



\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ **Your Financial Goals – Are They Healthy and Manageable?** \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

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KAFCE State Educational Program Committee

2017 Lesson Leaders Guide & Members handout.

This lesson will help create, share and outline steps to prepare for a Financial Success. There are no clear cut answers for all circumstances. Writing this lesson came about from my own experience in dealing with my financial disaster after my husband's health issues. Waiting for processing of a Power of Attorney for financial matters awakened the need to share important data for others

The document that this lesson will dwell on is the POWER OF ATTORNEY(POA). It will be mentioned in the connection of a Financial Checkup . It gives the permission to another person or (agent) to act on your behalf in legal matters. This includes writing checks, signing official documents, or handling other legal dealings. It doesn't have to be a lawyer. The POWER OF ATTORNEY can be General granting broad powers of your affairs or Special allowing special situations you choose.

In the National Lesson “Hearth Fire Series # 59

ADVANCE DIRECTIVES – DO I WANT/NEED THEM?” there is an explanation for each form needed. Use this as a starting point for explanation of organizing your life wishes.

FINANCIAL FITNESS QUIZ

This quiz is a good starting point to make you aware of your financial health.

It is part of the K-State Research and Extension lesson MF2721 “How Are You Doing? A Financial Checkup” written by Diane Burnett and Susie Latta, K-State Research and Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agents.

When you are getting the planning in order with documents, accounts, and information it can be very overwhelming. Let us start with the following:

Bank Accounts

Checking, Savings, Money Market, Certificates of Deposit (CD), Debit Cards, Credit Cards, Mortgages or Loans.

Make sure that accounts have the proper signature on the account for access purposes. Sometimes it will only have one name as owner even if it is a joint account.

(On-Line Banking Software usually has only one owner per account. Check to see if both joint owners need to have their separate access codes!!)

Make sure that the wording on the accounts includes the Power of Attorney to handle the account while owner is still alive not just for beneficiary purpose.

Pension Plans and Retirement Benefit

401 K or 403B Plans

Pay attention to the Plans and Benefits when receiving notices of activity of plans. Check on the status of Beneficiary or Power of Attorney. Keep an open communication with Company Owner or Accountant, and Plan Representative. Keep the Plan's direct phone number to use in case of emergency.

Safe Deposit Box

If important information that is needed is stored in the Safe Deposit Box, be sure to have a signature of the Power of Attorney or Agent on file.

Insurance

Life, Health, Car, Disability.

Carefully review these as to what the information states. Here again, a Power of Attorney may be needed to be filed with the company. The reimbursement of monies can be extremely difficult to attain in certain circumstances of injury or death.

Investments

Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds, Annuities

Find a Broker that fits you needs. Take time to see if they are compatible and will work for you. Keep a current line of communication with the Broker or Agent that is handling your investments. The documents and paperwork can be shuffled and set aside only to bring about lack of current communication. Your money is important, no matter what amount the investor deems worthwhile!!

Household Utilities and all Other Bills

Have a list of monthly Bills and Budget available for the Power of Attorney or Agent access.

All business on line have user identification and passwords. Be sure to have them available for your agent awareness.

Summary

Financial planning is very important in the organization of your life. It is so beneficial to your Estate-Planning.

You must be confident and comfortable with the different banks, investors, and insurance companies that handle your money. Always be open to ask questions and be clear what is happening to your transactions. Remember they will gladly take your money, but are not always glad to give what is owed back in a timely fashion. Be persistent and use whatever time you can to insist you get an answer to you inquiry.

Remember that your money and planning are the most important to you. Don't become overwhelmed by not asking for help.

Insist that your name be on necessary bank documents . If a disability reimbursement is due, insist that you have documentation for getting it.

Remember that the Kansas Insurance Commissioner can help with the complaints brought on by the insurance companies. Contact

Kansas Insurance Commissioner
420 SW 9th Street
Topeka, Kansas Phone 800-432-2484
email commissioner@ksinsurance.org

Possibly contact your local K-State Research and Extension Service of help and information on the agent lesson.

References for the lesson are the following:

“How Are You Doing? A Financial Checkup, Fact Sheet and Leader's Guide, MF2720 & MF2721, K-State Research and Extension,

Fact Sheet: <http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF2721.pdf>

Leader's Guide: <http://www.maraisdescygnnes.k-state.edu/home-family-moneymangement/money-management-information/Howareyoudoingafinancialcheckup.pdf>

MF2815 Advance Directives in Kansas

<http://www.reno.k-state.edu/aging/adultdev/docs/Advanced Directives.pdf>

Everplan (www.everplans.com)

Caring Connections at (www.caringinfo.org)

National Association for Family and Community Education

877-712-4477

“Advance Directives – Do I Want/Need Them?” Hearth Fire Series #59

“How Are You Doing? A Financial Checkup” written by Diane Burnett and Susie Lata, K-State Research and Extension Family and Consumer Sciences Agents.

FINANCIAL FITNESS QUIZ – Choose the score that best describes your current financial management practices: 5=always, 4=usually, 3=sometimes, 2=seldom, 1=never (or no, or don't know)

Financial Management

- I have a checking account(or credit union share draft account) with which to pay bills.
- I have enough money to pay my rent/mortgage and other monthly expenses.
- I have enough money for an emergency, such as an expected vehicle repair bill.
- I have written financial goals with a date and dollar cost, for example:\$10,000 for a car by October.
- I have a written plan or budget for spending/saving.
- I keep financial records organized and can find important documents easily.
- I know the effective percentage rate of my federal marginal tax bracket.

- I calculate my net worth (assets minus debts) at least annually.

Saving/Investing

- I save regularly for long-term financial goals(education for my children, a house , or retirement).
- I have a least three months' expenses set aside in a readily accessible account.
- I increase savings when I receive a salary increase.
- I have a personal investment account for retirement (in addition to an employer-sponsored pension, if one is provided)
- I have money in more than one type of investment (bonds, mutual funds, CD's, Annuities)
- The after-tax yield of my savings and investments is greater than the rate of inflation.

Insurance and Estate Planning

- I have insurance to cover large, unexpected expenses, such as a hospital bill or disability.
- I have a current will.

Credit

- Less than half of one week's pay goes to my credit cards, student loans, and car payments
 I pay off credit card bills to avoid interest charges.

Shopping

- I comparison-shop for major purchases by checking at least three sources.
 I avoid impulse purchases and don't use shopping as a form of recreation.

SCORING: FINANCIAL FITNESS QUIZ

- 0- 20 points: You need help, but don't despair. It's never too late to improve you finances.
- 21-40 points: You are headed for financial difficulty. Now is the time to reverse the trend.
- 41-60 points: You are doing a fair job of managing your finances and have taken some steps in the right direction.
- 61-80 points: You are doing a good job and are above average in managing your finances.
- 81-100 points: You are in excellent financial shape!

Note: Items scored 1,2,or 3 indicate areas for focus to improve finances.