

Using life insurance for Estate Planning Client worksheet

Beneficiary information

Immediate Fa	mily			
You	Name	Male 🛛	Female 🗆	DOB:
Married?	Yes D No D			
Spouse	Name	Male 🛛	Female 🗆	DOB:
Children	Name(s)			
	·			

Address		
Home phone	Work phone	
Cell phone	Email	

Preferred contact method and time

Occupation Information		
Occupation	You	Spouse
Annual income	You	Spouse

Beneficiary Concerns	
Do you have a disabled family member whom you currently support, or desire to support? You may want to consider the cost to replace physical labor you currently provide.	
Is there a family member (or members) who has the desire and ability to continue the family business? Have you considered equalizing the value of the inheritance with cash for those who do not inherit a part of the business?	
Have you or your spouse been divorced? Are you concerned about appropriate inheritances for stepchildren?	
When was the last time you updated your will?	

Estimated tax

In 2024, the federal estate tax exemption amount is \$13.61 million, which means the first \$13.61 million of an estate is tax-free upon death. The value of an estate over \$13.61 million that is passing to beneficiaries other than your spouse would be subject to a 40% estate tax rate.¹ Please talk to your tax advisor about the value of your estate and how much of your estate may be subject to federal and/or state estate taxes.

Inflation

Don't forget the effect of inflation. To fully plan for the potential estate tax, be sure to estimate the future value of your estate after inflation. For example, an estate valued at \$5 million today could be worth over \$7.7 million 15 years from now due to inflation alone, assuming a constant three percent inflation rate.

Estate Value		\$5,000,000		\$10,000,000
Inflation Rate	3%	5%	3%	5%
5 Years	\$5,796,370*	\$6,381,408	\$11,592,741	\$12,762,816
10 Years	\$6,719,582	\$8,144,473	\$13,439,164	\$16,288,946
15 Years	\$7,789,837	\$10,394,641	\$15,579,674	\$20,789,282

*Calculation formula: (3% interest for 5 years) = \$5,000,000 * (1.03)^5 = \$5,796,370

Determining insurance need

Complete this portion of the worksheet to determine how much life insurance you may need as part of your estate plan.

Immediate Money Fund/Final Expenses		
This fund is for the bills presented after death, which will have to be paid.		
 Medical and hospital expenses 	Attorney fees	
Burial expenses	Probate court costs	\$

Estate Taxes

Estimate a state estate tax amount.	\$
Estimate a federal estate tax amount. Talk to your tax advisor to determine a precise amount.	\$
Total estate tax expenses.	\$

Inheritance Equalization

If one child inherits the family business, provide other heirs with an equal value of cash inheritance.

Debt Repayment		
Credit card balances	Education loans	
Auto loans	Home improvement loans	
	• Other	\$

\$

A helpful exercise is to write down who you want your beneficiaries to be, what they should receive, and why.

Name & Relationship	What will they receive?	Why?

Determining estate value

Complete this portion of the worksheet to help estimate the estate taxes you may owe. Knowing your potential estate tax liability will aid in proper financial planning. The worksheet is not all-inclusive, and you may have varying needs and circumstances that fall beyond the scope of this worksheet. Please consult your legal or tax advisor to ensure the appropriate financial plan for your situation.

Bank Accounts			
Bank	Account Type	Ownership	Value
		□ You □ Spouse □ Joint	
		□ You □ Spouse □ Joint	
		□ You □ Spouse □ Joint	
	·	Total	

Investment Accounts (stocks, bonds)			
Investment Firm	Account Type	Ownership	Beneficiary	Value
		□ You □ Spouse □ Joint		
		☐ You □ Spouse □ Joint		
		☐ You ☐ Spouse ☐ Joint		
	· · ·		Total	

Retirement Accounts (401(k), pension, employee stock ownership program, etc.)				
Account Name	Account Type	Ownership	Beneficiary	Value
		☐ You □ Spouse □ Joint		
		☐ You □ Spouse □ Joint		
		☐ You □ Spouse □ Joint		
		·	Tota	l

Real Estate (home, land, rental property)				
Type of Property	Mortgage Amount	Ownership	Value	
		☐ You ☐ Spouse ☐ Joint		
		☐ You ☐ Spouse ☐ Joint		
		☐ You ☐ Spouse ☐ Joint		
Total				

Personal Property (household goods, collections, jewelry)				
Type of Property	Description	Ownership	Value	
		☐ You ☐ Spouse ☐ Joint		
		☐ You ☐ Spouse ☐ Joint		
		☐ You ☐ Spouse ☐ Joint		
		Total		

Business Interest				
Business Name	Entity	Ownership	% Owner	Value
		☐ You ☐ Spouse		
		□ You □ Spouse		
		☐ You □ Spouse		
Total				

Life Insurance Death Benefits					
Insurance Company/ Policy Type	Policy Owner	Insured	Beneficiary	Loans	Face Amount (net of loans)
Total					

Other Assets			
Asset Type	Description	Ownership	Value
		☐ You ☐ Spouse ☐ Joint	
		☐ You ☐ Spouse ☐ Joint	
		☐ You ☐ Spouse ☐ Joint	
		Total	

Total

Total the amounts for each asset class. This is an estimated value of your estate.

Grand Total

Income Replacement (Spouse)		
Will a spouse need to replace lost income? Lump sum needed upon deat	h of:	\$
To estimate amount needed for annual distribution, the	e following formula may	be used as a guide:
Spouse age < 40:	Annual Income x 20 =	\$
Spouse age 40 – 50:	Annual Income x 15 =	\$
Spouse age > 50:	Annual Income x 10 =	\$

Mortgage

Will a family member continue to live in the family home? Will family members	
continue to use vacation properties? If so, enter the amount needed to pay off	
any mortgages.	\$

Child/Home Care

- Childcare expenses
- Funding for a disabled child

Education Funding

The cost of a four-year undergraduate education or comparable vocational	
training will vary by state and type of school.	\$

\$

Total	
Total of rows above	\$
Less existing life insurance	-\$
Total (or additional) life insurance needed	\$

1. Source: https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/whats-new-estate-and-gift-tax

Neither North American Company nor its agents give legal or tax advice. Please consult with and rely on a qualified legal or tax advisor before entering into or paying additional premiums with respect to such arrangements.

The primary purpose of life insurance is to provide a death benefit to beneficiaries. Because of the uncertainty surrounding all funding options except savings, it is critical to make personal savings the cornerstone of your college funding program. However, even a well-conceived savings plan can be vulnerable. Should you die prematurely, your savings plan could come to an abrupt end.

To protect against this unexpected event, life insurance may be the only vehicle that can help assure the completion of a funding plan. In addition to the financial protection aspect of insurance, the taxdeferred buildup of cash values can be part of your college savings plan. Generally, if the policy is not a Modified Endowment Contract then tax-free withdrawals can be made up to the contract's cost basis. Moreover, if the policy is not a Modified Endowment Contract, then loans in excess of the cost basis are also tax free as long as the policy remains in force.

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