

2026

INHERITED IRA BENEFICIARY CHECKLIST

IF YOU'VE RECENTLY INHERITED AN IRA, HERE ARE KEY STEPS TO HELP YOU STAY ORGANIZED AND AVOID COSTLY MISTAKES.



A little upfront organization can save significant time, stress, and taxes later.

- Obtain a certified copy of the **death certificate** of the original IRA owner.
- Locate the most recent **IRA account statement** and the original beneficiary designation form.
- Confirm the **date of death** and whether the owner had reached their Required Beginning Date (RBD).
- Gather **personal identification** (Driver's License, SSN) for yourself and any co-beneficiaries.
- Contact the financial institution to open an **IRA Beneficiary Distribution Account** (BDA).
- Decide on a **distribution strategy**: Spousal rollover vs. 10-year rule vs. 5-year rule.
- Calculate the **2026 Required Minimum Distribution** (RMD) if applicable.
- Schedule the **annual RMD withdrawal** by December 31st to avoid the 25% penalty.
- Update your own **beneficiary designations** on the new BDA account.
- Consult with a **tax professional** regarding the impact on your 2026 tax return.