

2023 Drake Software License and Non-Disclosure Agreement

This 2023 DRAKE SOFTWARE LICENSE AND NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is between Drake Software, LLC ("Drake") and Licensee (as defined below).

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1. Definitions.

- a. Software - The applications offered by Drake for the commercial preparation of Tax Returns, scanning and storing documents, electronic filing of Tax Returns and processing of Bank Products. The Software includes without limitation the software embodied by the Desktop Application, Web Based Applications, Software as a Service, and Evaluation Software. Software, as used in this Agreement, refers to tax year 2023 Software only and does not apply to other versions of the software, which shall be governed by the applicable tax year license.
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- d. Contact - The designated individual representative of Licensee, authorized to act on behalf of Licensee in all matters relating to this Agreement. Such designation is made in writing to Drake either as part of the execution of this Agreement or by other methods that are prescribed and approved by Drake.
- e. Site - One (1) contiguous interconnected physical office space.
- f. Authorized User - Any person at a Site whom Licensee has authorized to use the Software and has assumed responsibility for compliance with this Agreement.
- g. Desktop Application - The Software installed on a personal computer or local area network, for example, Drake Tax 1040 and Drake Tax Pro.
- h. Web Based Applications - A version of the Software accessed online via a web browser, licensed by Site and maintained by Drake, for example, Drake Zero or Web1040.
- i. Online Account - The account of Licensee accessed via the web and hosted by Drake.
- j. Bank Products - Tax refund related settlement products, also known as "financial products," including but not limited to refund transfers (also known as RACs, RTs, bonuses, etc.), refund advances, and any other products that involve a settlement of tax preparation or other fees from the proceeds of taxpayers' refunds and/or advance funds to taxpayer in anticipation of repayment from the proceeds of the tax refund.
- k. Approved Banking Partner - A provider of Bank Products which has been approved by Drake to offer Bank Products to Licensees of the Software.
- l. Software as a Service ("SaaS") - A version of the Software accessed via a web browser and licensed through an online subscription service, for example, Drake Zero Pay-Per-Return.
- m. Evaluation Software - A version of the Software which is not for commercial purposes, but for the sole purpose of evaluating the prospect of licensing the Software.
- n. Subscriber - A Licensee using SaaS products.

- o. EFIN - Electronic Filing Identification Number assigned by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS").
- p. Taxpayer Data - Any information that is obtained by Licensee or used by Licensee in the preparation of a Tax Return.
- q. Tax Returns – The federal and state individual and business tax return forms offered through the Software for calculating and reporting tax information to the IRS, state(s) and other tax agencies.

2. Grant of License.

The Software is a proprietary product of Drake. It is licensed, not sold, and is licensed only on the condition that Licensee agrees to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. In consideration of and upon receipt of payment of the License Fee by Licensee, Drake grants to Licensee a non-exclusive, non-transferable, limited license to use the Software and any associated manuals and/or documentation subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Drake reserves the right to limit the license to the United States of America. This license grants Licensee no right to sub-license or in any way provide the Software to a third party. Unless expressly authorized by Drake in writing, reselling, charging separate fees for the Software, or representing the authorization to sell or license the Software on behalf of Drake is strictly prohibited.

3. Conditions.

- a. Installation Limitations: A separate licensed copy of the Software must be purchased for each EFIN that is used to log in and transmit Tax Returns. Except as expressly provided in Section 10(b) (SaaS), Licensee shall limit the use of the Software to one Site per license. The license for use of a Desktop Application version of the Software must be registered to a particular Site and may only be used by Authorized Users primarily working out of such Site. The license for use of a Web Based Application version of the Software must be registered to a particular Site and may only be used by Authorized Users primarily working out of such Site. Upon request, Licensee agrees to provide to Drake complete records of the location of any Site, and the number of copies of the Software in use at that Site. This Agreement specifically prohibits access of the Software remotely from non-licensed Sites, with all remote usage requiring an additional license and Authorized User for each remote location outside the Site.
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- c. Non-disclosure: LICENSEE SHALL NOT PROVIDE OR DISCLOSE OR OTHERWISE MAKE AVAILABLE THE SOFTWARE, OR ANY PORTION THEREOF IN ANY FORM TO ANY THIRD PARTY. LICENSEE SHALL EXERCISE DUE CARE IN PROTECTING ALL OWNERSHIP RIGHTS AND TRADE SECRETS OF DRAKE. All pricing and other financial aspects of this Agreement are CONFIDENTIAL and may not be shared with any third party except with the express written consent of Drake.
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- f. Geographic Restrictions: Drake does not market the Software to individuals residing in the United Kingdom, Switzerland or European Economic Area ("EEA") and the Software is not intended for use inside the United Kingdom, Switzerland and EEA. By using the Software, Licensee agrees not to collect

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- g. California Consumer Privacy Act / California Privacy Rights Act: To the extent that the California Consumer Privacy Act and California Privacy Rights Act, as amended (Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.100 *et seq.*) (“CCPA”) is applicable to Licensee, the parties agree that Drake qualifies as a “Business,” that data is shared with “Service Providers” for a “Business purpose” (as defined under Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.140), which is to deliver the Software and related services and products to Licensee, and that such sharing of data is done so in compliance with the CCPA. To the extent that the CCPA is applicable to Licensee’s taxpayer clients and Licensee qualifies as a “Business” under the CCPA, the parties agree that Drake is a “Service Provider.” Licensee represents, warrants and covenants that all “Personal Information” (as defined under the CCPA or applicable data privacy laws) of Licensee’s taxpayer clients provided to Drake or otherwise made available to Drake through the Software and related services and products is done so in compliance with applicable laws, and that Licensee has provided all notices and consents, and otherwise has all necessary and appropriate authorization for Drake to use such “Personal Information” to provide Licensee the Software and related services and products in accordance with this Agreement.
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- a. Licensee understands and agrees that all decisions regarding the tax treatment of items reflected on Tax Returns prepared by Licensee using the Software are made solely by Licensee and that use of the Software does not relieve Licensee of responsibility for the preparation, accuracy, content, and review of such Tax Returns.
- b. Licensee acknowledges that Licensee does not rely upon Drake for advice regarding the appropriate tax treatment of items reflected on Tax Returns prepared and/or processed using the Software. Licensee will review any computations made by the Software and satisfy Licensee that those computations and reporting are correct.
- c. Licensee is responsible for the keying of all information accurately into the Software, including but not limited to direct deposit information as it pertains to taxpayers’ data for receiving refunds.
- d. Licensee agrees to abide by and comply with all regulations and laws which pertain to the commercial preparation and electronic filing of Tax Returns, including but not limited to IRS Regulations, publications and other applicable laws. **It is a violation of this Agreement AND applicable law for Licensee to falsely indicate to Drake that Licensee has obtained taxpayer’s Internal Revenue Code Section 7216 compliant “Consent to Disclose” or “Consent to Use” Taxpayer Data. Such violation will be grounds for immediate termination of this Agreement.**

- e. Licensee agrees not to use the Software or any of Drake's services for any illegal, fraudulent or otherwise improper purpose. This may include, but is not limited to, misrepresenting taxpayer information, falsely representing identities, activities that may circumvent security measures, technical or regulatory requirements or other IRS or State non-compliant activities. If it is determined, in Drake's sole discretion, Licensee is non-compliant with this Section 4(e), or Licensee has attempted to misrepresent, mislead or otherwise provide false representation(s) as to its compliance with this or any other provision of this Agreement, Licensee shall forfeit all rights to use the Software or services of Drake provided in this Agreement, including but not limited to, any rights to refunds of any monies paid to Drake.
- f. Licensee is solely responsible for the backup and retention of all data, including all Taxpayer Data.
- g. Licensee agrees to provide Drake a copy of Licensee's completed E-File Application Summary, or other documentation required by Drake regarding ownership of an EFIN used with the Software by Licensee, prior to using the electronic filing services of Drake. Licensee understands that in order to use the electronic filing services of Drake or the IRS a valid EFIN must be obtained and maintained as current from the IRS.
- h. Licensee shall be responsible for acquiring and maintaining an information technology infrastructure with sufficient capabilities to operate the Software and comply with all provisions of this Agreement.
- i. Licensee shall not decompile, reverse assemble, or reverse engineer any Software or other information disclosed to Licensee hereunder.
- j. Licensee shall be responsible for complying with all export controls relating to the Software.
- k. Licensee shall be responsible to safeguard and prevent unauthorized access to Taxpayer Data. Licensee shall be responsible to secure usernames and passwords that allow access to Taxpayer Data.
- l. Licensee acknowledges that by using a computer system and the Software to prepare and transmit Tax Returns electronically, Licensee consents to the disclosure of all information relating to its use of the computer system and the Software to generate Tax Returns and to the electronic transmission of Tax Returns to the state and/or federal agency as applicable under existing law.
- m. Licensee acknowledges and consents to Drake's collection through use of the Software of non-Tax Return related data and information, including IP address, device and system identifications, and other information required by Drake for its internal business purposes, fraud prevention, data privacy, and maintaining the security and integrity of the tax system and/or the Software.

5. Bank Products.

- a. To the extent Licensee offers Bank Products to taxpayers, Licensee shall use an Approved Banking Partner to process all Bank Products for taxpayers served by Licensee Sites during the Term of this Agreement and will comply with all terms of Drake's Bank Product Enrollment Agreement and the Approved Banking Partner's terms and conditions applicable to Licensee, with such terms incorporated into this Agreement by reference. PLEASE NOTE: TRANSMITTING TAX RETURNS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION 5 WILL BE CAUSE FOR IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF THIS AGREEMENT AND MAY REPRESENT A VIOLATION OF SECTION 4(e) FOR NON-IRS OR STATE COMPLIANT ACTIVITY AND CIRCUMVENTING SECURITY MEASURES. Drake reserves the right to charge Licensee additional fees for any Bank Products processed not in compliance with this Agreement.
- b. Licensee understands and agrees that fees may be charged by Drake and the Approved Banking Partner for Tax Returns processed with Bank Products. Fees may be withheld for each funded Bank Product, and deducted from the proceeds due to the taxpayer. These fees are subject to change without notice and are more fully described in the Bank Product Enrollment Agreement. Licensee agrees to obtain proper approval from the taxpayer for withholding all applicable fees from the proceeds of the taxpayer's refund. Licensee understands and agrees that Bank Product availability,

related software pricing and fees may vary by state and are subject to change in accordance with regulatory requirements, at Drake's sole determination.

6. Term and Termination.

- a. The license granted under this Agreement is for tax year 2023 only. The ability to electronically file Tax Returns, access to web sites and other web-based products related to the Software will expire on December 31, 2024, although access to associated data may be available to Licensee upon request for an additional thirty (30) days after expiration.
- b. Extension of Term: If Licensee purchases a license for tax year 2024, this Agreement, as it applies to the tax year 2023 Software only, will be extended for an additional year, subject to Licensee's compliance with this Agreement and the tax year 2024 License Agreement. Licensee acknowledges that use of the Software after October 15, 2024 may be subject to limitations in functionality or additional requirements, in Drake's sole discretion.
- c. Termination for Cause: Drake may terminate Licensee's rights under this Agreement immediately and without notice if Licensee fails to comply with any term or condition, including but not limited to, use of unauthorized Bank Products or other misuse of the Software. The license granted pursuant to this Agreement will immediately terminate and Licensee shall promptly uninstall the Software from all computer(s) and/or networks, return the Software to Drake and destroy all backup copies. Any termination of this Agreement shall not affect Drake's rights hereunder, including suspension of access to the Web Based Applications and the SaaS.
- d. Other Termination: Drake may suspend or otherwise limit the use of the Software including, but not limited to, suspending electronic filing of Tax Returns by Licensee and may take any other actions it deems necessary, if Licensee or any of its affiliates are the subject(s) of an investigation or legal action by any regulatory authority, or at the direction of any governmental agency, legal authority or court order, or if Licensee commits or is alleged to have committed acts of fraud or abuse which may in Drake's sole discretion compromise the integrity and reputation of the IRS E-file program and/or Drake.
- e. Drake reserves the right to limit or deny Licensee access to the Software and features of the Software, including electronic filing of Tax Returns, processing of Bank Products or other functionality, if Drake determines in Drake's sole discretion, that Licensee has violated any provision of this Agreement or transmissions or communications originating from or affiliated in any way with Licensee are potentially fraudulent data or represent fraudulent activity, or may have been affected by malware, denial-of-service attacks, originate from an insufficiently secure environment or similar security or system failures, or are otherwise compromised or could represent data or transmissions which could put at risk Drake's security, Drake's participation in the IRS E-File program, Drake's relationships with third party program providers, or the availability of Drake, Drake's websites, computer systems, web services or the Software.
- f. This Agreement applies only to the 2023 version of the Software and DOES NOT constitute an offer or in any way guarantee the availability, now or ever, of any other Drake products or versions to Licensee.
- g. Support: All support services are governed by this Agreement and Drake's Support Services Disclosure, available at <https://www.drakesoftware.com/teamviewer> and incorporated into this Agreement. Drake reserves the right to limit support to the current tax year's Software, and to current Licensees.

7. Representations of Licensee.

- a. Licensee will use the Software solely for the purposes in Section 1(a) in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. Any other use of the Software is EXPRESSLY PROHIBITED.
- b. Licensee will comply with all federal, state and other regulations.

- c. Licensee represents to Drake that the information provided to Drake by Licensee concerning the EFIN, firm name, owner name, Contact, phone number, address, and all other identifying information of Licensee is correct and accurate. Any changes to this information must be provided to Drake in writing within thirty (30) days of changing.
- d. Licensee represents to Drake that it has the full right, power, and authority to enter into and perform its obligations and grant the rights, licenses, consents, and authorizations it grants or is required to grant under this Agreement.
- e. Licensee represents to Drake that it is duly organized, validly existing, and in good standing as a corporation or other entity under the laws of the jurisdiction of its incorporation or other organization.
- f. Licensee shall not upload or otherwise transmit any software or other technology which permits unauthorized access or disables, destroys, or otherwise harms the Software or any property of Drake.
- g. Licensee shall implement reasonable and appropriate safeguards to protect Taxpayer Data against unauthorized access. Licensee shall be responsible to secure usernames and passwords that allow access to Taxpayer Data.
- h. Licensee agrees to comply with all system requirements as posted at <https://www.drakesoftware.com/pdf/sysreq2023.pdf>

8. Right to Change and Modify Software.

Drake may in its discretion change any feature or aspect of the Software or services provided without prior notice to Licensee.

9. Evaluation Software.

If Licensee is using the Evaluation Software, all provisions of this Agreement will apply, except as modified by this Section. The Evaluation Software will have certain limitations, including but not limited to the inability to electronically file, produce or process live Tax Returns. It is to be used for evaluation purposes only, and not for commercial purposes. To use the Software for commercial purposes, Licensee must purchase a valid license for the fully functional Software.

10. Web Based Applications and SaaS.

- a. Web Based Applications are subject to ALL TERMS of this Agreement, including Site license restrictions. In addition, the following terms and conditions apply to the use of Web Based Applications:
 - i. Licensee acknowledges and accepts the terms and conditions of this Agreement by using the Web Based Applications.
 - ii. Drake reserves the right to place additional limitations on the Web Based Applications, including access to the 1040 series of forms only.
 - iii. Licensing the Web Based Applications does not grant to Licensee the right to use any other Drake products not purchased and licensed separately including the Desktop Applications or SaaS.
 - iv. Licensee agrees not to provide access to the Web Based Applications to any party other than those authorized to use the Web Based Applications under Licensee's Online Account. Licensee will take reasonable precautions to safeguard Licensee's password(s) and keep it confidential. Licensee agrees to use Web Based Applications only for lawful purposes. Licensee is responsible for providing, at their expense, all necessary connections and equipment needed to access the Web Based Applications. Licensee must maintain the confidentiality of all assigned user names and IDs for the Web Based Applications and Licensee is responsible for all actions, access and charges incurred under those user names and IDs, unless otherwise provided under these terms.

- v. The availability of the Web Based Applications may be subject to interruption and delay due to causes beyond Drake's reasonable control.
- b. SaaS is licensed as a subscription, and is subject to ALL TERMS of this Agreement except that it is not subject to the Site license restrictions set forth in Section 3(a) of this Agreement. In addition, the following additional terms and conditions apply to the use of SaaS:
 - i. Subscriber acknowledges and accepts the terms and conditions of this Agreement by using the SaaS.
 - ii. In consideration of and upon receipt of payment of the License Fee by Subscriber, Drake grants to Subscriber a non-exclusive, non-transferable, limited license to use the SaaS at such time as it is generally available, solely as permitted by these terms. This Agreement does not grant Subscriber access to Drake's Software, data, or property other than for the purposes of using the SaaS.
 - iii. Drake reserves the right to place additional limitations on the SaaS.
 - iv. Subscribing to the SaaS does not grant to Subscriber the right to use any other Drake products, including the Desktop Applications or the Web Based Applications.
 - v. Subscriber agrees not to provide access to the SaaS to any party other than those authorized to use the SaaS under the Subscriber's Online Account. Each SaaS license shall apply to only one EFIN. Subscriber will take reasonable precautions to safeguard Subscriber's password and keep it confidential. Subscriber agrees to use the SaaS only for lawful purposes. Subscriber is responsible for providing, at Subscriber's expense, all necessary connections and equipment needed to access the SaaS. Subscriber must maintain the confidentiality of all assigned user names and IDs for the SaaS and Subscriber is responsible for all actions, access and charges incurred under those user names and IDs, unless otherwise provided under these terms.
 - vi. The availability of the SaaS may be subject to interruption and delay due to causes beyond Drake's reasonable control.

11. Pay Per Return and Upgrade Options.

- a. If Licensee is using the Software under the Pay Per Return (PPR) option, Licensee agrees to pay the License Fee specified by Drake for the initial Software license, which may include a stated number and type of Tax Returns, and for each ADDITIONAL Tax Return activated by Licensee. Licensees who choose the PPR option may upgrade to Drake Tax Pro at any time by paying, in addition to the initial License Fee already paid, the maximum retail License Fee for Drake Tax Pro less amounts previously paid for ADDITIONAL Tax Returns activated. Licensee will be prompted to upgrade to Drake Tax Pro through the Software when Licensee's total amount spent solely on activating ADDITIONAL Tax Returns equals or surpasses the maximum retail License Fee for Drake Tax Pro. These upgrade terms are subject to change and are not available for the SaaS application. Upgrading from the unlimited package to PPR is NOT ALLOWED.
- b. Licensee may upgrade to Drake Tax Pro from Drake Tax 1040 (1) prior to December 1, 2023 by requesting a refund for Drake Tax 1040 and purchasing Drake Tax Pro at the then-current list price and (2) on or after December 1, 2023 by paying the difference in retail prices between the Drake Tax Pro and Drake Tax 1040. Amounts previously spent on PPR will not be considered in either (1) or (2) above.

12. Refund Policy.

- a. Licensee may elect to terminate this license prior to December 1, 2023 and receive a full refund with no penalty, provided Licensee returns all materials, undamaged, to Drake by REGISTERED mail within

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- b. After December 1, 2023, provided Licensee has not prepared or electronically filed any Tax Returns using the Software, Licensee may request a refund in writing prior to January 1, 2024. Drake will, in this case, refund the License Fee that Licensee has paid, less two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for administrative, setup, shipping, handling and other costs.
- c. After December 31, 2023, provided Licensee has not prepared or electronically filed any Tax Returns using the Software, Licensee may request a refund within 72 hours or three (3) business days of payment. Drake will, in this case, refund the License Fee that Licensee has paid, less two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for administrative, setup, shipping, handling and other costs.
- d. NO REFUND OF FEES WILL BE MADE if Licensee has activated, prepared or filed any Tax Returns or violated any provision of this Agreement. No other offer of refund is provided. Refunds are subject to and may be limited by discounts on multiple product purchases made by Licensee, and a full refund may be limited in conjunction with the current Drake Refund Policy in effect at the time of the refund request, available at <https://www.drakesoftware.com/pdf/refundpolicy.pdf>. All determinations of the refund amount for multiple product purchases and discounts will be made in Drake's sole discretion. Where return of materials is required for a refund, TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

13. Taxes and Fees.

- a. Licensee agrees to pay the License Fee prior to receiving, installing or commercially using the Software, unless other payment arrangements are made, and agreed to in writing by Drake.
- b. Licensee grants to Drake an irrevocable right to offset unpaid License Fees or taxes owed by Licensee with any and all fees collected by Drake remittable to Licensee. If Licensee does not comply with all terms of this Agreement, including payment of fees in a manner prescribed by Drake, Drake reserves the right to immediately cease offering all services and products to Licensee, including access to databases, e-filing systems and Software updates.
- c. All sales, use and other taxes are the responsibility of Licensee, and Licensee agrees that Drake may, at its sole discretion, charge and collect applicable taxes and fees as part of the purchase.
- d. Applicable taxes are calculated on a product basis and are subject to variables determined by Drake, including Licensee's shipping address and Licensee potentially providing a tax-exempt certificate to Drake.

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Drake's collection and use of Licensee's data is governed by Drake's Privacy Policy. By using the Software, Licensee agrees to the terms and conditions of Drake's Privacy Policy and Terms of Use, which are available on its website(s) and are subject to change. All notice of changes to Drake's Privacy Policy and Terms of Use will be provided by posting revisions on the applicable Drake website. Drake may disclose Licensee's data to tax authorities and third-party service providers in connection with the services it provides to Licensee, subject to applicable laws and regulations, including Internal Revenue Code Section 7216. In addition, Drake may disclose Licensee's data to tax authorities and third parties for purposes related to detecting or reporting suspicious or fraudulent Tax Returns and/or fraudulent activity. Licensee understands that any suspected illegal or fraudulent activity will be reported to the appropriate governmental or law enforcement authorities. Licensee acknowledges that Drake retains the right to take whatever steps necessary, as determined in Drake's sole discretion, to comply with applicable laws and regulations, including those relating to data security and privacy.

15. Indemnification of Drake.

Licensee hereby agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold Drake harmless from and against any and all liabilities, losses, costs, expenses, damages, and deficiencies, including, without limitation, court costs and reasonable attorney fees, which directly or indirectly arise out of, result from or relate to (i) the operations of Licensee, any and all accounts payable of Licensee, and any and all taxes levied or incurred, whether payable to a federal, state, local or other governmental authority; (ii) any breach by Licensee of any of its representations, warranties, or covenants contained in this Agreement; (iii) all claims, actions or legal proceedings by a third party relating to the Agreement or Licensee's use of the Software or the results thereof, including proceedings related to collection and enforcement; (iv) any Taxpayer Data or other data provided by Licensee to Drake or any harmful software transmitted by Licensee or on behalf of Licensee; and (v) unauthorized access to Taxpayer Data or other confidential data attributable to the acts or inaction or omissions of Licensee. The obligations set forth in this Section 15 shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

16. Indemnification of Licensee.

- a. Drake hereby agrees to indemnify and hold Licensee harmless from and against any and all liabilities, losses, costs, expenses, and damages during the term of this Agreement, including, without limitation, court costs and reasonable attorney fees, that arise out of, result from or relate to all third-party claims, actions or legal proceedings that Drake's intellectual property or Software infringes or misappropriates such third party's intellectual property rights. Licensee agrees to notify Drake of such claims in writing within thirty (30) days of becoming aware of said claim.
- b. If such a claim is made or appears possible, Licensee agrees to permit Drake, at Drake's expense, to (i) modify or replace the Software, or component or part thereof, to make it non-infringing, or (ii) obtain the right for Licensee's to continue use. If neither of these alternatives are commercially reasonable, Drake may terminate this Agreement, in its entirety or with respect to the affected component or part, effective immediately on written notice to Licensee. Upon Licensee's de-installation of the Software and return of all copies of the Software to Drake, Drake shall refund or credit to Licensee any License Fee paid in respect of the Software that Licensee cannot reasonably use as intended under this Agreement.

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- c. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE ENTIRE LIABILITY OF DRAKE, ITS AFFILIATES, AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES EXCEED THE AMOUNT PAID BY LICENSEE FOR USE OF THE SOFTWARE SUBJECT TO THIS AGREEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL ANY AMOUNTS PAID TO DRAKE FOR THIRD PARTY PRODUCTS OR SERVICES, INCLUDING BANK PRODUCTS, BE INCLUDED IN THE AMOUNT PAID FOR THE SOFTWARE FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION. THE REMEDIES SET FORTH HEREIN ARE LICENSEE'S SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE REMEDIES FOR BREACH OF THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY WARRANTIES CONTAINED IN THIS AGREEMENT. DRAKE, ITS AFFILIATES, AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES SHALL HAVE NO OTHER LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY TO LICENSEE FOR DAMAGES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING SPECIAL, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, ARISING OUT OF OR RESULTING FROM THE USE OF THE SOFTWARE OR ANY PROGRAMS, SERVICES OR MATERIALS MADE AVAILABLE HEREUNDER OR THE USE OR MODIFICATION THEREOF OR UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO TAXPAYER DATA, ALL OF WHICH LICENSEE HEREBY WAIVES.

18. Amendment, Modification and Waiver.

This Agreement may be modified, amended or supplemented by Drake without prior written notice or consent of Licensee. Drake reserves the right to change, modify or update this Agreement with NO PRIOR NOTICE by posting the revised agreement on the Drake website, located at <https://www.drakesoftware.com/PDF/license2023.pdf>.

19. Consent to Electronic Communications.

By using the Software, Licensee consents to receive all communications, notices, agreements, renewals, statements, and disclosures (collectively, "Communications") electronically. Drake may provide Communications to Licensee related to the Software, Drake's services and Licensee's use thereof by electronic communication, including by email, facsimile, or by making such Communications available on Drake's websites.

20. Governing Law.

This Agreement shall be governed by North Carolina law without regard to conflict of law principles. For any dispute not subject to the Arbitration provision in Section 21: (a) such dispute shall be filed in a court in or covering Macon County, North Carolina, and (b) the parties agree to submit to the jurisdiction and venue of such court to resolve such dispute.

21. Arbitration.

- a. Pursuant to the Federal Arbitration Act (FAA), any controversy or claim arising out of, or relating to, this Agreement, or the making, performance, or interpretation thereof, other than a claim by Drake for injunctive or other equitable relief, shall be settled by a single arbitrator in a proceeding in Franklin, North Carolina, in accordance with the Commercial Arbitration Rules ("Rules") of the American Arbitration Association that are in effect on the date the arbitration is initiated, except that the

provisions of this Agreement will control and take precedence in the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the Rules and this Agreement. Any judgment on the arbitration award may be entered in any court having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the controversy. The arbitrator shall be a licensed attorney or retired judge experienced in software-related issues.

- b. **All disputes between Licensee and Drake will be resolved only on an individual basis. Licensee and Drake each specifically agree that no dispute between them may be brought, heard, or arbitrated in any forum (whether as a judicial proceeding in court, as an administrative proceeding before an agency or other body, or in arbitration) as a class, collective, representative, consolidated proceeding, or private attorney general action, and they further agree that neither Licensee nor Drake may be a party or member in any such class, collective, or representative proceeding. The preceding sentence will hereafter be referred to as the "Class Action Waiver." Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, any dispute regarding the validity, enforceability, or breach of the Class Action Waiver may be resolved only by a court and not by an arbitrator. In any case in which: (a) the dispute is filed as a class, collective, representative, or private attorney general action and (b) there is a final judicial determination that the Class Action Waiver is unenforceable with respect to some or all of the claims or causes of action brought or asserted, the class, collective, representative and/or private attorney general action must to that extent be litigated in a civil court of competent jurisdiction, but the claims or causes of action with respect to which the Class Action Waiver is enforceable shall be resolved on an individual basis in arbitration.**
- c. Licensee and Drake will pay their own costs for the arbitration, including attorneys' fees, but the arbitrator may, in the final ruling, award the prevailing party some or all of its attorneys' fees. The arbitrator may issue orders allowing the parties to conduct discovery sufficient to allow each party to prepare that party's claims and/or defenses, taking into consideration that arbitration is designed to be a speedy and efficient method for resolving claims. Documents shall be exchanged in accordance with the Rules, and each side shall be allowed to conduct at least three (3) depositions. The filing of dispositive motions shall be permitted in the arbitration and shall not be disfavored, and the standard for deciding such motions shall be the same as under the provisions of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure governing such motions. Except as otherwise provided in the Rules, the arbitrator may award all remedies to which a party is entitled under applicable law and this Agreement. The decision or award by the arbitrator will be in writing and will contain findings of fact and conclusions of law.
- d. The FAA governs the interpretation and enforcement of this Section and any arbitration conducted between Licensee and Drake. If the FAA is found not to apply, then arbitration shall be governed by North Carolina law and enforced to the fullest extent permitted by North Carolina law. BY ENTERING INTO THIS AGREEMENT AND AGREEING TO ARBITRATION, LICENSEE AGREES THAT LICENSEE AND DRAKE ARE EACH WAIVING THE RIGHT TO FILE A LAWSUIT AND THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY.

22. Other Products Provided by Drake.

Licensee understands that Drake may provide to Licensee other products and services other than the Software, including but not limited to online filing through www.1040.com, online databases (OLDB), account management website (EOM), Drake user forum, electronic communication interfaces, mobile apps, Drake Portals file transfer software, 7216 sample letters and similar tax resources, conversion software, accounting and payroll software, and remission of transmittal fees paid to Drake on behalf of Licensee and remitted by Drake to Licensee. Drake makes no guarantee as to delivery time, functionality, security, reliability or availability of such products and services. Licensee agrees to hold Drake harmless for any failure in providing or delivering these products and services, and Drake shall have no liability or responsibility to Licensee for damages of any kind, including special, indirect or consequential damages, arising out of or resulting from such other products or services provided to Licensee by Drake. Use of the forum and editorial control of content is at Drake's discretion. All Drake website content is monitored by Drake, including but not limited to the Drake forums, Facebook, or other sites, and Drake reserves the right

to edit, delete, or withdraw access to support and social media websites at its sole discretion. Access to any online service is subject to Drake's Terms of Service located on the applicable Drake website.

23. Other Third-Party Products and Services offered by Drake.

Licensee understands that Drake may offer, market, suggest or provide to Licensee other third-party products and services, including but not limited to cloud-based hosting services, online research, Bank Products, W-2 import services, Gruntworx tax workflow automation tools, investment and financial services, tax due electronic payments, audit protection services, merchant card processing tools, retirement and estate planning services, forms, checks and envelope supplies, and other services. Drake makes no guarantee or representation as to the delivery time, functionality, security, reliability or availability of such products and services. Licensee agrees to hold Drake harmless for any failure in providing or delivering these products and services, and Drake shall have no liability or responsibility to Licensee for damages of any kind, including direct, indirect, special or consequential damages, arising out of or resulting from such other products or services offered, suggested or provided to Licensee by Drake.

24. Other Terms.

- a. Supported systems are available in the documentation and user manual for each Software product, and are subject to change. All web-based products require internet access.
- b. In no event shall Drake be liable or responsible to Licensee for any failure or delay in performing any term of this Agreement when such failure or delay is caused by circumstances beyond its reasonable control.
- c. The relationship between the parties is that of independent parties. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed as creating any agency, partnership, joint venture, employment, or fiduciary relationship between the parties, and neither party shall have the right to contract for or bind the other in any manner whatsoever.
- d. Drake may assign this Agreement without prior notice to Licensee. Licensee shall not assign or otherwise transfer any of its rights, or delegate or otherwise transfer any of its obligations or performance under this Agreement without Drake's prior written consent. Any purported assignment, delegation, or transfer in violation of this Section 24(d) is void. This Agreement is binding upon and inures to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective permitted successors and assigns.
- e. If any provision of this Agreement is invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other term or provision.
- f. Drake's operations are based in the United States. Drake makes no representation that the Software, or content or information available via the Software, is appropriate or available for use outside of the United States, and access to it from jurisdictions where the content is illegal is prohibited. The Software may be subject to US export control laws, including the US Export Administration Act and its associated regulations. Licensee shall not, directly or indirectly, export, re-export, or release the Software to, or make the Software or documentation accessible from, any jurisdiction or country to which export, re-export, or release is prohibited by law, rule, or regulation.
- g. This Agreement, together with Drake's Terms of Use and Privacy Policy and any other documents incorporated in this Agreement by reference, constitutes the sole and entire agreement of the parties and supersedes all understandings, representations, and warranties, both written and oral, with respect to the subject matter hereof.