



LEGACY



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

A Newsletter from The Heritage Club

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New Taxes are Here What You Can Do to Lower Yours

Tax season is upon us once again, and there are a number of tax changes that might affect you. Even if nothing changed for you last year (such as income, marital status, your financial situation, etc), you could find yourself paying a higher tax bill. While you can't do anything about last year, there are positive steps you can take to avoid paying higher taxes this year.

Tax Changes and Their Impact

Here is a quick look at some of the past two years' tax changes, along with the impact they could have on your income.

IF YOU ARE AN INDIVIDUAL:

With more than:	You pay:
\$200,000 in income	0.9% Medicare tax
\$200,000 in modified adjusted gross income	3.8% Medicare surtax on net investment income
\$400,000 in taxable income	39.6% top marginal income tax rate

IF YOU ARE A MARRIED COUPLE:

With more than:	You pay:
\$250,000 in income	0.9% Medicare tax
\$250,000 in modified adjusted gross income	3.8% Medicare surtax on net investment income
\$450,000 in taxable income	39.6% top marginal income tax rate

Please contact us or visit our website to learn about efficient ways to save taxes and help your Boys & Girls Club this year.

A Simple 2 Step to Save Taxes

Even though taxes have risen, there are a few simple things you can do to reduce your overall tax bill this year. Consider this:

REDUCE INVESTMENT TAXES

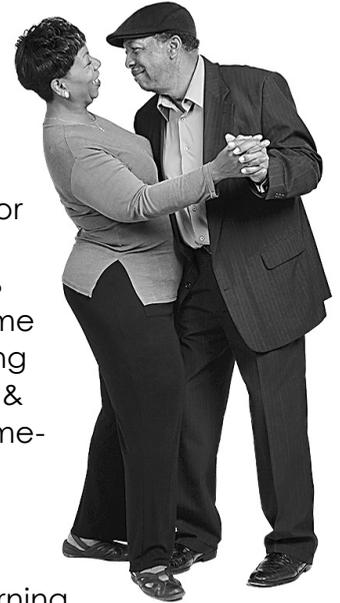
The 3.8% Medicare surtax applies to almost any money you earn from investments. But you could lower your taxable investment income by shifting some of it to family members – such as a child who is not subject to the surcharge – or your Boys & Girls Club, for which you'd actually receive an income tax deduction.

Boys & Girls Clubs can help you lower your tax bill this year. If you are interested in learning about how a life income gift could lower your taxes and even give money back to you, we can provide you with an illustration of your benefits. And, if you simply want to make an outright gift to lower your taxes, we can help with that too.



REDUCE OVERALL INCOME TO A LOWER BRACKET

Lower your income below the healthcare tax threshold (\$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for married couples) and you will avoid the 3.8% surtax. Consider reducing your income by making a gift of income producing property to family or your local Boys & Girls Club – or transferring your income-producing property to a charitable remainder trust that can help you control your income.



Protect Your Family with a Lifelong Income Stream

Many people spend much of their lives planning for the future. But did you know there is a way to provide income to your children or other loved ones after you are gone? A testamentary charitable remainder unitrust can help your family and the causes that are most important to you. If you want to provide for the people you care for the most, this planning option is worth consideration.

Have a look at how a testamentary unitrust can work to benefit you, your family and your Boys & Girls Club:

1. You include a provision in your will or trust that directs that when you die, a charitable remainder unitrust will be created to benefit your loved one(s).
2. Upon your death, your personal representative or executor follows your directions and establishes the trust.
3. The trust is funded with assets from your estate that could include cash, stock, or even real estate.
4. The trust then (generally) sells the property tax free and invests the proceeds in a way that benefits your loved ones (the beneficiaries) for the long-term.
5. The trust typically pays the beneficiaries a percentage of the trust assets each year. If the trust grows, your family can potentially receive additional income each year. The income may be paid for one or more lives or up to 20 years.
6. After all payments have been made to the beneficiaries, the remainder goes to your Boys & Girls Club or other charities of your choosing.

During your lifetime, a testamentary charitable remainder unitrust can provide you with great peace of mind. You can live each day knowing you will be providing for your family and leaving a remainder legacy to your Club. Contact us to learn more about the testamentary unitrust and the steps you can take to provide for family, help our cause, and give yourself the comfort of knowing you have provided for those people and causes that mean the most to you.



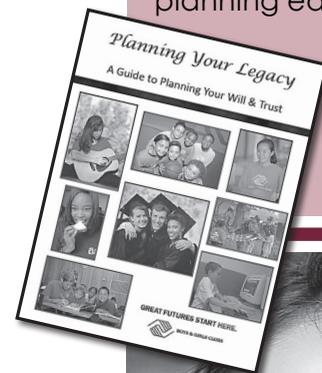
Estate Planning Made Easy

In a nutshell, estate planning is really what you want done with what you own. The good news is, you can provide for the people and causes important to you by taking simple steps now. Creating your plan for the future can be easy and even enjoyable.

While an attorney should always draft your will, we can help demystify the process and prepare you for meeting your attorney with these simple steps:

1. **ITEMIZE YOUR ASSETS**—Take a piece of paper and draw a line down the middle. On the left side, write down something you own. On the right side, write the name or names of the people you wish to receive that item or asset.
2. **ORGANIZE YOUR ESTATE**—Make the process of organizing your estate and plans even easier by downloading our free wills guide. This fill-in-the-blank guide walks you through the process of gathering information about what you own, your family and your goals.
3. **WRITE DOWN QUESTIONS**—Consider practical questions, such as, “If I give my house to my adult son and my adult daughter, what will they do with it?” If you come up with a question that you can’t seem to find a solution for, make a note to ask your attorney.
4. **REVIEW YOUR PLANS FOR FAMILY**—You can give some assets to family right away and to others over time. Ask us how you can provide an income stream or a lump sum to a loved one and achieve your personal and inheritance goals.
5. **CONSIDER CHARITY**—Remember to include any charities that are important to you in your plan. If you have given during life, then consider providing for these organizations through your estate. Ask us about plans like charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities that can help your family and our mission.
6. **VISIT YOUR ATTORNEY**—Bring the information you have gathered and questions to your attorney. Your attorney can draft a will or trust that will achieve your goals. You complete the plan through a simple signing process.
7. **UPDATE YOUR PLAN**—Update your estate plan as your life changes. Marriages, births, and deaths are all events that may make you want you to revise your plans.

Almost everyone feels better with a plan. It is not too complicated to complete your estate plan, and wouldn't it be comforting to know that you have organized your life and your plans in a way that provides for and protects your loved ones. Call or email us to request your wills guide, or to learn about other tools that we can offer you to make your planning easier.





BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

SAVVY LIVING By: Jim Miller

What can you tell me about **creating a family health history**? My doctor recently suggested that I make one as a way to predict potential health problems as I get older, but I could use some help.

It's a Smart Idea!

An accurate family health history remains one of the most important tools in keeping yourself healthy as you age. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and tools to help get you started.

Inheritable Diseases

Just as you can inherit your father's height, you can also inherit his genetic risk for diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disease and more. Therefore, tracing the illnesses suffered by your relatives can help you and your doctor predict the disorders you may be at risk for so you can take action to keep yourself healthy.

Family Tracking

To create a family health history, you'll need to start by collecting some basic medical information on your first-degree relatives including your parents, siblings and children. Then move on to your grandparents, aunts, uncles and first cousins.

You will need to get the specific ages of when they developed health problems like heart disease, cancer, diabetes,

arthritis, dementia, depression, etc. If family members are deceased, you need to know when and how they died. If possible, include lifestyle information as well, such as diet, exercise, smoking and alcohol use.

To get information on deceased relatives, get a copy of their death certificate. This will list their cause of death and the age he or she died. To get a death certificate, contact the vital records office in the state where your relative died, or go to vitalchek.com.

Helpful Resources

To get help putting together your family health history, the U.S. Surgeon General offers a free web-based tool called "My Family Health Portrait" (see familyhistory.hhs.gov) that can help you collect, organize and understand your genetic risks and even share the information with your family members and doctors.

If you're adopted, the National Foster Care & Adoption Directory Search may be able to help you locate your birth parents to get their medical history. Visit childwelfare.gov/nfcad or call 800-394-3366.

Managing Your Results

If you discover some serious health problems that run in your family, don't despair. While you can't change your genes, you can change your habits to increase your chances of a healthy future. By eating a healthy diet, exercising and not smoking, you can offset—and sometimes even neutralize—your genetic vulnerabilities. A family medical history can also alert you to get early and frequent screening tests, which can help detect other problems (high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and cancers like breast, ovarian, prostate and colon cancer) in their early stages when they're most treatable.

Savvy Living is written by Jim Miller, a regular contributor to the NBC Today Show and author of "The Savvy Senior." The articles are offered as a helpful and informative service to our friends and may not always reflect this organization's official position on some topics.