2025 · WHAT ISSUES SHOULD I CONSIDER BEFORE I RETIRE?



CASH FLOW ISSUES	YES	NC
Will your cash flow needs change? If so, consider developing a new income and expense plan.		
 Will you receive a pension? If so, consider the following: There may be multiple payout options (single, joint, lump sum). Coordination strategies may exist among your pension, Social Security, and/or life insurance. 		
Could there be pensions and/or retirement benefits from a previous employer that you may be forgetting?		
 Are you retiring early? If so, consider the following: Social Security benefits may be reduced if you earn more than \$23,400 and are collecting benefits prior to your full retirement age (FRA) or if you earn more than \$62,160 in the year you reach FRA. 		
 Social Security benefits will be reduced if you collect prior to your FRA. 		
 You can access your 401(k) penalty-free if you leave your employer after turning 55. 		
Will you or your spouse receive a pension from an employer that did not withhold Social Security taxes? If so, consider the impact of the Social Security Windfall Elimination Provision or the Government Pension Offset.		
Are you currently married? If so, consider additional Social Security claiming strategies.		
Were you married previously and are you currently unmarried? If so, consider the following:		
 If the marriage lasted 10 years and ended in divorce, you may be eligible for benefits under your ex-spouse's record. See "Am I Eligible For Social Security Benefits If I Have Been Divorced?" flowchart. 		
If the marriage lasted more than nine months and ended due to your spouse passing away, you may be eligible for benefits under your deceased spouse's record. See "Am I Eligible For Social Security Benefits As A Surviving Spouse?" flowchart.		

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ASSET & DEBT ISSUES	YES	NO	LONG-TERM PLANNING ISSUES	YES
Do you have stock options, grants, or restricted stock units? If so, consider how your retirement affects your rights, and the impact upon your tax liability and your cash flow planning.			estate and gift tax exclusion amount (maximum \$13.99 million, or \$27.98 million if you are married)? If so, consider	
Will your investment objectives or risk tolerance change?			strategies to plan for a possible federal estate tax liability.	
If you are a business owner, do you need an exit strategy or a succession plan?			Are you charitably inclined? If so, consider charitable giving strategies to reduce your tax burden. See the "What Issues Should I Consider When Establishing My Charitable Giving Strategy?"	
If you have annuities or illiquid assets, do they need to be			checklist.	
reviewed to understand options? Do you have a loan on any employer retirement plans? If so, you may need to plan for how to pay it back and be mindful before rolling the balance to another plan.			Is your estate plan old or possibly outdated? If so, reference "What Issues Should I Consider Before I Update My Estate Plan?" I checklist. "What Issues Should I Consider Before I Update My Estate Plan?" I	
Do you have a deferred compensation plan? If so, coordination strategies may exist among other sources of retirement income, to optimize cash flow and manage income taxation.			Do the account beneficiaries need to be reviewed and possibly updated? This includes retirement plans, life insurance, and TOD accounts.	
Do you have multiple accounts with similar tax treatment (e.g., multiple 401(k)s or IRAs)? If so, consider consolidating accounts to reduce complications.			OTHER ISSUES Y	YE
Will you change your residence? If so, this may impact tax liability, cash flow planning, and your Medicare Advantage plan if you move out of the network.			Do you have any unused vacation days? If so, you may be eligible to use them prior to retiring or you may receive compensation.	
TAX PLANNING ISSUES	YES	NO		
Do you expect to have large Required Minimum Distributions? If so, consider strategies to reduce the RMD such as Roth conversions.				
Upon retirement, do you expect your income to be lower? If so, consider deferring any Roth conversions until you are in a lower tax bracket. Reference "Should I Consider Doing A Roth Conversion?" flowchart.				



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