

Retirement Matters Newsletter

*Manny Negron, Licensed Insurance Agent
GenWealth Advisory Group*

YOU'VE HELPING YOU NAVIGATE THE ROAD TO & THROUGH RETIREMENT



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Interesting Facts

-Water is made up of two elements, hydrogen and oxygen. Its chemical formula is H₂O.

-Each molecule of water is made up of two hydrogen atoms bonded to a single oxygen atom.

-The existence of water is essential for life on Earth.

-Water has three different states, liquid, solid and gas.

-Water covers around 70% of the Earth's surface.

Tired Of Losing Money?

Now you can get stock market type returns without the stock market risks.

Plus, it offers tax deferred interest and tax free income at retirement.

Call Our Office Today for More Information!

Behind in Savings! What are you going to do about it?

Did you know that 50% of the 78 Million Baby Boomers admit being behind in saving for retirement. Worse than that, there are millions of others who don't even know where they stand. So if you've procrastinated you are not alone! There is hope! You can catch up! but you must take action now! Here are some tips for catching up, even if you are off to a late start.

1. "It All Starts With A Plan... It Wasn't Raining When Noah Built that Ark!"

Unless you have figured out how much you'll need to save for retirement, your retirement plans are based on wishful thinking. Creating a Financial Plan or Road Map is the best way to succeed. Call your trusted advisor for help now.

2. Maximize Retirement Plan Contributions:

A recent study showed Americans contributed an average 6.8% to their 401(k) plan – far less than the maximum allowed by law for most workers. Maximize the value of tax deferral and maximize the value of employer matching contributions by maxing out your 401(k) every year. The same holds true for 457s, 403(b)s, SEP and other retirement plans. It is a no-brainer for anybody saving for retirement – maximize tax deferred contributions.

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Is Your Advisor Scamming You?

If you read the paper it doesn't take long to see that investment scams are on the rise. It makes you wonder who you can trust. And when it comes to your money no one wants to take any chances and rightfully so. But how do you know that you can really trust the guy or gal on the other side of the desk?

Here are a few quick and easy tips to help make sure you are working with someone you can trust.

1) It is free to call or go online and check out your advisor and his company with the Better Business Bureau. On their website and over the phone they can tell you how many complaints someone has and if they have been resolved. They can also verify how long they have been in business. Note: You can't be in business very long without ruffling at least a couple of feathers so just because someone has a complaint or two does not make them a bad advisor but if they have a long list of unresolved complaints beware! If you don't do anything else make sure you at least check with the BBB before you buy.

2) It would not be a bad idea to check with your local County Courthouse to see if there are any pending civil suites filed against your Advisor or his company. Keep in mind

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*Are You Positioned To Capture The Stock Market Coming Upturn?
...With Safety & Guarantees? Call now for your **FREE** report
'Survival in a Volatile Market*

Manny Negron
Licensed Insurance Agent
GenWealth Advisory Group

4386 Angle Pond Dr. South
Jordan Utah 84095
801-892-HELP (office)
801-856-7995 Cell
manny@genwealthadvisory.com

Disturbing Facts....

In 2010, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,600 people for fireworks-related injuries. 73 percent of these injuries occurred between June 18 to July 18. Of these:
-65 percent were to males and 35 percent were to females.
-Children under 15 years old accounted for 40 percent of the estimated injuries.
-Children and young adults under 20 years old had 53 percent of the estimated injuries.
-An estimated 900 injuries were associated with firecrackers. Of these, an estimated 30 percent were associated with small firecrackers, 17 percent with illegal firecrackers, and 53 percent where the type of firecracker was not specified.
-An estimated 1,200 injuries were associated with sparklers and 400 with bottle rockets.

Behind in Savings! What are you going to do about it?

- 3. Catch-Up Contributions:** Uncle Sam encourages workers age 50 and older to save more than younger employees by offering catch-up contributions for retirement plans. This can be a big incentive for late savers to get back on track. Consult your accountant or IRS documents for the exact rules and this year's contribution limits as they change frequently.
- 4. Scale Down:** Most people plan to reduce their expenses in retirement and live a simpler life. Here's an idea – try scaling down and get used to living on less right now. If that's impossible, then at least don't increase your expenses when you get a raise – instead, sock the money away for retirement.
- 5. Plan to Work During Retirement:** It is nice to have the extra income from working part time or intermittently in the early years of retirement. Working is also good for you. People who work part time stay mentally alert and challenged and are better able to maintain a healthy social structure.
- 6. As a Last Resort Postpone Retirement:** The longer you work the fewer years in retirement you must finance from savings. Not only does this lower the savings required, but it gives more years to continue growing your savings while having your employer cover medical insurance and other expenses. This can dramatically close the retirement savings gap.

The choices you make today profoundly impact your tomorrows. If you can't seem to get control of all the pieces that will add up to a successful retirement, turn to professionals for advice. Just as some dieters do better in a diet program than on their own, most people do better when they have a professional guiding them.

Is Your Advisor Scamming You?

though that many financial discrepancies are handled out of court with mediators so also check the FINRA website (Google FINRA Background check) as this is another great source to check out who you are thinking about working with.

- 3) Make sure to ask your friends who they would recommend and if they can't give you a stellar recommendation then don't go talk to their guy or gal. If they are not thrilled chances are you won't be either. By the way if you are already my client be sure and refer me to your friends (assuming you are thrilled!) as most people prefer to work with an advisor that they meet through a friend. They will thank you for it, I promise!

These are not the only steps you can take to make sure your Advisor is above board but in this day and age I would say these are some of the minimum standards you should apply when selecting an Advisor. I hope this information helps you get the help you need and find someone you feel good about working with.