

TIME FOR YOUR FINANCIAL 'PHYSICAL' CHECKUP

Most individuals believe in preventive medicine, healthy lifestyle activities and annual medical physicals to obtain a complete bill of health. Why then do so many of those individuals completely ignore financial security issues, which could be even more critical to their overall family quality of life?

A comprehensive analysis which focuses on financial, or wealth accumulation/preservation concerns, should be addressed periodically to provide a very important personal asset - peace of mind!

Insurance

Many people regard insurance as a necessary cost or something that is needed to purchase a home or vehicle. Proper insurance coverage is a critical component of financial security in that it protects against catastrophic loss of money, life, lawsuit or physical ability to maintain a desired level of lifestyle. Long-term healthcare insurance provides comfort that medical services will be available, and affordable, when options or care providers are limited. Life insurance is a way to protect loved ones left to provide, after the loss of a family member. Umbrella liability policies give protection against frivolous lawsuits or unintended results of a major car accident, when collision auto liability coverage is inadequate to fend off attacks on your personal assets and hard earned 'nest egg'.

Investment Portfolio Mix

It is smart investment strategy to diversify personal assets. Many retirees leave 401(k) monies in their company plans because of emotional reasons. This pre-tax asset is often perceived to be non-existent and thus ignored, due to sufficient income and cash flow streams from pensions and social security. An IRA rollover is usually recommended in this case, since IRAs offer more flexibility in asset management, but more importantly, beneficiary distribution options. After-tax accounts should be carefully managed, depending on future needs for retirement, children or grandchildren's education or change in residency/lifestyle. Liquidity of cash in bank accounts, certificates, money markets, bonds, mutual funds, etc is an important component of suitable asset mix.

Wills/Trusts

Attorneys, CPAs, and financial planners should be sought to give competent professional guidance in the same manner as medical doctors. A good ongoing relationship with this team of advisors gives peace of mind with inheritance(desire to avoid probate court), preservation of estate assets(elder law attorney) disciplinary actions to keep minor beneficiaries from hurting themselves financially, and organized end of life planning. The value of pre-planning eventual situations cannot be emphasized enough. You worked hard to be where you are in life, and deserve to have your wishes and intentions fulfilled.

There are many more components to ensuring a clean financial bill of health, but these seem to be those areas which can be monitored easier with trusted advisors. We like to have happy, secure(in

mind, body and balance sheet) and confident clients. The ability to sleep at night with a clear conscience and lack of worries is priceless. I welcome your thoughts, questions, and concerns.