

NEWSLETTER

Fiduciary Financial Planners and Investment Managers

Registered Investment Advisor - Member FINRA/SIPC

IRS Delays RMD Requirement from Inherited IRAs

On July 14th, the IRS issued Notice 2023-54 in which it announced that RMDs from an inherited IRA will not be required until at least 2024. More specifically, this relief means that IRA beneficiaries subject to the 10-year payout period established by the 2019 SECURE ACT that do not take an annual distribution from an inherited IRA for 2023 will not face a penalty. Under the Secure Act, most (but not all) IRA beneficiaries other than spouses have to withdraw all funds and pay taxes within 10 years.

Scams on the rise!

Please Read:

Financial scams and fraud are an ever present threat, and we encourage all of our clients to be vigilant. Page 3 of our newsletter has an in-depth article on recent scams red flags to watch out for in your day-to-day dealings, communications, and financial transactions.



A butterfly visits Scott Everly's garden in Blackstone, MA during WMR's summer BBQ. Photo by Patrick Diamond, CFP®

The summer wind, came blowin' in...

We all know the words to that summer classic, but whether you're a Sinatra fan or your summer playlist is a bit more contemporary, we hope you take time out from the busy-day-to-day to spend some quality time with friends and family this summer season. As Frank says: "like painted kites, those days and nights, they went flyin' by"... so enjoy them while they last. And as always, thank you to all of our clients for the trust and confidence you place in our team of financial planners and advisors. We strive every day to serve Rhode Island and the North East region with expertise and excellent customer service as fiduciary financial planners and investment professionals.

- Arthur, Kevin, Scott, Patrick, Todd, Jeremy, Betsy, Chris, Emily and Marissa



Retirement and Your Credit Score

Citing New York Fed and industry data, the Wall Street Journal recently reported that FICO scores of retirees tend to peak around age 70 and decrease starting around age 79. This reduction in credit score is typically a result of closing inactive accounts and paying off debt and mortgages. Long credit histories with strong scores should keep your credit profile healthy in retirement, with the ideal range being 660 to 780, which falls into the "good to excellent" range for most lenders.

One tip included in the article is that retirees keep credit accounts active by using them regularly... so don't retire your credit cards just yet. But definitely strive to pay off the balance each month to avoid the interest charges. Those interest charges have increased as interest rates have risen throughout 2022 and 2023.

Student Loans: New SAVE Plan to Replace the Existing REPAYE Plan

The Dept. of Education announced a new income based repayment plan called the SAVE Plan, which will lower the required payment for loans taken out for undergraduate tuition from 10% of discretionary income (for those on IBR, PAYE, or REPAYE repayment plans) to 5%. This new plan should reduce payments for both undergraduate and graduate borrowers. More information can be found at: <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/save-plan>.



Summer views of the Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Providence
Photo by Patrick Diamond, CFP®

US Economy Proves Resilient Thru 2nd Quarter

The US job market and service sector continues to provide ballast to the overall economy as we head into 2nd quarter earnings season. Atlanta Fed data pegs GDP coming in above 2 percent for Q2 on the performance of several sectors including airlines, large banks, and homebuilders. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the CPI rose

3.0% in June from year-ago levels—the slowest increase since March 2021, and smaller than economists' forecasts of 3.1%. The core CPI, which excludes the more volatile categories of food and energy costs, rose 4.8% in June from year-ago levels after rising 5.3% in May.

Protecting Yourself and Your Information Against Financial Scams and Frauds

Keeping our clients information and assets safe is always top of mind here at WMR. Clients also need to be vigilant and practice good habits when dealing with strange or unknown communications relating to requests for money or bill/invoice payment. Two very persistent scams involve emails/texts/calls relating to your **amazon.com account** and work by computer specialists/tech support, including **the Geek Squad**. These scams may involve fraudulent websites that look bonafide but are designed to collect sensitive information from you. Please be on the look out for fraudulent communications relating to these two companies, and consider having conversations with your elderly friends and family members. When in doubt... seek help to verify the source of communications/text messages/phone calls/emails. Your WMR advisor is always here to assist.

According to a recent Wells Fargo alert, you should be on the lookout for certain **RED FLAGS** when it comes to spotting financial scams and frauds:

1. **Unexpected Contact:** A person or company contacts you out of the blue. This contact can be by phone, text, or email about an unpaid invoice, a delivery order, or some type of charge you didn't know about. This unexpected contact can also be disguised as coming from a friend or family member so be extra vigilant. **If it feels strange and involves money then seek advice from another family member or your advisor. Be suspicious!**
2. **Everything is Urgent:** Fraudsters and Scammers know time is of the essence and will create a false sense of urgency and use pressure tactics like a false emergency (for example, a car accident while a nephew was traveling abroad), or rude or pushy language all designed to get you to act immediately.
3. **Very Specific or Unusual Way to Pay:** Scammer and Fraudsters will ask you to pay using gift cards, cryptocurrency, a payment app (on your phone) or even an online wire transfer from your bank account – to pay for something, resolve an "issue," get sweepstakes "winnings," or secure a high return on an investment. A bank or the IRS will never ask you to send money to resolve an issue on your account or to reverse fraud.
4. **Threatening Language:** Scammers may tell you that you owe money and then threaten to call the police if you don't pay immediately. They may also coach you on what to tell the bank to withdraw or transfer money. Or they may pose as a friend or family member and ask you to "keep a secret."
5. **The Romantic "Emergency":** A new online love interest bombards you with "sweet talk" but doesn't seem to want to meet in person or is incapable of meeting in person. Suddenly a hardship or emergency strikes and they want you to send them money.

If you spot one of these **RED FLAGS** do three things:







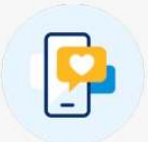

- Know who you're talking to - aka verify!

- Take a moment - contact your own trusted contact or contact the company/agency directly or contact the police
- Be careful when sending money

See the below graphic for other types of common frauds and scams:

Look out for common scams

Scammers use elaborate stories to play on emotions and gain trust. Know these warning signs.

 <p>Social Media Deal</p> <p>"Get a great price on these exclusive sneakers. You can only pay using cash or a payment app."</p>	 <p>Imposter</p> <p>"I'm with the IRS, and you owe back taxes. If not paid immediately, a lawsuit will be filed against you."</p>	 <p>Tech Support</p> <p>"We've detected malware on your computer. Let's get that fixed for you. There will be a small cost associated to make your computer secure."</p>	 <p>Grandparent</p> <p>"Grandma, I'm in trouble — I need money fast."</p>
 <p>Lottery Winnings</p> <p>"Congratulations! You've won the lottery! We'll need to collect taxes prior to your payment. I'll send you the instructions to get this done."</p>	 <p>Investment Opportunity</p> <p>"You've registered to receive notifications on investment opportunities. Are you ready to invest? I have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!"</p>	 <p>Online Romance</p> <p>"I want to meet you in person, but I can't afford to travel. Can you send me money?"</p>	 <p>Home Closing</p> <p>"Please wire money to this account so you can close on your home."</p>

Source: JP Morgan Customer Alert

Additional information, including management fees and expenses, is provided on our Form ADV Part 2 available upon request or at the SEC's Investment Advisor Public Disclosure Site at <https://adviserinfo.sec.gov/firm/summary/45452>. The information provided herein is for educational purposes only and is not intended to provide any investment, tax, or legal advice.



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