



Planning For Multiple Beneficiaries in 5 Easy Steps

When do multiple beneficiaries exist? Multiple beneficiaries exist when an individual names more than one beneficiary for their IRA.

When should you name more than one beneficiary? When you want your IRA assets to go to more than one person or entity without having to incur additional fees or paperwork by maintaining separate accounts for each beneficiary.

- 1. Due date for designated beneficiaries.** September 30 of the year following the year of the IRA owner's death is the date designated beneficiaries are determined for purposes of post-death stretch and/or 10-year payments.
- 2. Due date for non-designated beneficiaries.** These beneficiaries should be cashed-out before the September 30 date mentioned above. These beneficiaries include charities, estates and non-qualifying trusts since they have no measurable life expectancies. If they are not cashed out in time, they could prevent eligible designated beneficiaries from being able to stretch out distributions.
- 3. Due date for separate inherited IRAs.** These should be established and funded for each designated beneficiary by December 31 of the year following the year of the account owner's death. These accounts must retain the decedent's name as part of their title and include language identifying them as "inherited" or "beneficiary" accounts, but they must use the beneficiary's Social Security Number for reporting purposes.
- 4. Maximize the stretch.** Each eligible designated beneficiary identified by September 30 can utilize his or her own single life expectancy to maximize the stretch IRA if a separate account is established and funded by December 31. If separate accounts are established, non-eligible designated beneficiaries can also utilize their own life expectancy for required minimum distributions during the 10-year payout period. The single life expectancy factor is determined in the year following the year of the account owner's death. Going forward, the factor is simply reduced by one each year (unless the sole beneficiary is the spouse, in which case he/she re-determines his/her life expectancy each year).
- 5. What if you don't split the account in time?** By not splitting the account in time, eligible designated beneficiaries could lose the ability to stretch payments and could be saddled with a 10-year payout requirement.



CALIFORNIA
RETIREMENT
ADVISORS

1419 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 ☎ 310.643.7472 🌐 www.CRAadvisors.com

Investment advisory services offered through Mutual Advisors, LLC DBA California Retirement Advisors, a SEC registered investment adviser. Securities offered through Mutual Securities, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Mutual Securities, Inc. and Mutual Advisors, LLC are affiliated companies. CA Insurance license #0B09076. Mutual Advisors, LLC and California Retirement Advisors takes no responsibility for the current accuracy of this information. Ed Slott and Company LLC is not affiliated with Mutual Advisors. © 2026 Ed Slott and Company LLC. Reprinted with permission. Ed Slott and Company LLC takes no responsibility for the current accuracy of this information.

This is being provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell any specific securities. Past performance is no guarantee of future results, and all investing involves risk. The views expressed are those of California Retirement Advisors (CRA) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Mutual Advisors, LLC or any of its affiliates. CRA, nor any of its members, are tax accountants or legal attorneys, and do not provide tax or legal advice. For tax or legal advice, you should consult your tax or legal professional.