



## **Financial Steps you can take to improve your relationship with your spouse**

One of the most rewarding things we have done over the years is to help a family get on the same page financially. Finances can be one of the biggest causes of arguments within a marriage and there are some simple steps you can take to significantly reduce the stress that comes from disagreements about money.

In most marriages, one partner takes the lead when it comes to handling the financial responsibilities but this does not mean that the other should be kept in the dark. Couples can reduce financial anxiety by taking a few simple steps to clearly communicate the current financial picture as well as the plans in place for future goals. Each family is unique and has a different set of financial circumstances, but these steps can improve the communication in any household.

First, having a consolidated list of all accounts and updating that list periodically can provide transparency for that spouse who is not involved in the day to day finances. This can also be a very valuable tool for financial planning strategies like minimizing taxes. A review of credit card and bank statements each quarter will also help families measure progress towards long term goals and will ensure both spouses know where funds are being directed.

An annual review of all insurance coverages is a worthwhile process to ensure your coverages have kept up with the changes in your household. We have also found that

many families have been able to save thousands of dollars annually by staying on top of these costs. The most important thing is to make sure your family is protected from that unexpected tragedy.

Every retirement account (IRA, 401k, 403b, etc.) and life insurance policies have the option to designate a beneficiary. It is important to review your beneficiary designations to ensure assets pass according to your wishes. Changes in the family dynamic can make a big difference in how you want assets to pass and should be reviewed periodically. If you have beneficiaries that are still under the age of 18, you want to be very careful on how you transfer those accounts.

Many people have options when it comes to when you retire. Do I quit cold turkey or back down the workload and ease into retirement? Do I retire now and allow my spouse to work another 5 years? These are some key decisions that you should weave into your planning discussions. We also often see a lot of conflict resolution during the planning stages by removing the emotional component with major purchases. Should we buy that beach condo or vacation home? By looking at these opportunities in a plan and recognizing the opportunity cost of such a purchase, spouses can come to an agreement before making major financial decisions.

Finally, one of the most important steps in the planning process is all too often forgotten or skipped over. Your Estate Plan can govern everything from who makes healthcare decisions in the event you can't to who cares for your children in the event of your passing. These documents are very powerful and should be updated to reflect your wishes.

In closing, finances do not have to be difficult topic for discussion at the dining room table if we take the time to communicate and get organized. As intimidating as it may seem to go through this process, I have seen it relieve a lot of stress and anxiety within the household. If you take the time to care for your financial welfare, marital harmony can be much easier to accomplish.

This communication strictly intended for individuals residing in the states of AL,CA,FL,GA,MI,MO,NC,NY,PA,SC,VA. No offers may be made or accepted from any resident outside these states due to various state regulations and registration requirements regarding investment products and services. Investments are not FDIC- or NCUA-insured, are not guaranteed by a bank/financial institution, and are subject to risks, including possible loss of the principal invested. Securities and advisory services offered through Commonwealth Financial Network, @Member FINRA/SIPC, a Registered Investment Adviser. Fixed insurance products and services offered through CES Insurance Agency or Vaughn Wealth.



Vaughn Wealth | 1127 Edgewater Drive, Orlando , FL 32804