IRA Inheritance Facts

Basic Process

The information provided is not intended as tax or legal advice. Prior to completing the distribution form, please consult your tax or legal advisor for more information.

1. Beneficiary completes the IRA Distribution form or the SEP-IRA and SIMPLE IRA Distribution form.
2. Attach a certified copy of the IRA owner’s death certificate.
3. For estate, trust, or entity beneficiary, include the appointment of estate executor, trustee, or person authorized to act for the entity. Entities that require corporate resolution should be certified within 60 days, all other documents showing appointment should be certified within 120 days of receipt by T. Rowe Price. Trust document pages should include the trust name and date, current trustees’ names, and signatures. Entity beneficiaries must provide documentation to verify existence of beneficiary as a legal entity.
4. If required by your state, provide an inheritance tax waiver.
5. Assets from the decedent’s account are transferred to a separate account for the beneficiary. All beneficiary distributions will be made from the beneficiary’s account. Tax reporting will occur under the beneficiary’s tax identification number.

Beneficiary Options

Your options as a beneficiary depend on whether you are the surviving spouse of the IRA owner.

If you are the surviving spouse
• Treat the IRA as your own (Transfer). Your spouse’s IRA will be transferred into a new or existing IRA in your name.
• Roll over to your own IRA or to a qualified plan. The one-rollover-per-year limitation may apply for rollovers to an IRA.
• Transfer the IRA into an Inherited IRA.

Note: If you transfer or roll over your inherited assets to your own IRA, you will be subject to taxation and RMD rules that would normally apply to your own IRA. In this case, the RMD rules described below for the Inherited IRA do not apply.

If you are NOT the surviving spouse
• Transfer the IRA into an Inherited IRA. This is the only option for a non-spouse beneficiary.
• Assets in an Inherited IRA may not be rolled over to another Inherited IRA. Assets may only be moved by way of trustee to trustee transfer.

Definitions

For purposes of this document, the following definitions are provided:

Spouse—A spouse is any individual who is a spouse under federal law. Certain states have enacted laws that may make a former spouse named as a beneficiary invalid.
Transfer—A tax-free movement of all or a portion of the IRA assets into another IRA in which no tax reporting is required on your income tax return.
Rollover—A tax-free distribution of all or a portion of the IRA assets into another IRA or qualified retirement plan in the name of the spouse beneficiary. There are special rules that apply, and tax reporting is required on your income tax return. This option is only available for a spouse of the deceased IRA owner. RMDs are never eligible for rollover.
Distribution—Redeem all or a portion of the assets in the account. The assets will be taxable in the year distributed.

RMD rules for the deceased IRA owner

In general, the deadline for the IRA owner’s first RMD (the required beginning date, or RBD) is April 1 of the year following the year the IRA owner reaches:
*70 1/2 for IRA owners that die on or before December 31, 2019
*72 for IRA owners that die on or after January 1, 2020

If the IRA owner’s death occurred on or after the RBD, an RMD must be distributed for the year of the owner’s death. If no RMD or only a partial RMD has been distributed for the owner’s year of death, you and any other beneficiaries must withdraw your respective portions of the required amount by the end of that year. If the IRA is a Roth IRA, the Roth IRA owner is always treated as dying before his or her RBD, regardless of age at death.

If the decedent had accounts of the same type at other financial institutions, it’s possible that he or she already took some or all of the RMD for the year of death from one or more of these other accounts. IRA rules permit combining the minimum amount for accounts of one type and distributing the total from one or more accounts of the same type.