

Synopsis

The Self Directed IRA Handbook explains how investors can own alternative retirement plan assets in their IRAs. These assets typically include; real estate, private stock, IRA/LLCs, LP, LLC, private equity, hedge funds, private placement, crowdfunding, and precious metals. The Handbook clearly explains the prohibited transaction rules, investment structures, common self directed IRA investment assets, and SDIRA tax pitfalls (UBIT & UDFI tax). The Handbook goes beyond the basics of self directed IRAs and includes extensive FAQs after each chapter, and nearly 100 citations to cases, statutes, rulings, and opinions from the Courts, the IRS, and the DOL. Its author, Mat Sorensen, is an experienced attorney who has advised clients with IRAs at every major self directed IRA custodian, and who speaks frequently at industry associations and before professional groups on self directed IRA topics. Mat regularly advises clients on the prohibited transaction rules, on IRA/LLC structures, on real estate and private company investments, and on UBIT and UDFI taxes. Mat has also successfully represented self directed IRA owners before the IRS Appeals Office and the U.S. Tax Court. To view testimonials for the book, and for additional self directed IRA resources, please visit the author's site at www.sdirahandbook.com

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Customer Reviews

I have been in the financial services industry for more the 30 years. As a financial planner I work with many clients who have decided to self-direct their retirement investments rather than following the traditional "Wall Street" strategies of stock and bonds. Self-directing is a great opportunity and allows investors tremendous latitude in terms of the types of investments available. The problem is, or the challenge is, ensuring that one meets all the guidelines and there are LOTS of them. Why is

this important? Because if you don't follow these guidelines you could find that the IRS deeming your entire retirement plan to be "distributed". Why is this important? Because once it has been distributed you owe 100% of any taxes due, you cannot easily put this money back into a tax-deferred status, and if you are under 59 1/2 years old you will also be subject to a 10% penalty! So, yup, you'd better know what the rules are and how to follow them or thing can become very, very expensive. The author, Mat Sorensen, is an attorney has done a great job putting everything one needs to know about self-directing in this book. He covers all the details. It's not like you need to read it cover-to-cover either. It's a reference book and this allows you to focus in on what you need to know. This book will be a great time-saver for me and far easier to utilize than the alternative IRS publications or searching the Internet.

My self-direct IRA custodian gave me this book as a gift for opening an account with them. I was planning to use my IRA for some kind of land contract investment. But I have concerns about liability as my IRA would own single family home properties and IRA account does not shield me from liability for properties owned by my IRA. This book shows me how to arrange a IRA/LLC structure to mitigate the liability protection. I am reviewing another land development investment where I would receive business trading income (not capital gain, interests or dividend) reported in schedule K-1. In this case, my IRA would be subject to UBIT tax. This is a new topic that I was not familiar with, but this book explains it in very details. I have used up 10 conventional mortgage quota. So I am thinking of getting non-recourse loan with my self-direct IRA. Before reading this book, I don't even know I would be subject to UDFI tax if my IRA has loan. I especially like that the author wrote it in plain English for easy understanding. This is really a must-to-read book for everyone plans to open a self-direct IRA account to invest in rental properties, land banking, land development...etc. The amount of information inside this book is far more than the cost of this book. I will strongly recommend it to my friends, relatives.

I really enjoyed reading this book. I've spent hours studying this topic online. This book covers everything I've found online, but in a well-organized manner and to a greater level of detail. This book is absolutely indispensable to anyone who plans to use a self-directed IRA, and will be a valuable reference going forward. This book is an easy read and well organized and with extras like FAQs at the end of every chapter, case summaries and tax letters as appropriate to support the material. In some areas where the law isn't clear, the author offers a reasoned opinion but clearly states the facts and the basis for his opinion. The author covers all sorts of investments - real estate,

precious metals, private companies. He also covers different IRA entities, like the LLC IRA, allowable ownership structures (how you can combine with spousal accounts or non-IRA funds for investment), and spends a lot of time explaining prohibited transactions and associated penalties. Overall a thorough examination of the topic in an easy-to-read format. A great alternative to paying for several hours' of an attorney's time for the same education.

I am not a lawyer and I am a new investor in the self-directed IRA. I had done many webinars and research about what self-direct IRA can and cannot do. After a while, it becomes very confusing as I learn more about it. Some information I learned was contradicting when asked among the different TPA or custodian companies. Until I learned about Mat's book and decided to buy it so that I can become an informed investor. I love the fact that Mat wrote it in plain English such that you don't need to be a lawyer to understand the law. He also outlined the process step by step which is very helpful. There are many previous law cases Mat provided in his book that will help the readers understand how the law interprets/acts upon a specific case. Additionally, the chapter regarding Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT) and Unrelated Debt Finance Income (UDFI) taxes is very informative. Last but not least, I like how Mat outlined in each chapter in a summary box the "legal tip"™ for that section. Mat also anticipated his readers have questions, so there are frequently asked questions at the end of each chapter. Overall, this book is definitely worth the price and reading for your investment.

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