

CASH FLOW ISSUES	YES	NO
<p>Is any residual income expected from dividends or interest? If so, this could result in the estate having to be reopened.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Is there any outstanding money owed to the deceased person or to the estate?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Are there any final expenses or fees payable by the estate? This includes debts, taxes, probate costs, attorney, accountant, and executor fees, etc.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ASSET & DEBT ISSUES	YES	NO
<p>Are there any debts that still need to be paid by the estate? Ensure that all valid creditor claims have been settled and the creditor claim period has been closed.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Does any property need to be liquidated before distributing the proceeds of the estate to the heirs? If so, liquidate according to any obligations, maximizing net proceeds and tax efficiency.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Did the deceased person reach their Required Beginning Date or (if they had an inherited IRA) were they taking an RMD at the time of their death? The CARES Act waives RMDs for 2020, and beneficiaries are not required to satisfy any distributions on behalf of a person that passes away in 2020.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Have accounts been properly retitled out of the deceased person's name or closed if needed? Consider titles to real and personal property, mortgages, and bank accounts.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Did the deceased person live in a continuing care retirement community? If so, look to see if there are refundable entrance fees.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATION ISSUES	YES	NO
<p>Could there be property, assets or life insurance not yet identified? If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Look at the “points” feature on credit cards & “miles” with airlines to see if they are transferable. ■ Check for safety deposit boxes but be sure to follow probate rules before opening. ■ Search state agencies and unclaimed property sites that are run by many state treasurers. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>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? If so, you may elect on Form 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>Did the deceased person leave a surviving spouse and any unused estate tax exemption, and might the surviving spouse's net worth exceed their own estate tax exemption (currently \$11,580,000)? If so, the surviving spouse should file Form 706 to claim portability of the deceased person's unused estate tax exemption (even if a 706 is not otherwise required). If a 706 is filed only to elect portability, it is due within two years of the date of death.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Are any beneficiaries disclaiming their inheritance? If so, the disclaiming of assets must be completed within 9 months of the date of death.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>If probate occurred in multiple states, are there issues that need to be resolved?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Are there digital assets that should be preserved and/or distributed? (continue on next page)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATION ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
<p>Did the deceased person have dependent children? If so, consider financial strategies to protect the children's interests, in accordance with the deceased person's wishes.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Did the deceased person have spousal or child payment obligations? If so, consider measures to satisfy these obligations.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TAX ISSUES	YES	NO
<p>Are the heirs in a lower tax bracket than the estate? If so, consider distributing income to the heirs prior to year-end to ensure earnings are taxed at the lowest possible rate.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Do final tax returns need to be filed? If so, consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In 2020, coronavirus relief measures have altered many tax filing (and payment) deadlines. ■ In typical years, a deceased person's final federal income tax return (1040) is due by the usual tax filing deadline (April 15th). A surviving spouse can claim MFJ for the year of death. ■ In typical years, an estate's final federal income tax return (1041) is due by April 15th for calendar year estates, and before the 15th day of the 4th month following the close of the tax year for fiscal year estates. ■ In typical years, a federal estate tax return (706) is due nine months after the date of death (if at all). ■ Six-month extensions of time to file are available for 1040s, 1041s, and 706s. ■ Filing requirements for state tax returns vary by state. (continue on next column) 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TAX ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
<p>Did the deceased person own property jointly with someone else? If so, that person may receive a partial 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>If you filed a 706 or state estate or inheritance tax return, are you waiting for closing documentation from the taxing authorities? If so, request an account transcript or closing letter from the IRS, and obtain any necessary documentation from state taxing authorities to document that your returns have been reviewed and accepted.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER ISSUES	YES	NO
<p>Do files need to be organized and documented to show evidence of disbursements?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Are there state-specific issues that need to be considered?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Are there additional filings to be made with the Probate Court? If so, be sure to fulfill all filing obligations, and look for opportunities to expedite your administration when appropriate (e.g. seeking beneficiaries' consents to accountings and waivers of hearings).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Are there non-probate assets that require administration? If so, these would not prevent closing the estate, but you may want to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Legal title should be updated for certain assets that transferred on death (e.g JTWR0S real property, joint accounts, etc.). ■ Retirement accounts with multiple beneficiaries should be divided and distributed prior to September 30th of the year after death. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ABOUT US:



Cove Financial Planning is a fiduciary, fee-only Registered Investment Advisor that provides comprehensive financial planning and investment management services with a focus on Socially Responsible Investing (SRI). Cove primarily works with clients virtually across the country. Their mission is to help individuals and families align their financial plan and investments with their future goals as well as their core values.

Cove has been featured in national publications including The New York Times, USA Today, CNBC, Business Insider, Investment News, Financial Planning Magazine, Investor's Business Daily, MarketWatch, NerdWallet and Bustle.

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