

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>Did your spouse reach their Required Beginning Date, or were they taking an RMD from an inherited IRA at the time of their death?</b> If so, the CARES Act waives all RMDs for 2020, so no action is needed on the part of the beneficiaries (who typically would have to take any remaining RMDs on behalf of your spouse in the year of death).</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. (continue on next column)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ESTATE SETTLEMENT ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
<p><b>Will your spouse’s estate exceed \$11,580,000 or will your combined estate exceed \$23,160,000?</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. Normally, Form 706 is due nine months from the date of death (with a six-month extension available). However, if the 706 is filed only to elect portability, it is due within two years of the date of death.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>If there is an estate tax liability, was the total value of the estate on the date of death greater than the value at six months after the date of death?</b> If so, you may elect on the 706 to use the alternate valuation date to reduce estate taxes, valuing all assets as of six months after the date of death (unless sold within that period).</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/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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<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 or insuring the life of 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, 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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Did you own property jointly with your deceased spouse?</b> 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)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TAX ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
<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.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<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>Did your spouse have stock options, grants, or restricted stock units?</b> If so, consider how these assets 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.

**Deirdre Prescott**

37 Derby Street, #5 Hingham, MA 02043  
(617) 622-1500 | [www.sandycoveadvisors.com](http://www.sandycoveadvisors.com)