GOALS ACCOUNT ORGANIZATION COLLEGE ESTATE PLANNING 2020

Tracking #: 1-933536

GOALS AND KEY EVENTS

MY FINANCIAL STRENGTHS: ______________________________

	WINTER			SPRING			SUMMER			FALL		
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Career & Income Management												
Health Care & Wellness												
Tax Savings, Debt & Short-Term Needs												
Retirement												
College Saving or Paying												
Estate Planning & Insurance												
Vacations, Events and Misc.												

ACCOUNT ORGANIZATION (EXAMPLE)

EMERGENCIES & SHORT-TERM

Emergency Fund

Example: $5,000 monthly expenses x 3 = $15,000
Increase cash to >22% of purchase price for down payment if buying a house.

Taxable Account

Example: $15,000
5 year time frame, Low risk

$7,000 High quality bond mutual funds, bond ladder

$3,000 Corporate bond funds, high yield bond funds

$5,000 Dividend paying blue-chip stocks

Health Savings Account

Available with High Deductible Health Plan. NOT "use it or loose it." Maximums: +$1,000 catchup > age 55

Individuals $3,550

Family $7,100

RETIREMENT

401(k)

$19,500 annual contribution + $6,500 if > age 50

Employer match

Invest for growth, reduce risk (% stocks) closer to retirement

Roth IRA

$6,000 annual contribution + $1,000 if >50

Tax-free distributions: invest more aggressively

Taxable

Pay taxes every year on dividends and interest income (lower tax rate than ordinary income).

Annuities

Better for age 50+

Use for risk management

Beware of fees

COLLEGE

529

$15,000 per child/beneficiary to avoid gift tax. IRS permits "front-loading" 5-years. $15,000 x 5 = $75,000 upfront. Assumes no other gifts.

Invest for growth, reduce risk (% stocks) closer to enrollment

One account per child or change beneficiaries

Roth or Traditional IRAs

Assets not counted in financial aid FAFSA. Might be counted on CSS form. Income counted when distribute. Use last year of college.

Whole Life Insurance

Borrow from cash value. Use after saved max in 529 and IRAs. More suitable for families with very high level of assets due to liquidity risk.

The Roth IRA offers tax deferral on any earnings in the account. Withdrawals from the account may be tax free, as long as they are considered qualified. Limitations and restrictions may apply. Withdrawals prior to age 59 ½ or prior to the account being opened for 5 years, whichever is later, may result in a 10% IRS penalty tax. Future tax laws can change at any time and may impact the benefits of Roth IRAs. Their tax treatment may change. Prior to investing in a 529 Plan investors should consider whether the investor's or designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other state benefits such as financial aid, scholarship funds, and protection from creditors that are only available for investments in such state's qualified tuition program. Withdrawals used for qualified expenses are federally tax free. Tax treatment at the state level may vary. Please consult with your tax advisor before investing.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

INFANCY TO PRE-K

Key disciplines:

1. Manage cash flow
2. Keep housing below 20% of expenses if planning to have children
3. Build up emergency fund to at least 3 months expenses
4. Education expenses: explore low-cost options – public schools and park district
5. Pay down parents' student loan debt.

Key Risk:
Paying too much on housing

K – 8

Key disciplines:

1. Manage education expenses: consider private options only for high school.
2. Aggressively reduce parental debt: must be paid off before college enrollment.
3. Increase college saving in 529s or Roth IRAs.
4. Teach children about trade-offs (help children evaluate options) and reducing waste (managing scarce resources).

Key Risk:
Not making most of teachable moments. Help your child deal with adversity.

HIGH SCHOOL

Key disciplines:

1. Pay education expenses from cash flow.
2. Research costs: find best in-state and best elite school options

http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/

3. Prepare children for adulthood: Teach children about non-academic success factors: applying for jobs and leadership.
4. Teach children about budgeting and managing debt.

Key Risks:
Not properly assessing your child's skills. Not communicating.

COLLEGE

Key disciplines:

1. Pay part of tuition out of cash flow.
2. Freshman/Sophomore Years: Pay part of tuition out of 529

Junior/Senior Years: Pay part of tuition out Roth IRAs.

3. Take advantage of student loans when rates are cheap.
4. Teach children how to research and apply for summer internships and negotiate salary. Have a process for managing career.

Key Risk:
Undervaluing state or foreign schools

ESTATE PLANNING

ASSETS PASSING THROUGH AND AROUND THE PROBATE PROCESS

CONTRACT

- Life Insurance
- Retirement Plans
- IRAs
- Annuities
- TODs
- PODs

To Beneficiaries

LAW

- JTWROS
- Tenants by Entirety

To Survivor

TRUST

- Revocable
- Irrevocable
- Special Needs
- Charitable

To Principal and Income Beneficiaries

ALL OTHER

- Testate (Will)
- Intestate

<u>Probate Process:</u> All Other Assets: Creditors' Debts and Taxes. Prove will and administer and distribute taxes

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