Farther
Intelligent Wealth

INTELLIGENT WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Components of a Comprehensive Financial Plan

A financial plan is not a static document. It is a dynamic, interconnected framework that clarifies where you stand and sets a strategic route to where you are going. What follows is a guide to each core pillar of your plan — what it covers, why it matters, and the documents we collect and review to build it.

Documents are requested once, shared through a secure client vault, and refreshed only when a life event or filing changes them.

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01 Cash Flow & Budgeting

WHAT IT COVERS

Income sources, fixed and variable expenses, savings rate, and evolving spending patterns.

WHY IT MATTERS

Cash flow is the engine that drives the entire plan. Before deploying capital toward investments or retirement, a clear picture of liquidity reveals your true capacity and flexibility.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Two to three recent pay stubs for each earner
- Prior-year W-2s and 1099s
- Three months of bank and credit-card statements
- Household budget or an expense export from your bank or budgeting tool
- Current employer benefits election summary and payroll deductions

02 Emergency Fund & Liquidity

WHAT IT COVERS

Accessible cash reserves held outside of market investments, sized for three to six months of essential living expenses.

WHY IT MATTERS

Liquidity insulates long-term investments from short-term shocks — a job transition, a medical event, a major repair. It prevents forced asset sales in a downturn and removes reliance on high-interest debt.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Savings, money-market, and high-yield account statements
- CD and Treasury holdings with maturity dates
- Home equity line or other standby credit agreements, with current rates
- A worked estimate of monthly essential expenses

03 Debt Management

WHAT IT COVERS

A strategic inventory of all liabilities — mortgages, student debt, credit cards — paired with an optimized payoff framework.

WHY IT MATTERS

Not all debt is created equal. Not all debt is created equal. We build strategies to aggressively eliminate high-interest consumer debt while evaluating low-rate, tax-advantaged debt to determine if capital can be preserved for potentially higher-yielding investments.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Mortgage note and current statement, with rate, term, and remaining balance
- Student loan servicer statements and current repayment plan
- Credit-card statements showing APR and minimum payment
- Auto, personal, and margin loan agreements
- A recent credit report from any of the three bureaus

04 Risk Management & Insurance

WHAT IT COVERS

Life, disability, health, property and casualty, umbrella liability, and long-term care coverage.

WHY IT MATTERS

A plan is only as resilient as its protections. Insurance guards against low-probability, high-impact events, and coverage should be sized to actual replacement needs — not to a rule of thumb.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Life insurance policies with current in-force illustrations
- Short- and long-term disability certificates, including group coverage
- Health plan summary of benefits and coverage
- Declarations pages for homeowners, auto, and umbrella liability
- Long-term care policies or hybrid contracts
- Employer group benefits summary and any portability provisions

05 Investment Planning

WHAT IT COVERS

Asset allocation, tax-aware account use, risk tolerance calibration, time horizons, and a disciplined rebalancing policy.

WHY IT MATTERS

Investments are the growth engine for specific goals. Strategy follows purpose: we define when and why the capital is needed first, so the portfolio matches your timeline and your true risk capacity.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Most recent statements for all brokerage and retirement accounts
- Cost-basis and realized gain/loss reports
- Employer plan investment menu and fee disclosure (404a-5)
- Held-away and legacy account statements
- Equity compensation grant agreements and vesting schedules
- Any existing investment policy statement or prior allocation report

06 Retirement Planning

WHAT IT COVERS

Projected lifestyle income needs, Social Security claiming, employer plan integration, IRA strategy, and a sustainable drawdown method.

WHY IT MATTERS

As the longest-horizon goal, retirement rewards sequencing. We map how much to save, which tax buckets to fill, and how to distribute income so your wealth outlasts your needs across market cycles.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Social Security statements for each spouse
- Pension summary plan description and benefit estimate, with survivor options
- 401(k) or 403(b) plan document, match formula, and in-plan Roth provisions
- Traditional, Roth, SEP, and SIMPLE IRA statements
- Deferred compensation election forms and distribution schedules
- Annuity contracts and current income riders

07 Tax Planning

WHAT IT COVERS

Marginal bracket management, asset location, tax-loss harvesting, Roth conversion windows, and the tax consequences of every major wealth decision.

WHY IT MATTERS

Tax planning is a year-round discipline, not a seasonal event. Coordinating tax efficiency across each decision is designed to help improve long-term net returns without necessarily increasing your portfolio's market risk.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Two most recent filed federal and state returns, with all schedules
- Current-year projections and estimated payment vouchers
- K-1s from partnerships, S corporations, and trusts
- Charitable receipts and donor-advised fund statements
- HSA and FSA statements; Forms 1099-R, 5498, and 1098
- Contact details for your CPA or tax preparer

08 Estate Planning

WHAT IT COVERS

Wills, trusts, powers of attorney, advance healthcare directives, and beneficiary alignment across every account.

WHY IT MATTERS

Beyond transferring wealth, a strong estate plan is designed to protect your legacy, reduce friction, limit tax exposure, and help see your wishes honored. Beneficiary designations often supersede a will - so they are reviewed line by line.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Will and any codicils
- Revocable and irrevocable trust agreements, including funding records
- Durable financial power of attorney
- Healthcare proxy and advance directive
- Beneficiary designation confirmations for each retirement and insurance account
- Property deeds and account titling records
- Prior gift tax returns (Form 709) and a letter of instruction for digital assets

09 Education Planning

WHAT IT COVERS

529 plans, alternative education savings vehicles, cost projections, and funding timelines.

WHY IT MATTERS

Education funding competes directly with retirement savings. We size and structure these goals deliberately, capturing tax advantages while protecting the trajectory of your primary long-term objectives.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- 529 account statements with investment track and beneficiary
- Custodial UTMA or UGMA statements
- Prepaid tuition contracts and scholarship award letters
- Current tuition schedules or cost estimates for target schools
- FAFSA or CSS Profile submissions, where applicable

10 Major Goals & Life Events

WHAT IT COVERS

Home purchases, business transitions, career pivots, weddings, parental care, and milestone family objectives.

WHY IT MATTERS

These milestones are the why behind the wealth. Every other component — cash flow, taxes, investments — is orchestrated to fund the experiences and legacies that matter most.

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED

- Purchase agreements, mortgage pre-approvals, and closing estimates
- Business operating agreements, recent valuations, and buy-sell agreements
- Employment offers, severance terms, and equity award documents
- Prenuptial agreements, marriage certificates, or divorce decrees
- Elder care agreements and a parent's estate and insurance documents

How It All Connects

These ten pillars do not exist in isolation. Each one sets the terms for the others.

- **Emergency reserves** reduce the insurance and liquidity cushion you need elsewhere.
- **Debt strategy** dictates how aggressively you can pursue investment and retirement savings.
- **Tax planning** permeates nearly every account and decision in the plan.
- **Estate planning** ensures what you have built is protected and transferred exactly as you intend.

A financial plan works best as a living document — reviewed and adjusted as income, goals, tax law, and life circumstances evolve.

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