

When Catastrophe Strikes Your Extended Family

You may have spent years (or are in the process of) diligently saving for your retirement or planning a legacy, but have you considered how the lack of planning by an extended family member could throw your plans into a tailspin?

Imagine a scenario where your son-in-law borrowed hundreds of thousands of dollars to start a business and didn't have any life insurance. When the unexpected happens, he is diagnosed with a terminal illness and passes away, your daughter is left with few resources to raise your grandchildren. Suddenly, your plans for the future look much different.

While the thought process might seem a little uncomfortable, it is a good idea to make a list of your extended family members and ask yourself what the possibility is that you could end up financially responsible for anyone on the list. Have you co-signed on a loan for any of them? Do they have life insurance and is it tied to their employment? Do they have long-term care insurance? If your parents or your spouses parents are on your list, is there any likelihood that they will need financial support from you in the future? Once you've determined if you have any potential train wrecks ahead, The Masters Group can help you develop a risk mitigation plan. Plan features may include long-term care insurance, life insurance, retitling of assets and other strategies.

Our proprietary Extraordinary Living Process is designed to explore these issues and others that you may never have considered. In addition, it provides strategies to address the greatest threats to your future plans, capture existing opportunities, and highlight your strengths. If the previous paragraphs have caused you to contemplate a specific situation in your personal life, please feel free to call our offices.

On behalf of everyone at The Masters Group, we wish you a very safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in 2012!

-Tim Hawkins

Staying the Course...

A recent report from Fidelity Investments, found that participants in 401(k) plans who dropped their equity allocation to zero between Oct. 1, 2008, and Mar. 31, 2009 -- and kept it there -- saw their account balances increase 2 percent, on average, through June 30 of this year. By contrast, investors who returned to equities at some point saw their balances increase 25 percent. And those who simply stuck with their allocations -- stocks included -- saw their balances jump 50 percent.

If 2011 taught us anything, it's that wild market swings are probably here to stay. If you haven't already, find an asset allocation you're comfortable with -- ideally, one with equities --

and hold on tight. Jumping ship during high swells is rarely a good idea.

Referral Program Rewards

The Masters Group Referral Rewards Program was designed to thank our clients for identifying and introducing friends, family, neighbors, business associates and social acquaintances that are in need of our services. If you have referred to us recently, you know that *for each referral that becomes a client of The Masters Group®, you receive a \$50 gift certificate to the restaurant of your choice.*

We would like to thank those of you who are referring clients to us on a regular basis. *We appreciate your confidence and trust!*