five and section eleven hundred ten, the following terms shall mean:

(1) Purchase at retail. A purchase by any person for any purpose...

(4) Retail Sale. (i) A sale of tangible personal property to any person for any purpose, other than (A) for resale as such physical component part of tangible personal property...

(5) Sale, selling or purchase. Any transfer of title or possession or both, exchange or barter, rental, lease or license to use or consume (including with respect to computer software, merely the right to reproduce), conditional or otherwise, in any manner or by any means whatsoever for a consideration, or any agreement therefor, including the rendering of any service, taxable under this article, for a consideration or any agreement therefor.

Section 526.7 of the Sales and Use Tax Regulations provides in part:

(a) Definition. (1) The words "sale," "selling" or "purchase" mean any transaction in which there is a transfer of title or possession or both of tangible personal property for a consideration.

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(b) Consideration. The term consideration includes monetary consideration, exchange, barter, the rendering of any service, or any

agreement therefor. Monetary consideration includes assumption of liabilities, fees, rentals, royalties or any other charge that a purchaser, lessee or licensee is required to pay.

Section 531.2 of the Sales and Use Tax Regulations provides in part:

(a) Consideration. Consideration is the amount paid for any property or service, valued in money. Consideration includes monetary consideration, exchange, barter, the rendering of any service, or any agreement therefor. Monetary consideration includes assumption of liabilities, fees, rentals, royalties or any other charge that a purchaser, lessee or licensee is required to pay.

Petitioner contends that the Exchange would not constitute either (i) a retail sale of tangible personal property or (ii) a purchase of tangible personal property at retail subject to New York State and City sales and/or compensating use tax because there is no consideration in connection with the Exchange.

The partial definitions of consideration contained in regulations Sections 526.7 and 531.2 do not provide an all-inclusive definition of consideration but only set forth items that are included as consideration. Consideration has been more generally defined under common law as the inducement offered to a contracting party to enter into a contract. It is an exchange of offers or mutual promises between parties that constitute the material cause of a contract or transaction. Consideration incorporates a bargain between parties that provides a motivating reason for each party to enter into the contract or engage in a transaction. See *Richman v. Brookhaven*, 80 Misc. 2d 563, N.Y.S.2d 731 (1975); *Weiner v. McGraw-Hill, Inc.* 57 N.Y.2d 458, 457 N.Y.S.2d 193, 443 N.E.2d 441 (2d Dep't 1982); *In re Toscano*, 799 F. Supp. 2d 230 (2011).

Under the terms of the Trust Agreement, the Settlor alone, in a non-fiduciary capacity, decides whether to exercise the Substitution Power, what Trust Property he will acquire and what property he will substitute in its place. The Trustees' consent or agreement to any of these decisions is not required. Consequently, there is no negotiation or bargaining between the Settlor and the Trustees, as there is no need to induce or motivate either party to enter into the Exchange. Once the Settlor decides to exercise his Substitution Power (considered a general power of administration under Section 675 of the Internal Revenue Code) the Trustees must comply with the terms of the Trust Agreement and permit the Exchange (their only role being to ensure that the Trust beneficiaries remain in the same economic position both before and after the Exchange). Under these facts, there could be no consideration or mutual assent for the Exchange, as the Settlor has a pre-existing right to initiate the Exchange and the Trustees a pre-existing obligation to implement it. Therefore, no consideration is provided for the transfer of the Substituted Property pursuant to the Exchange. The Exchange is merely an exercise by the Settlor of an administrative power over the Trust property.

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In light of the foregoing, Petitioner contends that because there is no consideration in connection with the Exchange, the transfer of tangible personal property to the Trust as part of the Exchange does not constitute a retail sale under Tax Law Sections 1101(b)(4) and 1101(b)(5) and the receipt of the Substituted Property by the Trust does not constitute a purchase of tangible personal property at retail under Tax Law Section 1110(a). Accordingly, no New York State or City sales or compensating use tax should be imposed as a result of either the Exchange or the use by the beneficiaries of the Substituted Property as described in this Petition.

IRS Circular 230 Disclosure:

Pursuant to IRS regulations, I inform you that any tax advice contained in this communication (including attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used by any person or entity for the purpose of (i) avoiding tax related penalties imposed by any governmental tax authority, or (ii) promoting, marketing or recommending to another party any transaction or matter discussed herein. I advise you to consult with an independent tax advisor on your particular tax circumstances.