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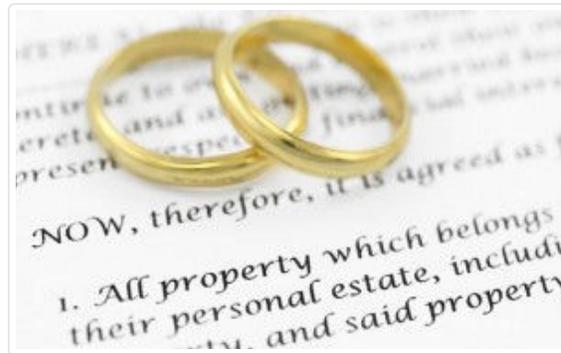
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The Golden Rule of Estate Planning: Your Spouse Comes First

Posted by [Steven Maimes](#), Contributor – on May 7th, 2015

RBC Wealth Management Offers Tips to Help Married Couples Leave a Family Financial Legacy

Tens of trillions of dollars are expected to change hands in the United States over the next few decades as the swell of Baby Boomers transfer their wealth to the next generation.



A new report from RBC Wealth Management–U.S. – *Until Death Do Us Part...*

Then Everything Can Change – helps demystify some of the complexities of estate planning by identifying potential pitfalls that families face when transferring assets. The report also explores a key aspect of estate planning for married couples: the role of the surviving spouse in managing and maintaining family wealth for future generations.

“No one likes to think about death, much less build a plan around what will happen when they are gone,” said Ward Ring, director of the Wealth Consulting Group at RBC Wealth Management–U.S. “But by taking some time to develop a well-thought-out estate plan, you can ensure that the nest egg you’ve built over

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Investnet Summit Flips Switch on Robot Advisory Platform

Posted by [Scott Martin](#), Contributor – on May 10th, 2015

Promises of “transformative” revelations in Chicago were evidently

the course of a lifetime passes on to your children and grandchildren as you had envisioned.”

According to a recent study from the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy at Boston College, an estimated \$59 trillion – divided among heirs, charities, estate taxes and estate closing costs – will be transferred from 93.6 million American estates between 2007 and 2061.

Until Death Do Us Part...Then Everything Can Change, features a hypothetical family – John and Mary Smith, John’s two adult children and three grandchildren – and the approach they take to various estate-planning scenarios. It covers the different ways the Smiths could leave assets to the surviving spouse, as well as to children, grandchildren, or other family members. The report also explores the incorporation of charitable giving into an estate plan.

In addition to complex scenarios, *Until Death Do Us Part...Then Everything Can Change* offers a number of practical tips for estate-planning first-timers, including:

Appoint a Power of Attorney/Create a Health Care Directive – These two actions will ensure that you have someone acting on your behalf with regard to financial matters and medical decisions should you become unable to make those decisions for yourself.

Prepare a Family Inventory – By creating a comprehensive list of information regarding your financial life (location of financial documents, names and contact information for accountants, attorneys, financial advisors, assets and property owned, pension information, etc.) you help to ensure your wishes are followed.

Introduce Your Spouse to Your Advisors – If your wealth, legal, tax and other advisors only have a relationship with you, consider an informal meet-and-greet with your spouse, and possibly other family members. This will allow your surviving spouse and other family members to continue working with advisors who know your history.

Create or Update Your Wealth Management Plan – A current wealth management plan is critical to ensuring that your life goals will be met. Involving the family in the financial planning process can mean better understanding of one another’s needs, goals and concerns. But don’t just put the plan up on a shelf and forget about it. As circumstances change, it is important to review and adjust.

Choose the Right Executor — An executor is the individual or institution appointed to administer an estate. A common practice is for each spouse to consider the other as their respective executor. Alternatives include family members, including children, professionals such as a family lawyer, or a trust company.

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate – If your spouse will be the first heir of your estate, and potentially your executor, it is important that you have open and regular discussions about your intentions, goals and plans.

“The transfer of wealth is a complicated process that is best not left to chance,” Ring said. “The more time and thought you put into planning on the front end, the smoother the process will be and the more likely your wishes are met.”

To read *Until Death Do Us Part ... Then Everything Can Change*, click [here](#).

Source: insurancenewsnet.com

Posted by: [Steven Maimes](#), The Trust Advisor

no hyperbole. Investnet has rolled out new benchmarking, integrated retirement plan support and practice automation tools. It’s up to advisors to seize the opportunities. At this point you know that the fear around “robot” advice delivery is almost all hype in search of a clever headline. The reality of this technology revolves ... [Read More](#)



Time to Stop Chasing Cosmetic Innovation and Embrace Transformation

Posted by [John Yackel](#), Contributor – on April 24th, 2015

Bolting features and functions onto a practice or business leads to an institutional version of Frankenstein’s monster. When the incremental fixes stop adding up, wealth managers need to open up to a little deep disruption to improve the chances of long-term success.

We have seen an enormous recognition that wealth management firms leveraging cloud based and integrated wealth management platforms ... [Read More](#)



Wealth Management Convergence Through Technology

Posted by [William Thomas](#), Contributor – on April 23rd, 2015

Modern systems support expanding capabilities for trust companies, banks, advisors and broker-dealers. As many of us in the wealth management industry know, the past decade has seen a significant blurring of the lines between two separate approaches to wealth management. Banks and trust companies have had to adapt to compete with advisors by adding front office, client-facing capabilities such as ... [Read More](#)

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Portfolio Achieves Critical Mass

Posted by [Scott Martin](#), Contributor – on April 13th, 2015

A full 40% of advisors have embraced automation as the key to more effective client prospecting and increased AUM. By this point you should know whether you want to join the revolution – the real question is which platform you want as your dance partner. This looks like the year that advisors get serious about focusing on what they are ... [Read More](#)



Nevada Supreme Court Approves 365-Year Dynasty Trusts in Landmark Decision

Posted by [Steven J. Oshins](#), Contributor – on April 9th, 2015

The Supreme Court of the State of Nevada has shot down a Harvard law professor's claim that Nevada's 365-year rule against perpetuities is ineffective. In an article published last year in The Vanderbilt Law Review titled *Unconstitutional Perpetual Trusts*, co-authors Steven J. Horowitz and Robert H. Sitkoff called the constitutionality of certain longer-term dynasty trust statutes into question. Horowitz ... [Read More](#)

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I personally know one Nevada family that is into the 5th generation of its trust. Every generation, one child is cut from it while the other gets control of it in its' entirety. I can't say that's...

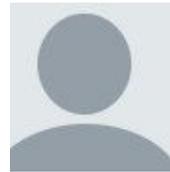
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I like your work, especially your good piece on the Blattmachr/Oshins tiff. Not sure if you have covered this elsewhere, but with Est Tax Repeal thru the House, and Obama threatening to repeal...

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Well said, John. I agree that the underlying differentiation / innovation / transformation challenge is not only technological but also organizational and operational. At root, technology can only...

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This discussion is dangerously wrong and half baked, written by someone, including Ron Lieber from the New York Times, who hasn't drilled down deep enough to find the truth. I'm a former journalist...

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