

CASH FLOW ISSUES	YES	NO
Will your cash flow needs change? If so, consider developing a new income and expense plan.		
 Was your spouse receiving Social Security benefits? If so, consider the following: You may be eligible for survivor benefits. Reference "Am I Eligible for Social Security Benefits as a Surviving Spouse?" flowchart. If you are receiving a government pension based on earnings that were never subjected to Social Security taxes, you may be subject to a Government Pension Offset. 		
Did your spouse 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 spouse before the end of the year.		
Was your spouse receiving a pension? If so, payments may stop or be adjusted for survivor benefits.		
ESTATE SETTLEMENT ISSUES	YES	NO
Do any accounts or other assets require ownership to be updated?		
Did your spouse pass away without a will? If so, you or a family member will likely need to be appointed executor and the estate will be subject to the state's intestate rules		
Do you have more assets than you need to maintain your lifestyle?		
If so, and acceptable contingent beneficiaries have been named, you may wish to disclaim these assets to shift them to other		
beneficiaries. This must be done within nine months of the date of death. (continue on next column)		



INSURANCE ISSUES	YES	NO	TAX ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
Was your spouse employed at time of death? The employer/union may provide group life insurance and/or compensation related to their employment.			Have all your spouse's prior taxes been paid (not including any estate taxes)? If so, contact the IRS and your state's taxing authority to pay any taxes or to check if any back taxes are due.		
Was your spouse a veteran? If so, you may be eligible for death and burial benefits, survivor pension and other benefits.			 Did you file as Married Filing Jointly? If so, you can continue to file as MFJ in the year your spouse passed away. 		
 Was the death accidental or work related? If so, consider the following: Some financial institutions and professional associations may offer a small lump-sum benefit. The employer/union may offer additional death benefits. 			 Do you have a dependent child? If so, you may be able to use the Qualifying Widow(er) tax filing status for the two tax years following the year your spouse passed away. 		
 You may be eligible for worker's compensation and/or death benefits. 			INVESTMENT & ASSET ISSUES	YES	NO
 Some life insurance policies have an "accidental death" provision for higher benefits. 			> Did your spouse have stock options, grants, or restricted stock units?		
Did you and your spouse have a child under age 18 or a child permanently disabled?			If so, consider how these assets will impact your tax liability and your cash flow planning.		
If so, you and/or the child may be eligible for Social Security benefits.			Has the change in circumstances altered your investment objectives or risk tolerance?		
Could there be any life insurance owned by your spouse or insuring the life of your spouse that has not been identified or claimed?			If your spouse was a business owner, does a plan need to be developed to transfer/sell the business?		
TAX ISSUES	YES	NO	If you or your spouse have annuities or other illiquid assets, do they need to be reviewed to understand options?		
> Did you and your spouse own your home?			OTHER ISSUES	YES	NO
If so, you may still qualify for the \$500,000 capital gains housing exclusion if the home is sold within two years of your spouse's death, and other conditions are met. Did you own property jointly with your deceased spouse? If so, you may receive a step-up in basis for the assets passing from your spouse. Reference "Will I Receive A Step-Up In Basis For This Inherited Property?" flowchart. (continue on next column)			Do you need to reduce the threat of identity theft? If so, cancel your spouse's email accounts, social media accounts, and driver's license, and notify credit bureaus, the election board, etc.		
			> Are there any state-specific issues that should be considered (including out-of-state property or estate tax liability)?		

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