

Financial Discussion

Planning

What brings you to a planner?

What do you think financial planning can do for you?

What past planning or financial experiences have you had?

Are you committed to being involved in the process?

How will you define planning success?

Goal Development

Who and what do you care about, and why?

How would you know if you were living life the way you want to?

What would your ideal day look like? Your ideal year? How do you know?

What is your wildest unfulfilled dream?

If money was no issue: Where would you go, what would you do, who would you be with?

If you had only one year to live would you have any regrets? Anything you want to address?

What are you willing to do to live the life you want? What are you not willing to do?

What makes you fret?

What is your greatest fear?

What one thing would you change about your life for the next year?

What would happen if you don't change it?

How do you feel about money? About wealth?

What do you think about money?

What is important about money to you?

What does success look like? What could happen to ruin your vision?

Describe your personal wealth (life lessons learned, wisdom, knowledge, skills, passions)

Describe your social wealth (family, friends, community)

Five years from now, what personal and financial events would have happened for you to consider our relationship a success?

Budget and Discipline

Do you spend less than you earn?

Do you pay yourself first?

Can you define your financial priorities?

Define your true necessities.

Balance Sheet

Do you have many accounts in different places?
Are all of your assets supporting your goals and visions?

Itemize your financial wealth (assets, liabilities, net worth)
Are there any assets in another state? Country?

Assets include: Cash, Savings/Money Market Accounts, Investment/Retirement Accounts, Options, Annuities, Real Estate, Business Interests, Personal Property (cars, furniture, jewelry, collections), Loans Payable to you, etc.

Liabilities include: Loans, Mortgages, Taxes Payable, Alimony/Support Payments, Credit Card Balances, etc.

Emergency Planning

Do you have ownership interest in a business? Is there a buy/sell agreement in place?
Are there any current or potential health issues? With Parents? Children?
What is the plan should an emergency occur?

- Cash on hand
- Family Support
- Insurance
 - Homeowner's/Renter's/Landlord's
 - Umbrella Liability
 - Car/Motorcycle/Boat
 - Life
 - Disability
 - Long Term Care
 - Health/Dental/Vision/Drug
 - Other

Debt

Carrying any credit card balances?
What are your rates on major loans? How do they compare to what you're earning on your investments?
Do you have a home equity loan or creditline?

Employer Benefits

If you own your own business, are your benefits sufficient?
Are you utilizing your employer benefit plans to their fullest?

- Tax deferred retirement savings/matching
- Pre-tax accounts for Health Care or Dependent Care
- Cost-effective Health/Dental/Vision/Drug Care Choice

Employer Benefits (continued)

Reasonable Insurance Coverage

Life

Disability

Long-Term Care

Financial Freedom (Retirement) Planning

How do you define Freedom?

What does Freedom look like?

Where will you live? Where will you travel?

Will you want to work part time? What will you do with your days?

Will you volunteer? Where? Will you seek more formal learning?

At what age would you like to achieve financial freedom? (Defined as: A time where you do not need to earn an income through working.)? Why that age?

Would you like to support your children's/grandchildren's education?

What will you be spending each year?

What steps do you currently take toward financial freedom?

Legacy (Estate) Planning

How would you like to be remembered?

What do you want for your heirs? Why? Is your legacy only monetary?

Do your heirs know why they will be receiving assets? Do you know why you're giving?

Are you interested in watching your heirs enjoy their inheritance?

Would you rather give money to charity or the government? What if your heirs get less?

Who would you like to receive your assets should you die unexpectedly?

Who would you like to manage your assets should you die unexpectedly?

Who would you choose as custodian for your minor children?

Do you know where important papers are? Original Wills/Trusts? Does someone else?

Who else knows the location and combination to your home safe(s)?

Does someone else know how to access your cell phone? Email? Computers/Tablets? Online Accounts? Password Manager? Home Wi-fi Network? Other Electronics or Cloud Storage?

What would happen with your Digital Assets? Email, Cloud Storage, Ancestry Records, DNA results, Entertainment/Shopping accounts, Bank/Brokerage accounts, Social Media, Software Licenses, Website (hosting, blogging, domain names, content), Virtual Fax (eFax or equivalent), Travel Accounts, CSA/Wine/other subscriptions, online Photos, etc.

Do you have any of the following: wills, living wills, powers of attorney, health care powers, trust documents?

Legacy (Estate) Planning (continued)

If you have a trust, is it funded? Do your asset titles support your plan?
Are your beneficiary designations consistent with your wishes and tax deferral goals?
Have you filed any gift tax returns for taxable gifts?

Do you anticipate inheriting property of significant value?
Are you a beneficiary of an existing trust?
Have you considered lifetime gifts to reduce estate taxes? Are you subject to estate tax?
Have you named backup executors and trustees in estate planning documents?
What would happen if your chosen executor or trustee refuses to serve?

Investments

Describe your past experiences with financial advisors of all types. Good? Bad?
Why do you invest? How have you made investment decisions in the past?
Are there any particular investments you like? Dislike?
How do you react emotionally when you see 'the market' make large moves up and down?
What is your need for current income from your investments?
Are there enough liquid assets available to avoid rush sales of real property or taxable stock?

Describe your current investments:

- Cash
- Home/Mortgage
- Cars/Loans
- Personal Possessions/Liabilities
- Life Insurance/Policy Loans
- Collections of coins/stamps/antiques and art
- Other real assets and liabilities used to finance them
- Bank accounts and other money market securities
- Stocks, bonds, options and other capital market instruments
- Investments in real estate and mortgages on them
- Annuities
- Insurance

Do you have any non-US accounts or investments?

Tax Considerations

How do you feel about your tax situation?
Are you paying sufficient taxes each year to avoid penalties?
Are you using tax deductible and/or tax deferred accounts?
Which funds do you use for charitable donations?
Have you considered taxes while saving and paying for college?
Have you considered tax implications of your estate plan (or lack thereof)?

Personal

List your advisors and indicate permission to contact directly:

Accountant

Trust and Estate Attorney

Investment Advisor

Insurance Agent

Business Attorney

Other

Have you been married more than once?

Do you have any children from a prior marriage?

Are you a U.S. Citizen?

Are you a Veteran?

Do you have any other dependents?