2026 · WHAT ISSUES SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN INHERITING A TRADITIONAL OR ROTH IRA?

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DISTRIBUTION ISSUES	YES	NO
Do you need help determining the general distribution requirements (e.g., subject to the 10-year rule, RMDs, etc.) for the IRA you inherited? If so, review the "How Must I Take Distributions From The Traditional IRA I Inherited?" or "How Must I Take Distributions From The Roth IRA I Inherited?" flowchart as a starting point.	☐	☐
Do you have multiple inherited IRAs? If so, be mindful that you cannot satisfy RMDs for one inherited IRA by taking them from another inherited IRA unless both inherited IRAs are subject to the same distribution rules.	☐	☐
In addition to your inherited IRA, are you subject to RMDs from a non-inherited IRA? If so, be mindful that you cannot satisfy RMDs for your inherited IRA by taking them from your non-inherited IRA (and vice versa).	☐	☐
Were you taking RMDs from an inherited IRA before January 1, 2022? If so, double-check that you are using the new life expectancy tables that went into effect on January 1, 2022, as the old life expectancy tables are no longer applicable (even if your initial life expectancy calculation was originally based on them).	☐	☐
Did the deceased person die before they reached their required beginning date (RBD) (i.e., April 1 of the year following the year of their RMD age)? If so, be mindful that, regardless of whether they started taking RMDs, your distribution requirements are still treated as if the owner died before their RBD.	☐	☐

BENEFICIARY ISSUES	YES	NO
Is the person inheriting this IRA a minor child of the owner (i.e., an eligible designated beneficiary)? If so, be mindful that, while eligible designated beneficiaries are not subject to the 10-year rule, a minor child will become a non-eligible designated beneficiary upon reaching age 21 and will become subject to the 10-year rule at that time. (continue on next column)	☐	☐

BENEFICIARY ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
Are you disabled and/or chronically ill? If so, be mindful that you must have been officially disabled or chronically ill at the time you inherited the IRA in order to be considered an eligible designated beneficiary.	☐	☐
Are there multiple beneficiaries who are inheriting this IRA? If so, be mindful that required distributions may be based on the least favorable distribution schedule (e.g., the age of the oldest beneficiary) and may apply to all beneficiaries (regardless of their ages and circumstances). To avoid this, consider having each beneficiary establish their own inherited IRA by September 30, and the IRA divided and transferred by December 31, of the year following the year of the previous owner's death, as this will allow each beneficiary to use their own age and circumstance for determining distributions.	☐	☐
Are you inheriting this IRA from your spouse? If so, reference the "Should I Inherit My Deceased Spouse's Traditional IRA?" flowchart (unless it is a Roth IRA or a twice-inherited IRA).	☐	☐

TAX ISSUES	YES	NO
Do you need to review your tax withholding from the inherited IRA? If so, consider the impact inherited IRA RMDs may have on your overall taxation (e.g., bump up to higher brackets, AGI/MAGI phaseouts, etc.) and make sure to withhold an appropriate amount for taxes.	☐	☐
Are you inheriting a Roth IRA or Traditional IRA with after-tax (i.e., nondeductible) contributions? If so, be mindful of any potential issues that may arise regarding how the cost basis (and any 5-year clock rules still in effect) may carry over to you and any other beneficiaries. Gather as much evidence as you can (e.g., prior contribution/conversion historical statements, IRS Form 5498, IRS Form 8606, etc.) to help you accurately track this. (continue on next page)	☐	☐

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TAX ISSUES (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
Did the person you inherited this IRA from pay an estate tax? If so, you may be eligible for an income in respect of the decedent (IRD) tax deduction equal to the amount of federal estate tax attributable to the inherited IRA. If eligible, consider ways you could take advantage of this deduction to help toward other goals (e.g., harvesting capital gains, Roth conversions, etc.).	☐	☐

GOAL COORDINATION ISSUES	YES	NO
Do you need to review how you may complement your savings goals with an inherited IRA? If so, consider using the RMDs to help fund other savings goals you have (e.g., emergency fund, retirement contributions, etc.) or pay down debts.	☐	☐
Are you considering making any Roth conversions this year? If so, consider withholding more taxes from your inherited IRA RMDs to help offset the tax liability incurred from any planned Roth conversions. Be mindful that you cannot convert an inherited IRA to a Roth IRA unless you are the spouse of the deceased owner, and the inherited IRA from your spouse must not be a twice-inherited IRA.	☐	☐
Is your inherited IRA subject to the 10-year rule regarding distribution requirements? If so, review your personal tax situation and consider whether it makes sense to accelerate distributions (if in a lower bracket) rather than delay or spread out your distributions. If delaying, be mindful of a potential "tax squeeze" in the 10th year due to an oversized required distribution.	☐	☐
Are you planning to give to charity this year, and are you at least 70½ years old? If so, consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from the inherited traditional IRA as part of your charitable giving strategy and to help satisfy the RMD from your traditional inherited IRA. However, be mindful that QCDs from an inherited traditional IRA cannot satisfy the RMD for other inherited traditional IRAs (unless they share the same distribution rules) or other non-inherited IRAs.	☐	☐

OTHER ISSUES	YES	NO
Does the IRA you are inheriting contain an annuity? If so, be mindful of how your inherited IRA distribution requirements (e.g., annual RMDs, 10-year rule, etc.) might conflict with the specific nuances of the annuity (e.g., payout rate, guaranteed withdrawal amount, over-withdrawal penalties, etc.). Make sure you contact the insurance provider to get more clarification on what the ramifications may be.	☐	☐
Did you inherit this IRA via a will or through intestacy laws (i.e., the estate was the beneficiary)? If so, be mindful that you will be considered a non-designated beneficiary and may be required to distribute the entire account by the end of the 5th year following the year of the previous owner's death (depending on your situation).	☐	☐
Are you inheriting this IRA via a trust that was listed as the beneficiary? If so, consider the following: ■ If the trust is a see-through trust, you will be subject to either the eligible or non-eligible designated beneficiary distribution rules. Otherwise, the trust will be considered a non-designated beneficiary, and you may be subject to the 5-year rule. ■ If there are multiple beneficiaries (excluding disregarded beneficiaries) on the trust, the distribution rules for the beneficiary with the least favorable calculation may apply to all beneficiaries (unless separate sub-trusts apply). ■ Be mindful of how the trust handles IRA distributions to beneficiaries and whether distributions are subject to trust tax rates or personal income tax rates. Come up with a plan for how to pay the taxes (e.g., withholdings vs. estimated tax payments).	☐	☐

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