

## RETIREMENT PLANNING

# The 70s Checklist



Retirement is a journey not a destination. How you live today and the decisions you make every day throughout your life will impact your ability to enjoy the retirement you envision. The important challenge, of course, is to balance enjoying your life today while simultaneously preparing for your future. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to create and follow a financial plan targeting the retirement you want to live. Financial professionals are skilled in helping you to create and manage a plan tailored to your unique goals and finances.



### DEVELOPING YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

The retirement planning process generally begins with a discussion with your financial professional of how you envision your retirement. That vision will have financial requirements which become the target you and your financial professional will work toward achieving. Your financial professional will help you develop a holistic plan that addresses and balances the four interconnected financial behaviors of Earning, Spending, Investing and Insuring. Your financial professional can help you put a custom plan into action and help you manage the plan as your life events and life goals evolve over time.

### WHEN TO START

Today! It is never too soon and it is never too late.

### TAKE ACTION!

Use the following Checklist to help identify important considerations when developing your retirement income plan and revising your plan through the years.

Not FDIC-Insured. Not Bank-Guaranteed. May Lose Value.



**BNY MELLON**  
INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT



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## EARNING

- ❑ Manage receipt of income from various sources for tax efficiency.
- ❑ Retirement accounts can continue growing tax deferred, but required minimum distributions must begin at age 72 to avoid the 50% penalty tax.
- ❑ Accumulated cash value in life insurance plans can be managed for tax-free withdrawals.

## SPENDING

- ❑ Manage spending within your budget.
- ❑ This is the time to enjoy retirement but still maintain a watchful eye over spending to stretch retirement dollars into the 90s and beyond.

## INVESTING

- ❑ Depending on your expenses-to-assets ratio, and other sources of guaranteed income, you may consider maintaining a conservative risk tolerance. If leaving a financial legacy is a goal and basic needs are being met with steady income, you may consider shifting up to a more moderate allocation.

## INSURING

- ❑ This is the time to re-evaluate the need for life insurance and coverage levels. With houses and educations paid off, you may not need as much. On the other hand, funding a permanent life insurance policy may be a tax-smart way to pass assets on to kids.
- ❑ If you have a permanent life policy, you may be able to access the cash value for tax-free income during retirement.
- ❑ Discuss the role of immediate and deferred annuities with your financial professional if looking to guarantee a portion of retirement income.
- ❑ Complete your Beneficiary Designation forms for all retirement, health savings, and education accounts, and update them as necessary to ensure the assets are transferred to whom you intend.
- ❑ A Will efficiently directs the disposition of your other assets and reduces the burden on your surviving family.
- ❑ Health Care- and Financial-Powers of Attorney, allow you to specify who you would like to make decisions on your behalf should you become incapacitated and unable to make them on your own.
- ❑ Trusts enable privacy, can precisely allocate your legacy, and help manage the tax liabilities of your estate.
- ❑ A Living Will eases the burden on your family and medical care team by documenting and directing your intention for end-of-life care.
- ❑ A Master Directory organizes all of your legal and financial documents, is a place to keep final letters to friends and family, documents your wishes for your memorial arrangements, and is a gift to grieving family members.

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