## 2022 · WHAT ISSUES SHOULD I CONSIDER IF MY PARENT PASSED AWAY?



CASH FLOW ISSUES	YES	NO
<ul> <li>Was your parent married when they passed away? If so, consider the following:</li> <li>If your parent was receiving Social Security benefits, their surviving spouse may be eligible for survivor benefits.</li> <li>If the surviving spouse is receiving a government pension based on earnings that were never subjected to Social Security taxes, they may be subject to the Government Pension Offset.</li> </ul>		
Did your parent reach their Required Beginning Date, or were they taking an RMD (from an inherited IRA) at the time of their death? If so, the beneficiary(ies) must satisfy any remaining RMD amount on behalf of your parent before the end of the year.		
Was your parent receiving a pension? If so, payments may stop or, if your parent was married, be adjusted for survivor benefits.		
ESTATE SETTLEMENT ISSUES	YES	NO
Do any accounts or other assets require ownership to be updated?		

ESTATE SETTLEMENT ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
■ If your parent was married, to maintain portability of unused exemption, the estate must file IRS Form 706 (even if a 706 is not otherwise required). If a 706 is filed only to elect portability, it is due within two years of the date of death.		
If there is an estate tax liability, was the total value of the estate on the date of death greater than the value at six months after the date of death? If so, you may elect on Form 706 to use the alternate valuation date to reduce estate taxes, valuing all assets as of six months after the date of death (unless sold within that period).		
<ul> <li>Could there be property and assets not yet identified? If so, consider the following:         <ul> <li>Look at the "points" feature on credit cards and "miles" with airlines to see if they are transferable.</li> <li>Check for safe deposit boxes but be sure to follow probate rules before opening.</li> <li>Search state agencies and unclaimed property sites that are run by many state treasurers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
Do you expect to inherit any assets from your parent or was your parent included in your own estate plan? If so, consider		
updating your own estate plan.		
updating your own estate plan.  Are there digital assets that should be preserved?		
,	YES	NO
Are there digital assets that should be preserved?		NO 🗆

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INSURANCE ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO	INVESTMENT & ASSET ISSUES	ΈS
Some life insurance policies have an "accidental death" provision for higher benefits.			units? If so, consider the following:	
<b>Was your parent a veteran?</b> If so, there may be death and burial benefits, a survivor pension, and/or other benefits.			<ul> <li>Check employer plan documents to understand how these assets are treated after your parent's death.</li> <li>Beneficiaries should be aware of potential tax ramifications of</li> </ul>	
Did your parent have a child under age 18 or a child permanently disabled? If so, your parent's spouse and/or the			accelerated stock vesting.	
child may be eligible for Social Security benefits.			Has the change in circumstances altered investment objectives or risk tolerance for family members inheriting	
Could there be any life insurance owned by your parent or insuring the life of your parent that has not been identified or		$  \Box$	assets?	
claimed?			investment losses? If so, consider having the surviving spouse	
TAX ISSUES	YES	NO	realize investment gains in the year of death. Your parent's carryforwards can be used on their final tax return, but will be lost thereafter.	
Did your parent own a home and were they survived by a spouse? If so, the surviving spouse may still qualify for the \$500,000 capital gains housing exclusion if the home is sold within two years of your parent's death, and other conditions are met.			Did your parent own an annuity? If so, consider the following: ■ Your parent's spouse (if applicable) may be able to inherit a non-qualified annuity as their own if they were listed as beneficiary on the policy.	
Did your parent own other property jointly, such as an investment account? If so, the joint owner may receive a step-up in basis for assets passing from your parent. Reference "Will I Receive A Step-Up In Basis For The Appreciated Property I Inherited?" flowchart.			<ul> <li>A non-spouse beneficiary will have to take required distributions from a non-qualified annuity.</li> <li>Non-qualified annuities do not receive a step-up in basis, so be aware of potential tax ramifications with distributions.</li> </ul>	
Do you need to confirm that all of your parent's prior income taxes have been paid? If so, contact the IRS and the state taxing			OTHER ISSUES Y	ES
authorities to check if any back taxes are due and make any necessary payments.			Do you need to reduce the threat of identity theft? If so, cancel your parent's email accounts, social media accounts, and driver's	
Did your parent file as Married Filing Jointly? If so, the surviving			license, and notify credit bureaus, the election board, etc.	
spouse can continue to file as MFJ in the year your parent passed away.			Are there any state-specific issues that should be considered (including out-of-state property or estate tax liability)?	
Was your parent married and did they have a dependent child? If so, your parent's spouse may be able to use the Qualifying Widow(er) tax filing status for the two tax years following the year your parent passed away.				



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Elizabeth L. Whitteberry specializes in Retirement Income Planning, Tax Minimization Strategies, Wealth Management, Investment Management, Risk Management, Estate Planning, and Gifting Strategies.

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