

As Seen On:



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By ANDREW M. COSTA | Global Wealth Management



## **SMART INSIGHTS FROM PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS** How to Use Your RMD to **Create a Tax-Free Inheritance for Your Heirs**



If you'd like to sell a rental property, business or other highly appreciated asset but are dreading the capital gains, a Deferred Sales Trust may be for you.

We used to think of them as the fortunate few: retirees with enough income to live comfortably without having to tap into their qualified retirement plans, such as their IRAs, 401(k)s and 403(b)s.

When you read about all the people who haven't saved nearly enough to last 20 or even 30 years in retirement, to actually end up with more than you need seems almost impossible.

But lately, our office is getting more and more questions about required minimum distributions (RMDs), those pesky withdrawals Uncle Sam says you have to take when your reach age  $70^{1/2}$ .

These folks are managing quite well, thank you very much, with their Social Security benefits plus a pension and/or some other investment income. For some, the extra income from their 401(k) or 403(b) is almost a burden, because now they have to pay taxes on it.

Many say they'd like to use that money to leave some kind of legacy for their

children, grandchildren or charities. So my firm uses a strategy called IRA Maximizer, which uses their after-tax RMDs to pay for a life insurance policy that will transfer substantially more money to their heirs when they die.

For example, let's say we're working with a 70-year-old couple with \$431,520 in an IRA. Instead of taking out their \$16,182 RMD each year, paying the taxes and sticking the money into some other savings account, they use it to buy life insurance, more specifically a guaranteed universal life insurance policy, aka GUL. If they die in 15 years, their income-tax-free death benefit at age 85 will be \$1,171,453. Combined with their remaining IRA value of \$346,492, they'll leave a legacy of more than \$1.5 million. (The amount decreases at 20 and 25 years, but it is still more than \$1.4 million.) That result would be 132% better than just having the IRA without this strategy.

This plan does exactly what it says: It maximizes your IRA to the benefit of your family or favorite charity. That's an

appealing thought to clients who want put that extra income to good use.

Talk to an experienced, knowledgeab creative-thinking retireme and professional about how you can push pa the usual income options. Beyond helpin you make rational investment decisior he or she can walk you through t increasingly complex strategies that c keep your money working for you an your family.

The examples provided for illustration purposes only; it does not represent a real l scenario, and should not be construed advice designed to meet the particular nee of an individuals situation.

*Kim Franke-Folstad contributed to this* article.

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an	Individuals should consult with a qualified
nd	professional for guidance before making any
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