



Secondary Planning for Clients with Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs)

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Sterling Foundation Management

- Private Foundation Management
- Charitable Advisory
- Secondary planning for CRTs
 - *Sales of CRT income interests*
 - *CRT rollovers*
 - *Reviewed 7,000+ CRTs*
- Support legal, tax and financial advisors

House Analogy

- When a client buys a house, they probably don't expect to keep it forever
 - *Kids grow up and move out*
 - *Health changes and a different house serves better*
 - *Cold winters grow old and a warmer state beckons*
 - *Etc.*
- But that doesn't mean it was a mistake to buy the house in the first place

House Analogy

- Same logic applies to clients' CRTs
- Circumstances change over time
 - *The CRT was a great solution and worked well for years*
 - *But is it the best possible use of those assets today?*
- Advisors are making their clients aware of their options with respect to their CRTs

Charitable Remainder Trusts – the Pros

- Powerful tax-planning vehicles
 - *Defer capital gains tax on appreciated asset*
 - *Generate an income stream*
 - *Up-front income tax deduction*
 - *Benefit charity*
- The economics of a CRT
 - *Tax benefits + income stream > sell and pay tax*
 - *Whether this turns out to be the case depends on what happens after the CRT is set up*
 - Investment returns, **tax rates**, longevity

Charitable Remainder Trusts – the Cons

1. Irrevocable
2. Last for a long time, usually decades
 - *Combination can lead to a misalignment between beneficiary's situation and the CRT*
 - *Often, a CRT will simply “run its course”*
 - Akin to a house
 - This drives most of the transactions we've arranged
- Tax Deferral
 - *Costly when tax rates rise*

Why a CRT is a bet that tax rates won't rise

- A CRT defers a client's income into the future
 - *Works well if tax rates are flat or falling*
 - *But if rates rise, the deferral works against the client by forcing them to take income at higher rates and pay more tax*
- As tax rates rise, the value of a CRT interest falls
 - *Loss in value can leave client in a position where they would have been better off not creating the CRT*
 - ***This tax trap is completely avoidable***

Why It's Avoidable

- CRT income interest is a capital asset
 - *Rev. Rul. 72-243, 1972-1 C.B. 233*
 - *PLRs (e.g., PLR 2007390041)*
- This creates flexibility for the income beneficiary
 - *Like other capital assets, CRT income interests can be:*
 1. *Sold*
 2. *Given to charity*
 3. *Contributed to a new CRT*

Each of these three options enables a client to fully avoid the impact of higher tax rates on their CRT income

How It's Avoidable

- Sell income interest
 - *Avoid risk of higher tax rates in future by taking advantage of current tax rate on long-term capital gains*
 - *Maximum value to **client***
- Gift income interest
 - *Contribute income interest to remainderman*
 - *Maximum value to **charity***
- CRT Rollover
 - *Contribute income interest to new CRT*
 - *Maximum value to **heirs***

Sell Income Interest

- Sellers
 - *Convert future CRT income into a cash payment today*
 - *Lock in capital gain tax treatment at the current rate*
 - *Remove CRT tax exposure*
 - A CRT is a bet that tax rates won't rise
 - Client can make the opposite bet by selling the income interest
- Buyers
 - *Who can buy?*
 - *Who can't buy?*
 - *Typical buyer profile*

Sale Does Not Terminate CRT

- Termination
 - *Treas. Regs. Section 1.664-4 for valuing CRT interests*
 - IRS interest rate (7520 rate) and IRS life expectancy
 - *Be mindful of self-dealing rules (IRC Section 4941)*
- Sale of Income Interest
 - *Does not terminate CRT*
 - *Value of income interest is determined by market*
- *Sale value > Termination value*
 - If goal is maximum value, client is best off selling

Sale Process

- Review CRT
- Process once decision is made to proceed (2-4 weeks)
 - *CRT documentation reviewed to confirm salability*
 - *Sale documents prepared by Sterling's counsel*
 - *Buyer and seller review/sign sale documents*
 - *Sale completed under supervision of escrow agent*
 - *Seller receives cash*

Additional Sale Benefits/Drivers

- Ability to sell interest at financial premium
- Flexibility
 - *Client prefers cash to waiting for future distributions*
- Simplification
 - *Client grows tired of administrative costs/hassles*
 - *Client looking to simplify financial affairs*
- Family
- Removal of mortality risk

Gift Income Interest

- Client does not need/want CRT income and is not interested in transferring additional assets to heirs
- Client contributes income interest to remainderman
 - *Terminates CRT; all assets go to remainderman*
 - *Client receives charitable deduction*
 - Need to file a Form 8283 for the non-cash contribution and obtain an appraisal (even if the CRT is fully cash)

CRT Rollover

- Client does not need/want CRT income and is interested in transferring additional assets to heirs
- Client contributes income interest to new CRT
 - *Most often, heirs are named as beneficiaries*
 - *Client receives charitable deduction*
 - Value of remainder interest in new CRT
- New CRT monetizes income interest
 - *Taxable event to new CRT, not to client*
 - Akin to creating a CRT with real estate or closely-held stock

Recap

- Sale = Maximum Value to Client
 - *Client gets cash at current capital gain rate*
- Gift = Maximum Value to Charity
 - *Client gets charitable deduction*
- Rollover = Maximum Value to Heirs
 - *Client's heirs get new income stream*
 - *Client gets charitable deduction*

CRT Review

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- All reviews are:
 - *Free of charge*
 - *Confidential*
 - We only need ages, payout rate and trust value

Resources Available

- CRT Secondary Planning Resource Handbook
(Sterling Foundation Management)
- Alternatives to CRT Terminations *(Trusts & Estates)*

Disclaimer

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