

CASH FLOW ISSUES	YES	NO
<p><b>Will your cash flow needs change?</b> If so, consider developing a new income and expense plan.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Was your spouse receiving Social Security?</b> If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ You may be eligible for survivor benefits. Reference “Am I Eligible for Social Security Benefits as a Surviving Spouse?” flowchart.</li> <li>■ 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.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Was your spouse over the age of 70.5 or were they taking RMD at the time of their death?</b> If so, you may have to take the remaining RMD amount for the current year before the end of the year.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Are you under the age of 59.5 and want cash?</b> If so, consider opening and maintaining an Inherited IRA to access the assets penalty free even if you are under age 59.5. Reference “Should I Inherit My Deceased Spouse’s IRA?” flowchart.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Was your spouse receiving a pension?</b> If so, payments may stop or be adjusted for survivor benefits.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ESTATE SETTLEMENT ISSUES	YES	NO
<p><b>Do any accounts require ownership of the account to be updated?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Did your spouse pass away without a will?</b> 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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Do you have more assets than you need to maintain your lifestyle?</b> 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 9-months of the date of death. (continued on next column)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ESTATE SETTLEMENT ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
<p><b>Will your spouse’s estate exceed \$11.4 million or will your combined estate exceed \$22.8 million?</b> If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ You may have a federal estate tax liability due.</li> <li>■ Remember, proceeds from a life insurance policy owned by the deceased and values of retirement accounts are included in the gross estate.</li> <li>■ To maintain portability of unused exemption, you must file IRS Form 706 no later than 9-months after the date of death.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>If there is an estate tax liability, do you expect the value of the assets to decline over the next six months?</b> If so, consider electing the alternate estate valuation by filing IRS Form 706.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Could there be property and assets not yet identified?</b> If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Consider looking at the “points” feature on credit cards &amp; “miles” with airlines to see if they are transferable.</li> <li>■ Check for safety deposit boxes but be sure to follow probate rules before opening.</li> <li>■ Search state agencies and unclaimed property sites that are run by many state treasurers.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Do you need to update your own estate plan?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Are there digital assets that should be preserved?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INSURANCE ISSUES	YES	NO
<p><b>Was your spouse employed at time of death?</b> The employer and union may provide group life insurance and/or compensation related to their employment.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Was your spouse a veteran?</b> If so, you may be eligible for death &amp; burial benefits, survivor pension and other benefits. (continued on next page)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INSURANCE ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
<p><b>Was the death accidental or work related?</b> If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some financial institutions and professional associations may offer a small lump-sum benefit.</li> <li>The employer/union may offer additional death benefits.</li> <li>You may be eligible for worker's compensation and/or death benefits.</li> <li>Some life insurance policies have an "accidental death" provision for higher benefits.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Did you and your spouse have a child under age 18 or a child permanently disabled?</b> If so, you and/or the child may be eligible for Social Security benefits.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Could there be any life insurance owned by your spouse that has not been identified or claimed?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TAX ISSUES	YES	NO
<p><b>Did you and your spouse own your home?</b> If so, the primary residence can be sold within the first two years after your spouse's death and the \$500,000 housing exclusion will still be available to you.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Did you own property jointly with your deceased spouse?</b> If so, you will receive a step-up in basis. Reference "Will I Receive A Step-Up In Basis For This Inherited Property?" flowchart.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Have all your spouse's prior taxes been paid (not including any estate taxes)?</b> If so, contact the IRS and your state's taxing authority to pay any taxes or to check if any back taxes are due.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Did you file as Married Filing Jointly?</b> If so, you can continue to file as MFJ in the year your spouse passed away. (continued on next column)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TAX ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
<p><b>Do you have a dependent child?</b> 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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

INVESTMENT & ASSET ISSUES	YES	NO
<p><b>Does your spouse have stock options, grants, or restricted stock units (RSUs)?</b> If so, consider how it will impact your tax liability and your cash flow planning.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Has the change in circumstances altered your investment objectives or risk tolerance?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>If your spouse was a business owner, does a plan need to be developed to transfer/sell the business?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>If you or your spouse have annuities or other illiquid assets, do they need to be reviewed to understand options?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER ISSUES	YES	NO
<p><b>Do you need to reduce the threat of identity theft?</b> If so, cancel your spouse's email accounts, cancel social media accounts, notify credit bureaus, cancel driver's license, notify election board.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Are there any state specific issues that should be considered (including out-of-state property or estate tax liability)?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Sandy Cove Advisors is a boutique financial advisory firm that delivers a full spectrum of wealth management services, with a focus on investments, financial planning and family office solutions.

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