

## Beneficiary Options & Portability

Apply IRA Quick Reference Guide

Use this guide to determine what beneficiaries of Traditional IRAs, Roth IRAs, SIMPLE IRAs and Roth IRAs should withdraw amounts from their inherited IRAs in order to avoid paying the RMD. Also, where appropriate, specify portability options for beneficiaries of employer plans and IRAs are also included.

### Traditional IRA Owner Dies before the Required Beginning Date (RBD)

Spouse Beneficiary

# SAMPLE FOR PREVIEW

Non-Person Beneficiary

- Withdraws under the spousal rollover to allow the spouse to roll over to another IRA or retirement account
- Distribute over 10-year period, beginning on 12/31 of year after death or 12/31 of year owner would have reached age 70 1/2
- Five year rule

- Distribute over span life expectancy of "first beneficiary" beginning on 12/31 of year after death, or
- Five year rule
- Spouse receiving maximum life expectancies will be able to use the five year rule

- Five year rule

**Notes:** Under the Proposed Regulations, the RBD is the first day of the month following the anniversary month of the decedent.

see page 2 for additional details

### Traditional IRA Owner Dies before the Required Beginning Date (RBD)

Spouse Beneficiary

# PURPOSES ON WEBSITE

Non-Spouse (Person) Beneficiary

Non-Person Beneficiary

- Withdraws under the spousal rollover to allow the spouse to roll over to another IRA or retirement account, or
- Distribute over 10-year period, beginning on 12/31 of year after death or 12/31 of year owner would have reached age 70 1/2

- Distribute over 10-year period, beginning on 12/31 of year after death or 12/31 of year owner would have reached age 70 1/2

- Distribute over remaining life expectancy of decedent, beginning 12/31 of year after death

#### Notes:

1. The required beginning date (RBD) is April 1 of the year which follows the year that the IRA owner reaches age 70 1/2. For instance, if the IRA owner reaches age 70 1/2 this year, the RBD is April 1 of next year.
2. If the RBD falls on a weekend or public holiday, it is extended until the next business day.

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AC/IRAs 9/2011.01

**Traditional IRA Beneficiary Options Quick Reference**

<b>Beneficiary</b>	<b>IRA owner Dies Before the RBD</b>	<b>IRA owner Dies on or After the RBD</b>
<b>Spouse beneficiary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Move to own IRA:</b> via transfer or rollover</li> <li>• <b>Rollover to own qualified plan, 403(b), 403(a) or 457(b) account,</b></li> <li>• <b>Life-expectancy Payments (Recalculated):</b> The assets are distributed over the single-life-expectancy of the surviving spouse, beginning the <b>later of</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 12/31 of the year following the year the IRA owner dies or</li> <li>(b) 12/31 of the year the IRA owner would have reached age 70½.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>The Five Year Option:</b> The assets must be fully distributed by December 31 of the 5<sup>th</sup> year following the year the IRA owner dies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Move to own IRA:</b> via transfer or rollover.</li> <li>• <b>Rollover to own qualified plan, 403(b), 403(a) or 457(b) account,</b></li> <li>• <b>OR</b></li> <li>• <b>Life expectancy Payments:</b> Beginning 12/31 of the year following the year the IRA owner dies. The assets are distributed over the <b>longer of</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The remaining life expectancy of the deceased IRA owner ( Non-recalculated) or</li> <li>(b) The life-expectancy of the surviving spouse (Recalculated).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Non-spouse beneficiary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Life-expectancy Payments (Non-Recalculated):</b> Distributions must begin by 12/31 of the year following the year the IRA owner dies <b>or</b></li> <li>• <b>The Five Year Option:</b> The assets must be fully distributed by December 31 of the 5<sup>th</sup> year following the year the IRA owner dies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Life expectancy Payments:</b> Beginning 12/31 of the year following the year the IRA owner dies. The assets are distributed over the <b>longer of</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The remaining life expectancy of the deceased IRA owner(Non-recalculated) or</li> <li>(b) The life-expectancy of the beneficiary (Non-recalculated)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Non-person beneficiary</b> <i>example: estate, charity, nonqualified trust</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Five Year Option:</b> The assets must be fully distributed by December 31<sup>st</sup> year following the year the IRA owner dies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Life-expectancy Payments:</b> Over the remaining life expectancy of the deceased IRA owner (Non-recalculated), beginning by 12/31 of the year following the year the IRA owner dies.</li> </ul>
<b>Qualified trust beneficiary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Life-expectancy Payments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>If the surviving spouse is the sole beneficiary</b> then the life expectancy of the surviving spouse beneficiary (Recalculated) begins the <b>later of</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) 12/31 of the year following the year the IRA owner dies or</li> <li>(b) 12/31 of the year the IRA owner would have reached age 70½.</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. <b>If the surviving spouse is not the sole primary beneficiary of the trust, distributions are based on the oldest beneficiary's life expectancy (non-recalculated), and must begin by 12/31 of the year following the year the IRA owner dies, <b>or</b></b></li> <li>iii. <b>The Five Year Option:</b> The assets must be fully distributed by December 31 of the 5<sup>th</sup> year following the year the IRA owner dies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Life-expectancy Payments:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. <b>If the surviving spouse is the sole beneficiary of the trust, the assets are distributed over the longer of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The life expectancy of the deceased IRA owner (Non-recalculated) or</li> <li>(b) The life-expectancy of the surviving spouse (Recalculated)</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. <b>If the surviving spouse is not the sole primary beneficiary of the trust, the assets are distributed over the longer of the Non-recalculated life expectancy of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The deceased IRA owner or</li> <li>(b) The oldest beneficiary of the trust.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>For either option, distributions must begin by 12/31 of the year following the year the IRA owner dies.</li> </ul>
<b>Notes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If the life expectancy option applies, and there are multiple beneficiaries, the life expectancy of the oldest beneficiary is used, unless the assets are split into separate accounts by 12/31 of the year following the year the IRA owner dies. Beneficiaries whose share is split into separate accounts may use their own life expectancies.</b></li> <li>• <b>When the decedent's life expectancy is used, it is determined in the year of death. When the non-spouse beneficiary's life-expectancy is used, it is determined in the year following the year the IRA owner dies.</b></li> </ul>	

SAMPLE FOR PREVIEW PURPOSES ONLY WEBSITE

**Special Rules for Spouse Beneficiaries**

- A spouse beneficiary who chooses the inherited IRA option can rollover the balance to his/her own IRA or other eligible retirement account at anytime.
- If a spouse beneficiary who is using his/her life expectancy to calculate post death distributions under the beneficiary-option subsequently dies, the successor beneficiary must switch to the non-recalculated method following the year the spouse beneficiary dies. This means that the spouse beneficiary's remaining life expectancy must be set in the year he/she dies, and 1(one) is subtracted for each subsequent year to determine the life expectancy that should be used by the successor beneficiary.

**Life-Expectancy Method and Determination**

- Recalculated means the life expectancy determined by referring to the single-life expectancy table each year.
- Non-recalculated means the life expectancy determined in the year of determination, and 1(one) is subtracted for each subsequent year- to determine the applicable life-expectancy.
- Year-of-determination means the year that the life-expectancy is determined.
- When life-expectancy is non-recalculated and the decedent's life-expectancy is being used, the year of determination is the year the IRA owner dies. When the beneficiary's life-expectancy is being used, the year of determination is the year following the year the IRA owner dies.
- When there are multiple beneficiaries, the life-expectancy of the oldest beneficiary is used, unless the assets are under separate accounting. 20% of the year following the year the IRA owner dies. If separate accounting occurs by the deadline, each beneficiary (for whom separate accounting occurs) may use his/her own life-expectancy.
- When the IRA owner dies before the required beginning date (RBD), the life-expectancy option is the default option under the required minimum distribution (RMD) regulations and most IRA plan documents. However, some IRA documents do not allow this, or may take the calendar date distribution. **The IRA document under which an IRA is held should be checked to determine the distribution options available to beneficiaries.**

**RMD for Year of Death Must be Satisfied by Beneficiary**

- If the IRA owner dies on or after the RBD and did not satisfy his/her RMD prior to death, the beneficiary must satisfy that RMD (for the year the IRA owner dies). That amount is reported under the beneficiary's tax identification number.

**Various deadlines**

- **9 months after the date the IRA owner died, or later if required, or the beneficiary reaches age 21.** Deadline to disclaim inherited assets. The disclaimer is valid only if it is received by the transferor of the interest, his/her legal representative, or the holder of the legal title to the property to which the interest relates by the 9 month deadline. Other requirements must also be met. These are explained in Internal Revenue Code (IRC) § 2518. An attorney should be consulted to determine if additional requirements apply under State law.
- **September 30, of the year following the year the IRA owner dies:** Deadline to determine designated beneficiaries whose life expectancy can be used to calculate post-death distributions. If there are multiple beneficiaries of an IRA, the oldest beneficiary's life expectancy is used to determine post-death RMD amounts, unless separate accounting occurs by December 31 of the year following the year the IRA owner dies. However, this applies only to beneficiaries who remain with assets under the IRA after the September 30 deadline. Beneficiaries who properly disclaim, or distribute their full share by September 30 are disregarded. If a charity or other non-person is one of multiple beneficiaries, a trustee or custodian of the trust or other entity distribute its share by the September 30 deadline, that it is disregarded in the event separate accounting does not occur by the deadline (see below).
- **October 31 of the year following the year of death:** Deadline by which trust documentation for a qualified/valid trust must be provided to the IRA custodian. If a trust satisfies the requirements as described under Treas. Reg. 1.401(a)(9)-4, A-5(b), a copy of the trust or qualifying documentation must be provided to the IRA custodian by the October 31 deadline, and must show the beneficiaries on record as of the September 30 deadline.
- **December 31 of the year following the year of death:** Deadline for separate accounting when there are multiple beneficiaries. Separate accounting by this deadline allows each beneficiary to use their own life expectancies. If the assets are not separated by this deadline, the life expectancy of the oldest beneficiaries must be used to determine post death RMD amounts.



## Roth IRA Owner Dies

### Spouse Beneficiary

- Rollover/transfer to own Roth IRA
- Distribute over own life expectancy, beginning by 12/31 of year after owner's death, or
- Five year rule

### Non-Spouse (person) beneficiary

- Distribute over own life expectancy, beginning by 12/31 of year after owner's death, or
- Five year rule

### Non-Person Beneficiary

- Five-year rule

\* Some Roth IRA agreements require the surviving spouse beneficiary to treat the Roth IRA as his/her own. The Roth IRA agreement should be consulted to determine the options available to the spouse beneficiary.

#### Spouse beneficiary

- **Move to own Roth IRA** via transfer or rollover
- **Life-expectancy Payments (Recalculated):** The assets are distributed over the single life expectancy of the surviving spouse, beginning 12/31 of the year following the year the Roth IRA owner dies
- **Five Year Option:** The assets must be fully distributed by December 31 of the 5<sup>th</sup> year following the year the Roth IRA owner dies.

#### Non-spouse beneficiary

- **Life-expectancy Payments (Non-Recalculated):** Distributions must begin by 12/31 of the year following the year the Roth IRA owner dies.
- **The Five Year Option:** The assets must be fully distributed by December 31 of the 5<sup>th</sup> year following the year the Roth IRA owner dies.

#### Non-person beneficiary

- **Five Year Option:** The assets must be fully distributed by December 31 of the 5<sup>th</sup> year following the year the Roth IRA owner dies.

#### Qualified trust beneficiary

- **Life-expectancy Payments:**
  - (a) If the surviving spouse is the sole beneficiary of the trust, the assets are distributed over the single life expectancy of the surviving spouse beneficiary (Recalculated), beginning 12/31 of the year following the year the Roth IRA owner dies.
  - (b) If the surviving spouse is not the sole primary beneficiary of the trust, distributions are based on the oldest beneficiary's life expectancy (Non-recalculated), and must begin by 12/31 of the year following the year the Roth IRA owner dies.
- **The Five Year Option:** The assets must be fully distributed by December 31 of the 5<sup>th</sup> year following the year the Roth IRA owner dies.

<sup>1</sup> Non-person beneficiary examples include an estate, charity, nonqualified trust



**Q: How should an inherited/beneficiary IRA be registered / titled?**

**A:** The IRA should include the names of the beneficiary and the decedent. The IRS gave the following example: "Bran Willow as beneficiary of Joan Maple", or a similar registration indicating that the IRA was once owned by Joan Maple. The word "beneficiary" may be abbreviated to read "bene." The tax identification number used for tax reporting of distributions which occur after the IRA owner's death must be that of the beneficiary.

**Q: What are the requirements that must be satisfied in order for a trust to be treated as a designated beneficiary?**

If a trust satisfies the following requirements, it is treated as a designated beneficiary and the life expectancy of the oldest beneficiary can be used to calculate RMD amounts:

1. The trust is a valid trust under state law, or would be treated for the fact that there is no corpus.
2. The trust is irrevocable or will be irrevocable upon the death of the IRA owner.
3. The beneficiaries of the trust who are named in the trust document to the IRA interest in the IRA are identifiable.
4. The trust document identifies the trust's contingent beneficiaries as of September 30 of the year following the year of death, is provided to the IRA custodian by October 31 of the year following the year-of-death. There must be an agreement to notify the IRA custodian of any future amendment made to the trust. As an alternative to providing a copy of the trust, the following can be provided:
  - a. A list of all of the beneficiaries of the trust (including contingent and remaindermen beneficiaries with a description of the conditions of entitlement, sufficient to establish whether the surviving spouse is the sole beneficiary for purposes of the RMD rules.
  - b. A certification from the trust to the IRA owner's knowledge, the list is correct and complete and that the requirements for the trust to qualify (as noted above) are satisfied ;
  - c. An agreement that , if the trust instrument is amended at any time in the future, the IRA owner will provide the IRA custodian/trustee with corrected certifications to the extent that the amendment changes any information previously certified, within a reasonable time; and
  - d. An agreement to provide the trust instrument to the IRA custodian/trustee upon demand.

**Q: If an IRA owner's primary beneficiary dies before him, and he subsequently had to name a new primary beneficiary, who is considered to be the beneficiary when he dies?**

**A:** It depends. If the IRA owner named contingent beneficiaries for the IRA, the contingent beneficiaries would be treated as the primary beneficiaries. If no contingent beneficiaries were named, the beneficiary would be determined under the default provisions of the IRA agreement. Some IRA agreements default to the estate of the decedent, in which case the IRA would have a non-personal trustee. Some default to the spouse, and a trustee has to provide that there is no surviving spouse, then the children of the IRA owner would be the beneficiary and if there are no surviving children, then the estate would be the beneficiary of the IRA.

**Q: How does a spouse beneficiary elect to treat inherited IRA assets as her/his own?**

**A:** The treat-as-own option, which applies only to a spouse who is the sole primary beneficiary of an IRA, means that the decedent's IRA balance is transferred to the surviving spouse's own non-inherited IRA, or by the surviving spouse re-designating the decedent's IRA as an IRA in his/her name and the decedent's name is removed from the account registration. The actual steps are determined by what is available under the financial institution's operational procedures. Alternatively the surviving spouse is required to have made the election if any RMD amount in the IRA that would be required to be distributed under the beneficiary option is not distributed within the applicable deadline, or the spouse makes contributions to the IRA. The result of the treat-as-own option is that the IRA is treated as if it was established and funded by the surviving spouse, instead of being inherited; for contributions and distribution purposes. The treat-as-own option is permitted to be made at any time after the IRA owner's date of death. In cases where the spouse is not the sole primary beneficiary, the same results can be achieved by rolling over the assets to the spouse's own IRA.

**Q: Are the distribution options for inherited IRAs the same as those that apply to traditional IRAs?**

**A:** No. Because RMD for IRAs which are not subject to the RMD rules, there is no RBD for Roth IRAs. Therefore, the distribution options for Roth IRAs are usually the same as those that apply to a traditional IRA when the owner dies before the RBD. The IRA agreement must be consulted to be sure, as the custodian ultimately determines whether they want to offer both the five-year and the life-expectancy options. Some IRA agreements limit a spouse beneficiary's options to treating the Roth IRA as his/her own, instead of choosing to treat the account as an inherited Roth IRA.

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## Portability Options for Inherited Assets from Employer Plans, Traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs

	To Traditional IRA		To Roth IRA		To Employer Plan Account		To Roth 401(k) & Roth 403(b)/457(b) Gov't	
	Spouse	Non-spouse	Spouse	Non-spouse	Spouse	Non-spouse	Spouse	Non-spouse
Employer Plan	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Roth 401(k) and Roth 403(b)/457(b) Gov't	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Traditional IRA	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Roth IRA	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

## Notes:

- The categories of spouse, nonspouse, qualified trust, and nonqualified trust refer to the type of beneficiary. For this purpose, an employee's plan includes a qualified retirement plan (401(k) and 403(b)) and government pension (403(b) plan). Reference to Traditional IRA includes SEP IRA, and if any deposits are made for at least one year, a SIMPLE IRA.
- A SIMPLE IRA can only receive contributions from another SIMPLE IRA.
- Assets must be rolled over in order to be rolled over to the beneficiary.
- Assets must be rolled over to an employer plan.
- Except for a spouse, a rollover from an employer plan to an inherited IRA or inherited Roth IRA must be a direct rollover— not a 60-day rollover.
- Assets that are being moved from a decedent's IRA to an inherited IRA of a non-spouse beneficiary must directly transferred— trustee-to-trustee.
- Except for after-tax balances, movement from a non-Roth account to a Roth account is treated as a taxable distribution.
- A qualified trust is defined in Treasury Regulations Section 1.401(a)(9)-6A.

<sup>1</sup> Surviving spouse must be a participant in the existing plan.

<sup>2</sup> Account must remain within the same employer's plan that held the deceased participant's assets.

<sup>3</sup> Plan cannot allow for an in-plan conversion.

<sup>4</sup> Transferred to a Roth conversion may be taxable. Spouse must first elect to use the inherited traditional IRA as his or her own IRA; see QMA for this issue!

<sup>5</sup> Verify that IRA agreement provides this option, and if not, the only option available to surviving spouse is to treat the Roth IRA as his or her own.

## Summary of Employee Benefit and Related Limits (2011-2010)

	2011	2010		2011	2010
<b>Elective Deferral Limits</b>			<b>Eligibility</b>	<b>Contribution Floor</b>	
401(k), 403(b), and SARSEP	\$16,500	\$16,500	Controlled ESA	Contribution limit	\$550
457(b) plan	\$5,500	\$5,500	Traditional IRA & Roth IRA		\$2,000*
SIMPLE IRA and SIMPLE 401(k)	\$7,500	\$7,500	Annual contribution limit		\$5,000
<b>Catch-Up Contributions (age 50)</b>			Catch-up contribution limit (age 50)		\$1,000
401(k), 403(b), 457, and SARSEP	\$5,500	\$5,500	Roth conversion income limit		None
Simple IRA and Simple 401(k)	\$2,500	\$2,500	<b>HSA - Health Savings Accounts</b>		
<b>Maximum Plan Compensation Cap</b>	\$215,000	\$215,000	Individual contribution limit		\$3,050
<b>\$415 Annual Limits</b>			Family contribution limit		\$6,150
Defined contribution plan	\$49,000	\$49,000	Catch-up contribution limit (age 55)		\$1,000
Defined benefit plan	\$195,000	\$195,000	<b>Bankruptcy Exemptions</b>		
<b>Highly Compensated Employees</b>	\$110,000	\$110,000	IRA exemption [§522(n)]		\$1,171,650
<b>Key Employees</b>	\$110,000	\$110,000	Traditional IRA exemption [§522(n)]		\$146,650
Officer compensation	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Health Savings Account (HSA)		
1% Owners	\$150,000	\$150,000	CAAR One (Employee/Spouse)		4.2% / 6.2%
<b>Gov't Plan Compensation Limit</b>	\$360,000	\$360,000	Medicare One (Employee/Employer)		1.45% / 1.45%
<b>Controlled Employee Limits</b>			FICA (Employee/Employer)		5.65% / 7.65%
§1.62-21(f)(5)(G)	\$95,000	\$95,000	SECA		13.3%
§1.62-21(f)(5)(ii)	\$125,000	\$125,000	State wage base (TX)		\$106,800
<b>ESOP Limits</b>			State wage base (CA)		\$106,800
Threshold account balance	\$985,000	\$985,000	Under full retirement age \$50 for \$2 reduction		\$14,160 /yr.
Normal additional periods	5	5	Attains full retirement age (\$1 for \$5 reduction)		\$37,680 /yr.
One year extension threshold	\$195,000	\$195,000	Over full retirement age		Unlimited
<b>IRA, Roth-IRA, and ESA Phase-out Ranges</b>					
			<b>Single 2010</b>	<b>Married Filing Jointly 2011</b>	<b>Married Filing Jointly 2010</b>
Traditional IRA - active participant	\$59,000 - \$69,000	\$59,000 - \$69,000	\$56,000 - \$66,000	\$90,000 - \$110,000	\$89,000 - \$109,000
Traditional IRA - only spouse active	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$169,000-\$179,000	\$167,000-\$177,000
Roth IRA - contributions	\$107,000 - \$122,000	\$105,000 - \$120,000	\$169,000 - \$179,000	\$167,000 - \$177,000	\$167,000 - \$177,000
Coverdell ESA - contributions	\$95,000 - \$110,000	\$95,000 - \$110,000	\$190,000 - \$220,000	\$190,000 - \$220,000	\$190,000 - \$220,000
<b>HSA Limitations</b>					
			<b>2011 Self-Only Coverage</b>	<b>2010 Self-Only Coverage</b>	<b>2010 Family Coverage</b>
HSA maximum contribution	\$3,050	\$3,050	\$3,050	\$3,050	\$6,150
HSA catch-up (age 55 by end of year)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
HEHP maximum annual deductible	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$2,400	\$1,200	\$2,400
HEHP maximum out-of-pocket	\$5,950	\$5,950	\$11,900	\$5,950	\$11,900

**Rollover  
Chart 2011**
**ROLLOVER TO**

	Qualified Plan	401(k) Plan	457(b) Plan (Governmental)	Thrift Savings Plan	Traditional IRA	SEP/IRA	SIMPLE IRA	Roth IRA	Coverdell ESA	Designated Roth Account
<b>Qualified Plan</b>	YES, if plan accepts. If rollover is after tax, it must be a direct rollover.	YES, if plan accepts. If rollover is after tax, it must be a direct rollover.	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES, if contribution is after tax, Form 8606 is required.	YES, if contribution is after tax, Form 8606 is required.	NO	YES, after 2007, as a conversion.	NO	YES, direct internal rollover for distributions after Sept. 27, 2010, if plan accepts.
<b>401(k) Plan</b>	YES, if plan accepts. If rollover is after tax, it must be a direct rollover.	YES, if plan accepts. If rollover is after tax, it must be a direct rollover.	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES, if contribution is after tax, Form 8606 is required.	YES, if contribution is after tax, Form 8606 is required.	NO	YES, after 2007, as a conversion.	NO	YES, direct internal rollover for distributions after Sept. 27, 2010, if plan accepts.
<b>457(b) Plan (Governmental)</b>	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES, if contribution is after tax, Form 8606 is required.	YES, if contribution is after tax, Form 8606 is required.	NO	YES, after 2007, as a conversion.	NO	YES, direct internal rollover for distributions after 2010, if plan accepts.
<b>Thrift Savings Plan</b>	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES, after 2007, as a conversion.	NO	NO
<b>Conduit IRA</b>	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES, if contribution is after tax, Form 8606 is required.	YES, but taxpayer should keep conduit IRA separate.	NO	YES, as a conversion.	NO	NO
<b>Traditional IRA and SEP IRA</b>	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES, if plan accepts. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES. No rollover of after-tax contributions allowed.	YES	YES	NO	YES, as a conversion.	NO	NO
<b>SIMPLE IRA</b>	YES, if plan accepts, only after 2 years.	YES, if plan accepts, only after 2 years.	YES, if plan accepts, only after 2 years.	YES, only after 2 years.	YES, only after 2 years.	YES, only after 2 years.	YES	YES, as a conversion after 2 yrs.	NO	NO
<b>Roth IRA</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
<b>Coverdell ESA</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
<b>Designated Roth Account (IRA)</b>	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES

# Traditional IRA Deductibility

Apply IRA Quick Reference Guide

Use this guide to determine an individual's eligibility to claim a tax deduction for a contribution to a Traditional IRA on his/her federal tax return.

## Traditional IRA Deductibility – For Tax Year 2011

Notes	Tax-Filing Status	MAGI	Allowed Deduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>100% means \$5,000, unless you will be at least age 50 by 12/31/2011, in which case it is \$6,000.</li><li>For individuals with partial deductions (less than 100%), formula must be used to determine the amount that you are eligible to deduct. See page 4.</li></ul>	Single	\$56,000 or less	100%
		\$56,000 - \$68,000	Partial
		\$68,000 or more	None
	Married filing jointly. If you are making the contribution as a non-active participant	\$90,000 or less	100%
		\$90,000 - \$110,000	Partial
		\$110,000 or more	None
	Married filing jointly. If you are making the contribution as an active participant, but you are not married to an active participant	\$169,000 or less	100%
		\$169,000 - \$179,000	Partial
		\$179,000 or more	None
	Married filing separately	Less than \$10,000	Partial
	\$10,000 or more	None	

*Note: This table should be read from the perspective of the person for whom the contribution is being made. For example, if you are making the contribution and your status is married filing jointly, you would say "I am married, and I am an active participant, so the \$90,000 to \$110,000 range would apply to me" or "I am married, and while I am not an active participant, I am married to an active participant, so the \$169,000 to \$179,000 range would apply to me."*

Regular contribution limit	\$5,000
Catch-up contribution limit	\$1,000
Contribution deadline	April 15, 2012
Age Limitation	Contributions are allowed to begin on the date the taxpayer attains age 70 1/2.
The general definition of an active participant is an individual who receives contributions or benefits under an employer sponsored plan. However, the rules concerning an active participant vary among the types of employer sponsored plans. The following explains how these rules apply to the different types of employer sponsored plans.	

### Determination of "Who is an Active Participant"

SEP IRA & profit sharing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You are an active participant for the year if the contribution is deposited to your profit sharing account. For instance, if the contribution is last year's deposit, then you are an active participant for last year. However, if the contribution is this year's deposit, but deposited to your account this year, then you are an active participant for this year. The general application of contributions for separate years are made in the same year, the contribution for the prior year is treated as if it were made to the account in the year of the deposit.</li></ul>
Money Purchase Pension Plan, Target Benefit Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You are an active participant for the year for which a forfeiture contribution is allocated, or a contribution is made regardless of when it is deposited to your account. For instance, if the contribution is for last year and deposited last year, then you are an active participant for last year. If the contribution is for last year, but deposited last year or about this year, you are an active participant for last year. <b>Note:</b> Even if you did not receive this year's required contribution, you are still considered an active participant for the year that it was required to have been made.</li></ul>
Defined Benefit Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You are an active participant if you are not excluded under the eligibility provisions of the plan for the plan year ending with or within your taxable year. This applies regardless of whether you elected to decline participation in the plan.</li></ul>
401(k), 403(b), SAR-SEP, SIMPLE IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You are an active participant if you elect to make salary deferral contributions to the plan. If you are eligible to make salary deferral contributions, but you do not elect to make contributions or forfeitures are made to your account for the prior year or this year, then you are not an active participant for that year.</li></ul>
Lesser Known Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Salary deferral participation only counts:</b> If you are an active participant for only a few weeks in the year, and/or your contributions only count to the date you are still contributing as an active participant.</li><li><b>You are an active participant if salary deferral is an excess:</b> If you make a salary deferral contribution and removed it because it was an excess contribution, you are still an active participant for the year.</li><li><b>You are active even if you don't own the contributions:</b> Non-IRA based employer sponsored plans can include a vesting schedule, which requires you to work with the employer for a number of years before you 'own' the employer contributions made to your account. If you leave that employer before meeting the service requirements, you forfeit those contributions. Even if those contributions are forfeitable, you are still considered an active participant for that year.</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> When April 15 falls on a public holiday or weekend, the deadline is extended until the next business day.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: How can I determine if I am eligible to deduct a contribution to my Traditional IRA?

**A:** The first step is to determine if you are an active participant, or married to an active participant. If you are not an active participant, and you are not married to an active participant, then the contribution is fully deductible. If you are an active participant, or married to an active participant, then the deductibility of the contribution is determined by your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) and tax-filing status.

The chart on page 1 shows the MAGI limits that apply to each tax-filing status, and when a deduction is allowed.

### Q: If I am eligible to claim a deduction for a Traditional IRA contribution, when I choose not to take the deduction?

**A:** Yes. You are not required to claim the deduction for a Traditional IRA contribution. You can choose to treat the amount as a nondeductible contribution by checking the "Nondeductible" box on Form 8879 and not claim the deduction on your tax return.

### Q: Are there any exceptions that would result in an individual not being an active participant?

**A:** Yes. Examples of exceptions that would result in you not being treated as an active participant for any taxable year include the following:

- You are covered only under a salary deferral retirement program.
- You receive only periodic and annuity payments from a previous employer's plan.
- The only reason for your participation in a plan is as a result of being a member of a reserve unit of the armed forces and both of the following conditions are met:
  1. The plan is established for its employees by:
    - a. The United States;
    - b. An organization established in a state or the District of Columbia;
    - c. An instrument of other (a) or (b) law.
  2. You serve no more than 90 days on active duty during the year (not counting training).
- The only reason you participate in a plan is because of being an volunteer firefighter and both of the following conditions are met:
  1. The plan is established for its employees by:
    - a. The United States;
    - b. An organization established in a state or the District of Columbia;
    - c. An instrument of other (a) or (b) law.
  2. Your annual retirement benefit for the year will be more than \$200 per year at retirement, when expressed as a single annuity payment at age 65.

### Q: I am 39 years old and eligible to deduct \$ 2,000 of my traditional IRA contribution. Can I contribute the difference to a Roth IRA?

**A:** Yes. You may contribute the difference of \$3,000 (\$5,000 - \$2,000) to your Roth IRA, provided you are eligible to make the Roth IRA contribution. Some individuals split their IRA contributions between both types of IRAs, in order to reap the benefits of both types of IRAs: the deductibility for the Traditional IRA contribution, if eligible, and the potential tax-free growth for the Roth IRA contribution.

### Q: What are the eligibility requirements for contributing to a Roth IRA?

**A:** You must have eligible compensation and your contribution limits are based on your age and MAGI, as indicated in the chart below. (100% up to \$5,000 or \$6,000 or less annually by 2011.)

Contribution eligible (in addition to being required to have eligible compensation/income).	Tax Filing Status	MAGI	Allowed Contribution
	Single	Less than \$50,000	100%
		\$50,000 - \$75,000	Partial
		\$75,000 or more	None
	Married filing jointly	\$100,000 or less	100%
		\$100,000 - \$175,000	Partial
		\$175,000 or more	None
Married filing separately	Less than \$10,000	Partial	
	\$10,000 or more	None	

**Q: If I am an active participant, does that affect my Roth IRA contribution in any way?**

**A:** No. Active participant status only affects your ability to deduct your IRA contribution. Since Roth IRA contributions are not deductible, it has no bearing on your Roth IRA contribution.

**Q: My tax filing status is "Married Filing Separately". Are there any exceptions that would allow me to use another tax-filing status thus enabling me to fall within a more favorable phase-out range?**

**A:** Yes. If you did not live with your spouse at any time during the year, you are eligible to use the phase-out range that applies to individuals who file as "single".

**Q: Can I take the deduction for my traditional IRA contributions and also receive the Saver's Credit?**

**A:** Yes. If you meet the eligibility requirements, you can claim both on your tax return.

**Q: What are the eligibility requirements for claiming the Saver's Credit?**

**A:** If your adjusted gross income (AGI) falls below certain amounts, you may be eligible to receive a nonrefundable tax credit of up to 50% of the IRA contributions and for any salary deferral contributions that you make for the year. This is referred to as the Saver's Tax Credit. The tax credit is capped at \$1,000. The credit percentage rate of the nonrefundable tax credit depends on your Modified AGI. The following table illustrates the percentages available for individuals within the indicated AGI range.

2011 AGI Thresholds for the Saver's Credit						
Credit Rate	Married and files a joint return		Files as head of household		Other category of filers	
	AGI Over	AGI Not Over	AGI Over	AGI Not Over	AGI Over	AGI Not Over
50%	\$0.00	\$34,000	\$0.00	\$25,500	\$0.00	\$17,000
20%	\$34,000	\$68,000	\$25,500	\$39.75	\$17,000	\$18,250
10%	\$68,000	\$136,000	\$39.75	\$42.75	\$18,250	\$28,250
0%	\$136,000	\$136,000	\$42.75		\$28,250	

Other requirements for receiving the credit include the following:

- You must be at least 18 years of age the year for which the credit is claimed
- You cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return
- You cannot be a full-time student

Refer to IRS Form 5405 for determining the amount of non-refundable tax credit you can claim. Instructions for when the credit should be filed along with your tax return.

**Distributions Can Reduce the Saver's Credit**

Certain distributions taken by you and/or your spouse can reduce the contribution eligibility for the Saver's credit. These include any taxable distribution from a retirement plan or IRA.

- That is received during the year in which the credit is claimed
- During the preceding year, or
- During the period at the end of the year for which the credit is claimed and before the due date for filing your tax return for that year

A distribution from a Roth IRA that is rolled over is taken into account for this reduction, even if the distribution is not taxable. Additional details on the Saver's Credit are available in IRS Announcement 2001-106, the instructions for Form 8880 and IRS Publication 590, which are available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

**Q: If I make a nondeductible contribution to my traditional IRA, how do I make sure that amount is not taxed when withdrawn from the IRA?**

**A:** You should file IRS Form 8606 with your return. Form 8606 lets the IRS know that the contribution is nondeductible and helps you determine the amount to keep track of the nondeductible amounts. Form 8606 prevents those amounts from being taxed when you withdraw from the IRA.

**Note:** Form 8606 should also be filed for any distribution that is taken from (or Roth IRA conversion made from) any of your Traditional, SEP or SIMPLE IRAs, for any year that you have nondeductible or after-tax amounts in any of your SEP or Traditional IRAs. This is so, because all of your Traditional, SEP and SIMPLE IRAs are treated as one IRA for purposes of determining the taxable portion of any distribution.

SAMPLE  
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PREVIEW  
PURPOSES  
ON  
WEBSITE

**Q: How is MAGI calculated for purposes of determining deductibility of IRA contribution?**

**A:** The following worksheet can be used to determine your MAGI for deducting your Traditional IRA Contribution.

**Worksheet: Figuring Your Modified AGI for Deduction of Traditional IRA Contributions**

1. Enter your adjusted gross income (AGI) from Form 1040, line 38; Form 1040A, line 22; or Form 1040NR, line 36
2. Enter any IRA deduction from Form 1040, line 32; Form 1040A, line 17; or Form 1040NR, line 31
3. Enter any student loan interest deduction from Form 1040, line 33; Form 1040A, line 18; or Form 1040NR, line 32
4. Enter any tuition and fees deduction from Form 1040, line 34, or Form 1040A, line 19
5. Enter any domestic production activities deduction from Form 1040, line 35, or Form 1040NR, line 33
6. Enter any foreign earned income exclusion and/or housing exclusion from Form 2555, line 45, or Form 2555-EZ, line 18
7. Enter any foreign housing exclusion from Form 2555, line 46
8. Enter any exclusion for savings bonds interest from Form 8879, line 14
9. Enter any excluded interest from Form 8878, line 10, or Form 8879, line 14
10. Add lines 1 through 9. This is your Modified AGI for traditional IRA purposes.

Source: www.irs.gov

**Important:** At the time these were printed, the line numbers used in the worksheet are as indicated above. Please use the worksheet provided on the publication, revised 12/11 to ensure that you are using the most current version. Please see the instructions for filing Form 1040, or Form 1040A, or Form 1040NR at 590 at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for specific details.

**Q: My modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) falls within the phase-out range for determining whether a Traditional IRA contribution is deductible. How do I determine the deductible amount?**

**A:** If you use tax-preparation software, it should calculate the deductible amount. If that's not available, the following formula can be used:

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Highest dollar limit of phase-out range - MAGI} \\ \text{Highest dollar limit of phase-out range} \end{array} \right] \times \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Contribution limit} \\ \text{Highest dollar limit of phase-out range} \end{array} \right] = \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Highest dollar limit of phase-out range} \\ \text{Lowest dollar limit of phase-out range} \end{array} \right]$$

**For Example:**

- Assume you are married and file a joint tax return.
- You are an active participant.
- Your spouse is an active participant.
- Your joint MAGI is \$110,000, which is within the phase-out range for an active participant.
- You are under the age of 65, which means the maximum possible contribution is \$5,000 for 2011.

You would determine the maximum deductible contribution amount as follows:

Highest dollar limit of phase-out range - MAGI	Contribution limit	Highest dollar limit of phase-out range	Lowest dollar limit of phase-out range
\$110,000 - \$100,000	\$5,000	\$110,000	\$90,000
\$10,000	\$5,000	\$20,000	
\$10,000	Answer = \$2,500		
The deductible amount is \$2,500.			

**Notes:**

- If the result is not divisible by \$10, round the amount up to the nearest \$10.
- If the deduction is between \$0 and \$200, you may round the amount up to \$200.

Disclaimer: These Quick Reference Guides cannot be used as substitution for tax advice. Individuals must consult with their tax professionals for assistance with choosing an IRA. This guide is intended to be used by tax, legal and financial professionals with their clients. This information must not be construed as tax or legal advice and is not intended to be used for the purpose of avoiding tax and/or penalties that may be imposed by the IRS or any other regulatory body.

USD \$19.79

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ACSTD V 2011.01



# Retirement Plans Portability

## Quick Reference Guide

Use this guide to determine whether assets can be moved between two types of retirement accounts, and get an overview of the general rules that apply to rollovers and transfers.

### Is Movement Permitted from Delivering to Receiving Plans/Accounts?

		Receiving Plans							
		Traditional (SEP) IRA	Roth IRA	SIMPLE IRA	Qualified Plan	Roth 401(k)/ Roth 403(b)	403(b)/ 457(b) <sup>1</sup>	ESA	529 Plan
Delivering Plans	Traditional (SEP) IRA	Yes	Yes	No	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No	Yes <sup>3</sup>	No	No
	Roth IRA <sup>4</sup>	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
	SIMPLE IRA <sup>5</sup>	Yes	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Yes <sup>2</sup>	No	Yes <sup>3</sup>	No	No
	Qualified Plan	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes <sup>6</sup>	Yes	No	No
	Roth 401(k)/ Roth 403(b)	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
	403(b)/ 457(b)	Yes	Yes	No	Yes <sup>2</sup>	Yes <sup>6</sup>	Yes	No	No
	ESA	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
529 Plan	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	

#### Notes:

- <sup>1</sup> All references to 457(b) plans include governmental 457(b) plans.
- <sup>2</sup> Rollovers to qualified plans are permitted by regulations, but are optional for each plan and allowed only if permitted under the plan document. Employees should check with their employers to determine if they can rollover assets to their accounts under a qualified plan. Qualified plans include 401(k), profit sharing and pension plans.
- <sup>3</sup> After-tax assets can be rolled over from qualified plans to 403(b) accounts, but not vice versa. As a direct rollover or indirect rollover. However, only direct rollovers of 403(b) accounts are permitted. Rollovers to qualified plans and/or a 403(b). After-tax assets cannot be rolled over from an IRA to any investment plan except another IRA.
- <sup>4</sup> Movement between accounts of the same type, such as from a Traditional IRA to Traditional IRA, Roth IRA to Roth IRA, can be done as non-reportable transfers or 60-day rollovers. Transfers are usually the recommended option, as they leave less room for errors and can be done for an unlimited number of times. Whereas there can only be one IRA-to-IRA distribution/rollover during a 12-month period, such rollovers are associated with a high occurrence of errors. These include missing the 60-day deadline and the funds being deposited into the wrong account.
- <sup>5</sup> Generally, non-reportable transfers can be done between two qualified plans, if both plans are maintained by the same employer.

<sup>1</sup> After-tax assets can be rolled over to 457(b) plans.

<sup>2</sup> As a Rollover Conversion.

<sup>3</sup> Cannot include after-tax amounts.

<sup>4</sup> Contributions and rollovers cannot be taken from a Roth IRA to Traditional and SEP IRAs, and conversions from a SIMPLE IRA can be recharacterized to a SIMPLE IRA.

<sup>5</sup> Assets from a SIMPLE IRA cannot be rolled over, transferred or converted to another type of retirement plan unless it has been at least two years since the first SIMPLE IRA contribution was made to the account.

<sup>6</sup> Qualified plan includes defined benefit, target benefit & money purchase pension, profit sharing and 401(k) plans.

<sup>7</sup> As a rollover conversion.

<sup>8</sup> As an in-plan conversion (within the same plan and if permitted under plan).

<sup>9</sup> A transfer can be made from a 457(b) or 403(b) plan to a governmental defined benefit plan for certain purchases of service credit.



## Rollover and Transfer Rules for Non-Spouse Beneficiaries

Type of Account you Inherit	Types of Accounts to which the inherited account can be		Important Reminders
	Transferred	Rolled-over	
<b>Traditional IRA, SEP IRA</b>	Traditional IRA, SEP IRA	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applies to individuals, non-persons and qualified trusts beneficiaries</li> </ul>
<b>SIMPLE IRA</b>	Traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applies to individuals, non-persons and qualified trusts beneficiaries</li> <li>As there is no exception provided to the SIMPLE IRA 2-year rule, the beneficiary must ensure that the 2-year requirement is met before transferring the assets to an account other than another SIMPLE IRA.</li> <li>Under the two-year rule, assets in a SIMPLE IRA cannot be moved to another type of retirement account until it has been at least two-years since the first SIMPLE IRA contribution was deposited to the SIMPLE IRA.</li> </ul>
<b>Roth IRA</b>	IRA	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roth IRA ordering rules apply</li> <li>The five-year period for determining if a distribution is qualified starts with when the owner established the Roth IRA. It does not restart with the beneficiary</li> <li>Applies to individuals, non-persons and qualified trusts beneficiaries</li> </ul>
<b>403(b)</b>	403(b)	Traditional IRA, Roth IRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The similar provision applies to individuals and qualified trusts. It does not apply to non-persons</li> <li>It is mandatory for employers to allow non-spouse beneficiaries to rollover inherited assets from qualified plans, 403(b) and 408(a) plans to IRAs as of 01/01/2010. The funds must be rollover eligible in order for the provider to occur. Funds that are not rollover eligible cannot be rolled over to any type of IRA.</li> <li>Excluded from income if rolled-over to a Traditional IRA or SEP IRA</li> <li>Included in income if rolled-over to a Roth IRA</li> </ul>
<b>457(b)</b>	457(b)	Traditional IRA, Roth IRA	
<b>Qualified plan</b>	Qualified plan	Traditional IRA, Roth IRA	

**Notes:**

- 'Transfer' means non-reportable movement of assets from the delivering account to the receiving account. Generally, the transfer is accomplished by means of an internal journal, or by delivery of the assets directly between two financial institutions. Transfers are non-reportable (not reported to the IRS and not reported on the individual's tax return) and non-taxable.
- 'Rollover' means that the assets from the delivering account are deposited to the receiving account as a rollover contribution. Distributions are reported on IRS Form 1099-R and rollovers are reported on IRS Form 5498. Since the assets do not become taxable rollovers, they are reported on non-taxable.
- The receiving accounts must be in the beneficiary's name. Non-spouse beneficiaries cannot transfer or rollover inherited retirement assets to their own retirement accounts. Inherited IRAs must be maintained in the names of the decedent and beneficiary, and under the tax identification number of the beneficiary. Tax reporting is done under the tax identification number of the beneficiary.
- Non-person beneficiaries include any beneficiary that is not a human being or a qualified trust. Examples include estates, charities, non-qualified trusts and schools.
- Generally, movement of assets to an inherited account under an employer plan, must be done from an account under the same plan.



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: If I am a non-spouse beneficiary who inherits assets from a 401(k) plan, can I rollover distributions from the 401(k) plan that were paid to me?**

**A:** No. Non-spouse beneficiaries cannot rollover amounts they receive as distributions from inherited retirement accounts. As such, if you want to rollover the amount to a Traditional IRA, SEP IRA or Roth IRA, you must ensure that it is done as a direct rollover.

**Q: If I inherit my Aunt's 401(k) account, can I keep the assets in the account and stretch distributions over my life-expectancy?**

**A:** It depends. In general, if you are the beneficiary of a 401(k) plan, you should consult with the Plan Administrator. Bear in mind that if your aunt died on or after her required minimum distribution date, the life expectancy over which you can stretch distributions is the longer of her life expectancy or her life expectancy if she died before her required beginning date, then you would be able to stretch distributions over your life expectancy. In the 401(k) plan, you may be able to stretch distributions over your life expectancy.

**Q: I inherited my 65 year old Aunt's 401(k) account and the 401(k) plan does not allow me to stretch distributions over my life-expectancy, instead, they want that I distribute the amount within five-years. Is there any solution available to me, unless I can stretch distributions over my life-expectancy?**

**A:** Yes. You can rollover the inherited amount to a Traditional IRA or Roth IRA that allows you to stretch distributions over your life expectancy, if the amount is paid to you. It is not eligible to be credited to another retirement account. As such, you must ensure that the rollover is done as a direct-rollover. With a direct-rollover, the funds are paid to the IRA Custodian/Trustee, for the benefit of your IRA. The IRA must be an inherited IRA, which is registered in your name and the name of your Aunt. The IRA custodian should not have any reporting purposes. **Deadline Alert:** In such a case, where the 401(k) does not allow to stretch, the direct-rollover must be completed by December 31 of the year that follows the year in which you received the distribution. If you miss this deadline, then you must follow the provisions under the 401(k) plan.

**Q: What is a rollover contribution?**

**A:** A rollover (or rollover contribution) is a re-deposit of assets that were withdrawn from a retirement account, such as an IRA, qualified plan, or 401(k) account to a similar retirement account. Distributions from these plans can also be rolled over to both IRAs. There are two types of rollovers: (i) indirect rollovers and (ii) direct rollovers. The withdrawal for both types are reported on Form 1099-R. In the case of indirect rollovers, if the receiving account is an IRA, the rollover contribution is reported on IRS Form 5498.

**Q: What is the difference between a direct rollover and an indirect rollover?**

**A:** A direct rollover involves two features: (i) it usually involves an employer plan, such as a qualified plan, 403(b) account or 457(b) account or (ii) distribution end, and (iii) the distributed assets are payable to the receiving custodian/trustee of another retirement plan, for the benefit of the participant. For instance, if the assets are being moved from a qualified plan to an IRA, the following is an example of how the payment would be reflected on the instrument of payment: "IRA FBO the Beneficiary as Custodian or ABC as Custodian for John Brown IRA". With an indirect rollover, the assets are distributed to the participant, who has up to 60-days after the date of receipt to rollover the amount to an eligible retirement plan.

**Q: What is a transfer?**

**A:** A transfer is a non-reportable transaction that is generally accounting between retirement accounts of the same type. For instance, from one Traditional IRA to another Traditional IRA. Assets are made payable to the receiving financial institution or plan for the benefit of the participant. The term trustee-to-trustee transfer is sometimes used to refer to a transfer. However, trustee-to-trustee transfer means the mode of delivery, where the funds are delivered and paid to the IRA Custodian or plan trustee FBO the owner, and therefore includes some reportable transactions such as direct rollovers and direct conversions.

**Q: Is there a limit on the number of times I can make a trustee-to-trustee transfer between my Traditional IRAs?**

**A:** No. Unlike rollovers between IRAs, there is no limit on the number of transfers between IRAs for any period.



**Q: Can I rollover a UK retirement account into my US retirement account?**

**A:** No. Retirement plans from foreign countries cannot be rolled over to US retirement plans. The US Tax code does not allow assets to be rolled over into a US retirement plan, unless the assets are rollover-eligible assets from an eligible retirement plan. For this purpose, an **eligible retirement plan is defined as** (a) qualified plans, which can be categorized as either a defined-benefit plan or defined-contribution plan. Defined-contribution plans include money-purchase pension, profit-sharing, 401(k), and stock bonus plans (b) Annuity plans described under 403(a) (c) 403(b) Tax-Sheltered Annuity or Custodial Account (d) Governmental 457(b) Plans maintained by an eligible employer (e) Traditional IRA/Account (f) Traditional IRA/Annuity.

**Q: I received \$100,000 in rollover eligible assets from my 401(k) account, but had the amount paid to me. My employer withheld 20% for federal tax, so I have tax to pay \$20,000. I want to rollover the entire \$100,000. Should my employer refund the amount that was withheld to me?**

**A:** No. Generally, when employer distributions are distributed from a qualified plan, 403(b) or 457(b) plan to the plan participant, instead of a direct rollover to an eligible retirement plan, the payer ( plan sponsor ) is required to withhold 20% for federal income tax, and if applicable, any state withholding tax. The amount that was withheld should be remitted to the federal government as an advance payment of taxes on your behalf. If you want to rollover the entire distribution amount of \$100,000, you will need to make up the amount withheld for taxes out of pocket. Alternatively, you may rollover only the \$80,000 and treat the \$20,000 as a regular distribution, which would then be treated as ordinary income on your tax return. If you were to rollover 99 % when the distribution occurred, you will owe the IRS an early distribution penalty of 10% on any taxable portion that was not rolled over unless an exception applies. The withheld taxes will either increase your federal tax refund or reduce the taxes that you owe for the year. Generally, the rollover must be completed within 60 days of you receiving the distribution. The amount that is timely rolled over will be tax and penalty free.

**The Portability Lingo**

<b>Direct rollover</b>	Distribution from a qualified (401(a)/408(a)) plan which is paid directly to a Traditional IRA, Roth IRA or another eligible retirement plan without it being deposited in a rollover contribution.	The distribution side is reported on IRS Form 1099-R. If the receiving account is a Roth, the rollover contribution is reported on Form 5498.
<b>Indirect rollover</b>	Distribution from a qualified (401(a)/457(b)) plan that is paid to the participant, and the participant later deposits the amount to a Traditional IRA, Roth IRA or other another eligible retirement account plan as a rollover contribution.	For a direct rollover, there is no time limit on when the rollover must be made, for IRS purposes. For an indirect rollover, the rollover must generally be completed within 60 days after the participant receives the distribution.
<b>Rollover</b>	A redeposit of assets that were withdrawn from a retirement plan/account by the account owner. The rollover can be the receiving side of a direct rollover, indirect rollover, or a redeposit of funds withdrawn from an IRA.	An indirect rollover includes direct and indirect rollovers. The rollover must generally be completed within 60-days after the participant receives the distribution.
<b>Transfer</b>	Generally refers to movement of assets between retirement accounts of the same type. Such as Traditional IRA to Traditional IRA. This transaction is usually <u>non-reportable</u> .	Assets are paid directly to the receiving plan, IRA custodian.
<b>Trustee-to-trustee transfer</b>	Refers to the "means of delivery", where the assets are paid directly to the receiving IRA Custodian/Trustee, employer plan, or entity such as in the case of a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Distribution (QCD) of funds from a participant's plan. With trust-to-trustee transfer, the individual participant to the account owner, trustee, employer plan, or Custodian/Trustee, employer plan, or entity as long as the instrument is payable directly to the Trustee/employer plan, or entity. Also used to refer to direct rollovers.	Assets are paid directly to the receiving plan, IRA custodian or entity such as a charity in the case of a QCD.

**Disclaimer:** Appleby Retirement Account Guide cannot be used as substitution for tax advice. Individuals must consult with their tax professionals for assistance with determining if a rollover is proper and/or beneficial. This information must not be construed as tax or legal advice and is not intended to be used for the purpose of avoiding tax and/or penalties that may be imposed by the IRS or any other regulatory body.



# Roth IRA Funding Options

Appleby IRA Quick Reference Guide

Use this guide to determine the different ways in which a Roth IRA can be funded.

## Seven(7) Roth IRA Funding Options- For Calendar Year 2011

### Option 1: Regular Roth IRA Contribution

- Dollar limit	\$5,000 (+ catch-up contribution of \$1,000 for individuals who are at least age 50 by the end of the year), or 100% of eligible compensation, whichever is less.		
- Contribution modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) limit and eligibility	<b>Tax filing Status</b>	<b>MAGI</b>	<b>Allowed amount</b>
	Single	\$15,000 or less	100%
	Married filing jointly	\$10,000 - \$16,000	Partial
		\$16,000 or more	None
	Married filing jointly	\$11,000 - \$17,000	100%
		\$17,000 - \$179,000	Partial
		\$179,000 or more	None
	Married filing separately	Less than \$10,000	Partial
		\$10,000 or more	None
- Contribution deadline	April 15, 2012		
- Age Limitation	No Age Limitation on contributions		
- Income requirement	Must have eligible compensation for the year, such as wages, salaries and self employment income		
- Deductibility	Not deductible		
- Cash requirement	Must be made in cash ( includes checks, money orders and other cash instruments)		
- Savers Credit Eligibility	Yes		

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Credit Rate	20% just three hours to the saver's credit					
	Married : if file a joint return	AGI Over	AGI Not Over	AGI Over	AGI Not Over	Other category of filers
50%	\$0.00	\$34,000	\$0.00	\$25,500	\$0.00	\$17,000
20%	\$34,000	\$38,500	\$36,500	\$27,375	\$17,000	\$18,250
10%	\$38,500	\$8,500	\$27,375	\$4,375	\$17,050	\$28,250
0%	\$8,500		\$27,375		\$28,250	

- Other requirements for receiving the credit apply. These include:
- The Roth IRA owner must be at least 18 years of age the first year for which the credit is claimed
  - The Roth IRA owner cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return
  - The Roth IRA owner cannot be a fulltime student

Refer to IRS Form 880 to determine the amount of credit for which the Roth IRA owner is eligible. Roth IRA owners who claim the credit should file a return along with their tax returns.

**Note:** Certain distributions taken by the Roth IRA owner and his or her spouse can reduce the contribution eligible for the savers credit.

### Option 2: Spousal Roth IRA contributions

- Eligibility	Some income that applies to a regular Roth IRA contribution (dollar limit, contribution modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) limit and eligibility, contribution deadline, age limitation, income requirement, and Saver's Credit Eligibility)		
- Additional requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribution is based on income received by working spouse, because the spouse receiving the contribution has little or no income</li> <li>- Spouses must file joint tax return</li> <li>- Roth IRA must be maintained separately from working spouse's Roth IRA</li> </ul>		

<sup>1</sup> When April 15 falls on a public holiday or weekend, the deadline is extended until the next business day.



### Option 3: Conversion from Traditional IRA, SEP IRA and SIMPLE IRA

Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Anyone can convert<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ No income requirement</li><li>➔ No income limitation</li><li>➔ No age limitation</li><li>➔ No limitations on tax filing status</li><li>➔ Conversion from SIMPLE IRA cannot be done until at least 2-years after SIMPLE has been funded</li><li>➔ Amount must be rollover eligible</li><li>➔ Not permitted for inherited IRAs</li><li>➔ Spouse beneficiaries who transfer or rollover inherited amounts to 'own' Traditional IRA can convert to a Roth IRA</li></ul></li></ul>
Conversion Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Direct Conversion<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ Assets paid directly from trustee of Traditional IRA, SEP IRA or SIMPLE IRA to custodian of Roth IRA</li></ul></li><li>- Rollover Conversion<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ Assets paid to Roth IRA owner and rolled over to Roth IRA within 60-days of receipt</li><li>➔ Once-per-12-month rule does not apply</li></ul></li></ul>
Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Rollover amounts must be taken <b>before</b> conversion</li><li>- All conversion amounts will be taxable</li><li>- The 10% early distribution penalty does not apply, regardless of the age at which the conversion is done</li><li>- Income taxes withheld from requested conversion amount are not treated as 'conversion' amounts, and are subject to the 10% early distribution penalty for conversions done while the owner is under age 59 1/2, unless an exception applies</li><li>- <b>Caution:</b> If the Roth IRA owner elects to make a withholding election, the withholding will default to 20%</li></ul>

### Option 4: Rollover/Conversion from qualified plan (401(a) and 403(a), 408(b) and governmental 457(b) plans) (non-Roth)

Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Anyone can convert<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ No income requirement</li><li>➔ No income limitation</li><li>➔ No age limitation</li><li>➔ No limitations on tax filing status</li><li>➔ Rollover/Conversion must meet plan eligibility requirements for rollover withdrawal from qualified plan in order to rollover</li><li>➔ Permitted for spouse and nonspouse beneficiaries</li><li>➔ Nonspouse beneficiary must rollover assets to inherited Roth IRAs. Spouse beneficiary can rollover assets to inherited Roth IRA or Roth IRA</li><li>➔ Amount must be rollover eligible</li></ul></li></ul>
Rollover/Conversion Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Direct Rollover/Conversion<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ Assets paid directly from plan to custodian of Roth IRA</li><li>➔ Not subject to the 20% mandatory withholding rule</li></ul></li><li>- Rollover/Conversion<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➔ Assets paid to Roth IRA owner and rolled over to Roth IRA within 60-days of receipt</li><li>➔ Payor must withhold 20% of taxable amount for federal income tax</li><li>➔ If the rollover is done by direct rollover, the 20% withholding tax rules also apply</li><li>➔ Once-per-12-month rule does not apply</li></ul></li></ul>
Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Rollover/Conversion must be taken <b>before</b> conversion/rollover</li><li>- All conversion amounts will be taxable</li><li>- The 10% early distribution penalty does not apply, regardless of the age at which the conversion is done</li><li>- Income taxes withheld from requested conversion amount are not treated as 'conversion' amounts, and are subject to the 10% early distribution penalty unless an exception applies</li></ul>



**Option 5: Rollover from Designated Roth Accounts (DRA)/Roth 401(k), Roth 403(b) and Roth Governmental 457(b)**

Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anyone can rollover           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ No income requirement</li> <li>➔ No age limitation</li> <li>➔ Individual must meet the plan's eligibility requirements for making withdrawals from the plan, in order to do the rollover</li> <li>➔ Permitted for spouse and nonspouse beneficiaries</li> <li>➔ Nonspouse beneficiary must rollover to inherited Roth IRAs</li> <li>➔ Spouse beneficiary can rollover to inherited Roth IRA or own Roth IRA</li> <li>➔ Amount must be rollover eligible</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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Rollover Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Direct Rollover           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Assets paid directly from plan to custodian of Roth IRA</li> <li>➔ No 20% mandatory withholding rule</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Indirect Rollover           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Assets paid to Roth IRA owner and rolled over to Roth IRA within 60-days of receipt</li> <li>➔ If distribution is nonqualified, 20% withholding applies to earnings portion</li> <li>➔ If distribution is qualified, not subject to the 20% mandatory withholding rule</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**Option 6: Rollover of a Contribution Made to Traditional IRA**

Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not subject to the dollar limit, contribution modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) limitation, contribution deadline, age limitation, income requirement, Savers Credit</li> <li>- Eligibility to apply to Regular Roth IRA contribution</li> </ul>
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Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must be completed by tax filing deadline (generally April 15); if tax return or tax filing extension is filed by tax return due date, an automatic 6-month extension applies (generally until October 15)</li> </ul>
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Reminders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The contribution can only be characterized by the same tax year for which it was made into a Traditional IRA</li> <li>- The recharacterized amount must include net income attributable (NIA) to the rollover (Roth IRA contributions are not subject to calculate NIA)</li> </ul>
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**Option 7: Deemed Roth IRA Contribution**

Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Same as those that apply to regular Roth IRA contributions (dollar limit, contribution modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) limitation, deadline, contribution deadline, age limitation, income requirement)</li> </ul>
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Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Voluntary contribution under a qualified plan, 401(k), 403(b), 408(a) and governmental 457(b)</li> <li>- Must be processed under the plan</li> </ul>
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**Allocation of Funding- For Purposes of Distribution Ordering Rules**

Category	Funding Sources
Roth IRA Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular Roth IRA contributions</li> <li>• Roth IRA Catch-up Contributions</li> <li>• Spousal IRA Contributions</li> <li>• Rollovers from a Roth 401(k), Roth 403(b), Roth Governmental 457(b) Plan, where the rollover amount is basis, i.e. from (a) a qualified distribution or (b) if the distribution is nonqualified, a distribution of the rollover amount</li> </ul>
Conversions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rollover from qualified plan, 401(k), 403(b) and governmental 457(b) plans</li> <li>• Rollover from qualified plan, 401(k), 403(b) and governmental 457(b) plans</li> </ul>
Earnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earnings on all funding sources</li> <li>• Rollover of earnings from a nonqualified distribution from a Roth 401(k), Roth 403(b), or governmental 457(b) plan</li> </ul>



## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: I want to contribute to a Roth IRA only if I am unable to deduct a Traditional IRA contribution. How do I determine if I am eligible to deduct a Traditional IRA contribution?**

The first step is to determine if you are an active participant, or married to an active participant.

- If you are not an active participant, and are not married to an active participant, then the Traditional IRA contribution is fully deductible.
- If you are an active participant, or married to an active participant, then the deductibility of the contribution is determined by your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) and tax-filing status.

The following chart shows the MAGI limits that apply to each tax-filing status, and when a deduction is allowed.

**Note:** 100% in this chart means \$5,000, unless you will be at least age 50 by 12/31/2010, in which case it means \$6,000.

Tax Filing Status	Phase-out Range (MAGI)	Phase-out Range (MAGI)	Allowed deduction
Single	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or less	100%
	\$50,000 - \$59,000	\$59,000 or more	Partial
Married filing jointly or a qualifying widow(er), and active participant	Less than \$90,000	\$90,000 or less	100%
	\$90,000 - \$110,000	\$110,000 or more	None
Married filing jointly, not active, but spouse is active	Less than \$100,000	\$100,000 or less	100%
	\$100,000 - \$179,000	\$179,000 or more	None
Married filing separately	Less than \$10,000	Less than \$10,000	Partial
	\$10,000 or more	\$10,000 or more	None

If you fall in the middle phase-out range for a particular filing status, you must be done to determine the amount that you are eligible to deduct. If you do choose, you may contribute the deductible amount to your Traditional IRA and the balance to your Roth IRA. Your aggregate contribution could not exceed \$5,000 or \$6,000 if you are at least age 50 by the end of the year.

**Q: If my MAGI falls within the phase-out range for Roth contribution eligibility how do I determine the amount I am eligible to contribute?**

**A:** If you use tax-preparation software, it will calculate the amount that you are eligible to contribute. If you want to calculate the amount manually, use the following steps:

1. Subtract the lower dollar amount in the range from your MAGI.
2. Divide the result by the difference between the lower and the higher amounts in the range.
3. Multiply the result by the maximum contribution amount in effect for you for the year.
4. Subtract the result from the maximum contribution amount in effect for you for the year.

The result is the amount you are eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA.

**For example:**

- Assume you are at least age 50 by the end of the year, which makes your maximum contribution \$5,000.
- Assume also that your MAGI is \$108,000 and your tax filing status is single which makes the applicable range \$107,000 to \$122,000.

Step 1	$108,000 - 107,000$	$= 3,000$
Step 2	$3,000 \div (122,000 - 107,000)$	$= .17647$
Step 3	$.17647 \times 5,000$	$= 882.35$
Step 4	$5,000 - 882.35$	$= 4,117.65$

You are eligible to contribute \$4,000 to your Roth IRA.

**Note:** if the result is not divisible by \$10, round the amount up to the nearest \$10.

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# Roth IRA Distribution: Tax and Penalty

Applicable IRA Quick Reference Guide

Use this guide to determine if a distribution from a Roth IRA is subject to federal income tax and/or the 10% early distribution penalty.

## How to Determine if Your Roth IRA Distribution is Subject to Income Tax and/or the 10% Penalty

	Source of Distributed Assets	Is Distribution Qualified *		Comments
		No	Yes	
Your distributions come from this source first	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular Roth IRA contributions &amp;</li> <li>Earnings from a Roth 401(k) or Roth 403(b) when the rollover amount is based on the portion of a qualified distribution or (b) if the distribution is non-qualified the amount is distributed to contributors (not earnings) unless conversion from traditional SEP and SIMPLE IRAs &amp;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tax Free</li> <li>Penalty Free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tax Free</li> <li>Penalty Free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since (a) no deduction was ever received for your regular Roth IRA contributions, and (b) a rollover of basis from a Roth 401(k)/Roth 403(b) was already a qualified distribution or represents Roth 401(k) or Roth 403(b) contributions, <b>then</b> distributions of these amounts are tax and penalty free, regardless of how soon they are withdrawn.</li> </ul>
Your distributions come from this source second on a First in First out (FIFO) basis. You never get to this source unless the first source has been depleted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Converted contributions from traditional SEP and SIMPLE IRAs &amp;</li> <li>Taxable Rollover from qualified plan, 403(b), 403(a), 404(a), 408(a), 408(b), 408(c), 408(d), 409(a), 409(b), 409(c), 409(d) &amp;</li> <li>Nontaxable Contributions from Traditional &amp; SEP IRAs &amp;</li> <li>Nontaxable Rollover from qualified plan, 403(b), 403(a), 404(a), 408(a), 408(b), 408(c), 408(d), 409(a), 409(b), 409(c), 409(d) &amp;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tax Free</li> <li>10% penalty applies if no exception</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tax Free</li> <li>Penalty Free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If it has been at least five years since the conversion was done, the 10% penalty does not apply to the non-qualified distribution</li> <li>Taxes do not apply, since any taxable amount was taxed at the time the amount was converted or rolled over to the Roth IRA</li> <li>These amounts come from nondeductible contributions to Traditional IRAs and rollovers of after-tax amounts from qualified plans and 403(b) accounts</li> <li>Since these amounts would not have been subject to the early distribution penalty if they were distributed from a Traditional IRA, they are not subject to the early distribution penalty when withdrawn from the Roth IRA, regardless of how soon they are withdrawn</li> </ul>
Your distributions come from this source last	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>among the sources &amp;</li> <li>Rollover of earnings from a nonqualified distribution from a Roth 401(k) or Roth 403(b)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tax applies</li> <li>10% penalty applies if no exception</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tax Free</li> <li>Penalty Free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This includes rollover of earnings from a non-qualified distribution from a Roth 401(k)/Roth 403(b)</li> </ul>

\* Qualified Distribution defined: A qualified distribution from a Roth IRA that meets the following two requirements:

- The distribution must occur at least five years after your first Roth IRA was funded, and
- The distribution must occur:
  - after your death,
  - as a result of you being disabled,
  - on or after the day that you reached age 59 1/2, or
  - if the amount is used towards the acquisition of, construction or reconstruction of a first time home of an eligible individual. This is limited to \$10,000 for your lifetime.

If you are eligible for a qualified distribution, then all of your Roth IRA distributions will be tax and penalty-free. As such, there is no need to keep track of the sources of funding for your Roth IRAs, since the only reason to do so is to determine if any amount of the distribution is subject to tax and/or the 10% early distribution penalty.

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## Tax and Penalty Determination on Non-qualified Distribution from a Roth IRA

If a distribution from a Roth IRA is not a qualified distribution, then the ordering rules must be applied to determine how much of the distribution is taxable and/or subject to the 10% early distribution penalty. Under the ordering rules, Roth IRA assets are distributed in the following order:

Order	Source of Funding	Comments
1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Regular Roth IRA contributions</li><li>Rollover of <u>basis</u> from a Roth 401(k) or Roth 403(b)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>These amounts are always tax-free and penalty-free</li><li>Basis from a Roth IRA or Roth 403(b) is from <b>(a)</b> a qualified distribution or <b>(b)</b> if the distribution is non-qualified, the amount is attributed to salary deferral contributions to the Roth IRA (not earnings)</li></ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Roth conversions from Traditional IRA, SEP IRA, and SIMPLE IRA</li><li>Rollover contributions from qualified plans, 403(b) accounts, 457(b) accounts, 403(a) accounts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You next go to the next category and distribute from all of your non-inherited Roth IRAs</li><li>These amounts are always tax-free, because any taxes owed were already paid at the time of conversion or rollover</li><li>If these amounts have been in your Roth IRA for at least five years, they are penalty-free</li><li>If these amounts have not been in your Roth IRA for at least five years, the 10% penalty applies, unless you qualify for an exception *</li><li>Each conversion or rollover has its own five-year clock and withdrawals cannot be made from a conversion done in a particular year, unless all conversions that occurred in prior years have been fully distributed from the Roth IRA. For example: Distributions from conversions that occurred in 2011 cannot occur until conversions from 2010 and previous years have been fully distributed</li><li>If a conversion or rollover to a Roth IRA includes pre-tax and after-tax amounts, the pre-tax amount is distributed first. For instance, if a conversion of \$200,000 includes \$20,000 pre-tax and \$180,000 after-tax, distributions will first occur from the \$80,000. After that amount has been depleted, distributions will then come from the remaining \$120,000</li></ul>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Earnings that accrue with the Roth IRA</li><li>The earnings portion of a rollover of a nonqualified distribution from a Roth 401(k) or a Roth 403(b)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You next go to these amounts less all of the amounts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> category and distributed from all of your non-inherited Roth IRAs</li><li>These amounts are subject to income tax</li><li>These amounts are subject to the 10% early distribution penalty unless you qualify for an exception.</li></ul>

### \*The exceptions to the 10% early distribution penalty:

A distribution from a Roth IRA is not subject to the 10% early distribution penalty, if one of the following exceptions is satisfied at the time the distribution occurs:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You are at least age 59½</li><li>You are disabled</li><li>You are permanently and totally disabled</li><li>The distribution is part of a substantially equal periodic payment (SEPP)</li><li>The amount is rolled over within 60-days of receipt</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>This amount is used for medical expenses that are more than 5% of your adjusted gross income (AGI)</li><li>The amount is for more than what you pay for medical insurance</li><li>The amount is used for qualified higher education expenses</li><li>The distribution is from a conversion that has aged at least five years</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The amount is used to buy, build or rebuild a first home</li><li>The distribution is as a result of an IRS levy on the IRA</li><li>The amount is a qualified reservist distribution</li><li>The amount comes from regular contributions or nontaxable conversions/rollovers</li></ul>
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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What are the ordering rules for Roth IRA distributions?

**A:** The ordering rules determine the order of the source of funding from which distributions are taken. Under these rules, distributions occur from funding sources in the following order:

1. **Contributions 1<sup>st</sup>**: You never get to the next source until these amounts are fully distributed
2. **Conversions and Rollovers 2<sup>nd</sup> FIFO**: You never get to the next source until these amounts are fully distributed
3. **Earnings 3<sup>rd</sup> (last)**: You never get to this source until all other amounts are fully distributed

All of your Roth IRAs are aggregated for this purpose (excluding inherited Roth IRAs)

### Q: Who is responsible for determining if my Roth IRA distribution is a 'qualified distribution' and if it is not, the source of the distribution is based on the ordering rules?

**A:** You, as the Roth IRA owner, are responsible for making that determination. It may be a good idea to maintain a database or some form of records to keep track of your source of funding, until you are eligible for a qualified distribution.

### Q: My aunt died and left her Roth IRA to me and my four cousins. She had her Roth IRA for less than five years, and we know that distributions are taxable to earnings will be taxable if distributed before the five year period. How do we share the responsibility for paying the taxes?

**A:** Each of you should receive a pro-rata share of each source of funding. Therefore, if you received 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the Roth IRA, you will pay taxes on 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the earnings, if the earnings are distributed before the five-year period. Bear in mind that you will never get to the earnings unless all other sources of funds have been distributed from your inherited Roth IRA. **Note** that if you have Roth IRAs that you established and owned during the five-year period for your own Roth IRAs and the five-year period for your Decedent's IRA do not start each other. The five-year period for your own Roth IRAs starts with the year that you had your first Roth IRA and the five-year period for the Roth IRA that you inherit carries over from the decedent. For instance if your Aunt established the Roth IRA that you inherited in 2011 year, the five-year period for that IRA starts January 1 of 2011. If you establish your first Roth IRA in 2010, the five-year period for your Roth IRA starts January 1 of 2010.

### Q: I made my first contribution to my Roth IRA in June of last year, I removed the contribution and the amount of earnings attributed to the contribution on April 1 of this year. In March 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, I made another contribution for this year, which I remain in the account. How do I have my Roth IRA? When does my five-year period start for purposes of determining if my Roth IRA distribution is qualified.

**A:** Contributions that are removed from your Roth IRA by your tax-filing deadline, plus extensions for the year for which the contribution was made are not treated for purposes of the five-year rule. Therefore, your five-year period starts January 1 of this year.

### Q: I had already made the requirements for a qualified distribution from my Roth 401(k) account. I established my first Roth IRA this year and rolled over the balance from my Roth 401(k) to my newly established Roth IRA. Does the five-year period for my Roth 401(k) carry over to my Roth IRA?

**A:** No. The five-year period for your Roth 401(k) is independent of the five-year period for your Roth IRA. Therefore, since your first Roth IRA was established this year, your five-year period for determining if a distribution from any of your Roth IRAs is qualified starts January 1 of this year.

### Q: I made a contribution to my Roth IRA in April 15<sup>th</sup> of last year, but it was not until last year, I also converted \$50,000 to the same Roth IRA this year. How does this affect the five-year period?

**A:** For purposes of determining if your Roth IRA distribution is a qualified distribution, the five-year period starts January 1 of last year, because that is the first year for which a Roth contribution or conversion occurred in any of your Roth IRAs. If your distribution is not qualified, and you need to withdraw amounts from your Roth conversions (which can occur only if you have already withdrawn all of your contributions), the five-year period for that conversion starts January 1 of this year.

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**Q:** I had a balance of \$100,000 in my Traditional IRA of which \$20,000 was attributed to nondeductible Traditional IRA contributions. I converted \$20,000 from my Traditional IRA to my Roth IRA earlier this year. Can I treat the entire conversion as nontaxable? If not, how does that affect distributions from my Roth IRA?

**A:** Whenever an individual has after-tax amounts in a Traditional IRA, any conversion from that Traditional IRA will include a pro-rated amount of pre-tax and after-tax assets. This rule applies even if you had the nontaxable amounts in a separate IRA, as all of your Traditional IRAs, SEP IRAs and SIMPLE IRAs are treated as one IRA for this purpose. Using your figures, this means that your conversion of \$20,000 includes a pre-tax amount of \$16,000 and after-tax amount of \$4,000. If you take distributions from your Roth IRA and the distribution includes conversion amounts (see page 2), your distribution will come from the pre-tax amount of \$16,000 first and then from the after-tax amount of \$4,000. If the distribution is nonqualified, and you do not qualify for an exception to the 10% early distribution penalty, you will pay the penalty on any distribution amount from the \$16,000.

**Example:** Assume that your Roth IRA includes the following amounts:

- \$5,000 regular contribution, \$10,000 converted amount and \$5,000 tax-deferred taxable and \$4,000 nontaxable from your Traditional IRA, after the conversion on the 30th day of 2011 + \$1,300 earnings
- **Scenario 1:** You take a non-qualified distribution of \$20,000 from your Roth IRA.
  - This will be tax and penalty-free because it is from your contributions, based on the ordering rules.
- **Scenario 2:** You take a non-qualified distribution of \$14,000 from your Roth IRA.
  - \$5,000 will be tax and penalty-free, because it is from your contributions, based on the ordering rules.
  - \$9,000 will be treated as coming from the \$16,000 of the \$20,000 that was taxed when the conversion was done since it is the first amount subject to the 10% early distribution penalty, unless (a) the distribution occurs five years after the conversion occurred or (b) you qualify for one of the exceptions to the penalty.
- **Scenario 3:** You take a non-qualified distribution of \$25,000.
  - \$5,000 will be tax and penalty-free, because it is from your contributions, based on the ordering rules.
  - \$16,000 is treated as having been taken from the taxable amount of the \$20,000 that was converted, so it will be tax-free, but will be subject to the 10% early distribution penalty, unless (a) the distribution occurs five years after the conversion occurred or (b) you qualify for one of the exceptions to the penalty.
  - \$4,000 is treated as having been taken from the nontaxable portion of the \$20,000 that was converted, so it will be tax-free and penalty-free.
- **Scenario 4:** You take a non-qualified distribution of \$30,000.
  - \$5,000 will be tax and penalty-free, because it is from your contributions, based on the ordering rules.
  - \$16,000 is treated as having been taken from the taxable amount of the \$20,000 that was converted, so it will be tax-free, but will be subject to the 10% early distribution penalty, unless (a) the distribution occurs five years after the conversion occurred or (b) you qualify for one of the exceptions to the penalty.
  - \$4,000 is treated as having been taken from the nontaxable portion of the \$20,000 that was converted, so it will be tax-free and penalty-free.
  - \$1,000 is treated as earnings that will be subject to the 10% early distribution penalty, and also be subject to the 10% early distribution penalty unless you qualify for one of the exceptions to the penalty.

**Important:** Conversions of after-tax amounts and rollover conversions in order to avoid paying ordinary taxes on the \$4,000, you must file IRS Form 8606. Form 8606 helps you to compute the non-taxable amount of the conversion, and lets the IRS know how much of the conversion is nontaxable. You must include a completed IRS Form 8606 when you file your tax return for the year that the conversion is done.

**Q:** I rolled over a non-qualified distribution from my Roth 401(k) to my Roth IRA, which represented my entire Roth 401(k) balance. However, the money had lost market value and was less than the total contributions I made over the years. How does this affect the ordering rules for my Roth IRA?

**A:** You are allowed to recover your basis from your Roth IRA. For instance, if your aggregate contributions to your Roth 401(k) was \$50,000, but the account value was \$40,000 when you rolled over the account balance to your Roth IRA, you are allowed to treat up to \$10,000 of your Roth IRA earnings as Roth IRA contributions for the purpose of the ordering rules. Keep a record of the source of the funds in your Roth IRA, and the amount that should not be taxed or be subject to the 10% early distribution penalty.

Your Roth IRA balance		Your Roth 401(k) balance	
Contributions	\$50,000	Contributions	\$50,000
Conversions	\$50,000	Earnings/losses	(\$10,000)
Earnings	\$5,000	Amount rolled over to your Roth IRA	\$40,000

Using these numbers, up to \$10,000 of the earnings in your Roth IRA will be tax and penalty-free, regardless of whether the distribution is qualified or not.

**Disclaimer:** Agency Retirement Account Guides cannot be used as substitution for tax advice. Individuals must consult with their tax professionals for assistance with tax related matters. This guide is intended to be used by professionals. This information must not be construed as tax or legal advice and is not intended to be used for the purpose of avoiding tax enforcement penalties that may be imposed by the IRS or any other regulatory body.

USD \$19.79



# Roth IRA Vs Traditional IRA

Appleby IRA Quick Reference Guide

Use this guide to determine the key differences between a Traditional IRA and a Roth IRA. This will provide some guidelines on determining individual eligibility and/or preference.

## Roth Vs Traditional IRA – For Calendar Year 2011

	Roth IRA			Traditional IRA
Regular contribution	\$5,000			\$5,000
Catch-up contribution	\$1,000			\$1,000
Contribution eligibility (In addition to being required to have eligible compensation/income)	<b>Tax filing Status</b>	<b>MAGI</b>	<b>Allowed amount</b>	Any individual who is under age 70 1/2 at the end of the year
	Single	\$17,000 or less	75% Partial	
	Married filing jointly	\$17,000 - \$18,000	None	
	Married filing jointly	\$18,000 - \$22,000	75% Partial	
	Married filing jointly	\$22,000 - \$28,000	None	
	Married filing jointly	\$28,000 - \$37,000	75% Partial	
	Married filing jointly	\$37,000 or more	None	
	Married filing jointly	Less than \$10,000	Partial	
	Married filing jointly	\$10,000 or more	None	
Contribution deadline	April 15 <sup>1</sup> , 2012			April 15 <sup>1</sup> , 2012
Deductibility	Contributions are nondeductible			<b>Tax filing Status</b>
• For Traditional IRAs, contributions are 100% deductible, if the individual is not an active participant or is married to an active participant.				<b>MAGI</b>
• The limits shown in the Traditional IRA column are for active participants				<b>Allowed deduction</b>
	Single	\$56,000 or less	100%	
	Married filing jointly	\$56,000 - \$66,000	Partial	
	Married filing jointly	\$66,000 or more	None	
	Married filing jointly	\$80,000 or less	100%	
	Married filing jointly	\$80,000 - \$110,000	Partial	
	Married filing jointly	\$110,000 or more	None	
	Married filing jointly	\$169,000 or less	100%	
	Married filing jointly	\$169,000 - \$179,000	Partial	
	Married filing jointly	\$179,000 or more	None	
	Married filing jointly	Less than \$10,000	Partial	
	Married filing jointly	\$10,000 or more	None	
Age Limitation	No Age limitation on contributions			No contributions allowed for 70 1/2 and over
Source of Funding	IRA Participant Contributions Rollover and transfers from other Roth IRAs Spousal IRA contributions			IRA Participant Contributions Rollover and Transfers from other Traditional IRAs, SEP and SIMPLE IRAs Spousal IRA contributions
Tax Credit	Available for Saver's Tax Credit			Available for Saver's Tax Credit
Treatment of earnings on IRA investments	Earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. However, qualified distributions of earnings are taxable and distributions are subject to the 10% early distribution penalty.			Earnings grow on a tax-deferred basis. Earnings are taxable as ordinary income for the year distributed.
Distributions Rules	Distributions may be taken anytime. Distributions are taxable if the individual is not qualified.			Distributions may be taken at anytime. Amounts will be treated as ordinary income, and will be subject to the early distribution penalty if withdrawn while under the age of 59 1/2, unless an exception applies.
Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)	Owners are <u>not</u> subject to the RMD rules. Beneficiaries are subject to RMD rules.			IRA owners must begin taking RMDs, as of April 1 of the year following the year they reach age 70 1/2. Beneficiaries are also subject to RMD rules.

<sup>1</sup> When April 15 falls on a public holiday or weekend, the deadline is extended until the next business day.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: I made a contribution to my Traditional IRA and later realized that I am ineligible to deduct the amount. Can I have it reversed and contributed to my Roth IRA?**

**A:** Yes. You can change the character of your IRA contribution from a Traditional IRA contribution to a Roth IRA contribution by recharacterizing the amount. The recharacterization must include any net-income-attributable (NIA) to the contribution. This means that the amount recharacterized must have attributable earnings added or losses subtracted. The original contribution to the Traditional IRA should be reported on IRS Form 5498. For the recharacterization, a 1099-R should be issued for the amount moved from the Traditional IRA and a 5498 should be issued for the amount recharacterized as a credit to the Roth IRA.

**Note:** A contribution can also be recharacterized from a Roth IRA to a Traditional IRA, if you find out that the eligibility requirements for the Roth IRA contribution were not met or simply because you prefer to treat the amount as a Traditional IRA contribution.

**Q: How is the NIA calculated on the amount being recharacterized?**

**A:** Consult your IRA custodian to determine if they will assist you with the calculation. If not, use the IRS provided formula available in IRS Publication 590 which can be found at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**Q: Can I recharacterize only a percentage of the contribution made to my Traditional IRA?**

**A:** Yes. The amount being recharacterized must include any NIA to the percentage being recharacterized. For instance, if only 50% of the contribution is being recharacterized, then NIA attributable to that 50% must be recharacterized.

**Q: What is the deadline for recharacterizing my IRA contribution?**

**A:** An IRA contribution must be recharacterized by your tax-filing deadline including extensions. If you file your tax return by your tax-filing due date, you receive an automatic extension of 6-months (usually until October 15) to recharacterize your IRA contribution. If you do not file your tax return by the IRS due date, you must be recharacterized by October 15, 2012.

**Q: I recharacterized a Roth IRA contribution to a Traditional IRA contribution in December of last year. Can it be reversed?**

**A:** No. Once a recharacterization is processed, it is irrevocable.

**Q: If I missed the deadline to recharacterize my Traditional IRA contribution to a Roth IRA, what are my alternatives?**

**A:** You can do either of the following:

- Leave the amount in the Traditional IRA as a deductible contribution, and attempt to claim the deduction.
- Leave the amount in the Traditional IRA as a non-deductible contribution, either because you want to treat it as a non-deductible contribution, or because you are ineligible to claim the deduction. If you treat it as a non-deductible contribution, you must file IRS Form 8606, to inform the IRS that the contribution is non-deductible. Form 8606 also keeps track of your alternate tax purposes, therefore ensuring that they are not taxed upon distribution.
- Convert the amount to a Roth IRA, if eligible. Any taxable portion of the conversion would be treated ordinary income for the year that the conversion occurs.

**Q: I made a contribution to my Traditional IRA for this year. Can I recharacterize the contribution for another year?**

**A:** No, a recharacterization must be done for the same year for which the contribution was made. Therefore, if your contribution was made for this year, it can only be recharacterized as a Roth IRA contribution for this year.

**Q: How should I notify my IRA custodian to recharacterize a contribution to an IRA?**

You should notify your IRA custodian in writing indicating that you are electing to recharacterize the contribution, on or before the deadline which allows the withdrawal from the Traditional IRA. It must include the following information:

- the type and amount of the contribution that is to be recharacterized,
- the date on which the contribution was made to the IRA, and the year for which it was made
- the account numbers between which the re-characterization should occur, and
- any additional information needed to effect the transfer.

Check with your Custodian to determine if they have any additional requirements.

**Q: I invested my Roth IRA contribution of \$5,000 in XYZ stocks, and have since sold those stocks and purchased some others. I have subsequently realized that I am ineligible for the Roth IRA contribution and would like to recharacterize the amount to my Traditional IRA. Do I need to recharacterize the XYZ stocks?**

**A:** No, you do not. When you calculate the NIA amount and add that amount to your Roth IRA contribution (or subtract the amount in the case of a loss), you simply need to recharacterize the total value (contribution + NIA) or (contribution - NIA). The new value can be recharacterized in cash, other assets, or a combination of cash and other assets. If the contribution is the only amount that was ever added to your Roth IRA, simply recharacterizing the entire balance - without the need to calculate the NIA - would be sufficient.

**Q: How do I determine if I am eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA?**

**A:** You should have no other compensation, and your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) should not exceed the amount indicated in the chart of page 10.

**Q: I am 45 years old and would like to make a contribution of up to \$2,000 to a Roth IRA. Can I contribute the difference to a Traditional IRA?**

**A:** Yes. You may contribute the difference of \$3,000 (\$5,000 - \$2,000) to your Traditional IRA. In fact, many individuals split their IRA contributions between both types of IRAs, in order to reap the benefits from both types of IRAs, i.e. the deductibility for the Traditional IRA, the eligibility, and the potential tax-free growth of the Roth IRA.

**Q: Can I contribute \$5,000 to my Traditional IRA and an additional \$5,000 to my Roth IRA?**

**A:** No. The contribution limit for an individual is not, a per-IRA limit. Therefore, the aggregate contributions cannot exceed \$5,000 or \$6,000 if you reach age 50 by year-end 2011.

**Q: I understand some individuals may be eligible for Saver's Tax Credit for contributions they make to their IRA. What are the requirements for receiving this credit?**

**A:** In order to be eligible for the Saver's Tax Credit, an individual's adjusted gross income must fall within the ranges indicated in the chart below. The applicable percentage of the credit is also indicated.

2011 AGI Thresholds for the Saver's Credit

Credit Rate	Married and files a joint return		Files as head of household		Other category of filers	
	Just Over	AGI Not Over	Just Over	AGI Not Over	Just Over	AGI Not Over
50%	\$3,000	\$34,000	\$3,000	\$28,000	\$3,000	\$17,000
20%	\$3,000	\$37,000	\$3,000	\$31,000	\$1,000	\$18,250
10%	\$3,500	\$43,000	\$27,375	\$42,000	\$1,000	\$28,250
0%	\$6,500		\$42,375			\$28,250

Other requirements for receiving the credit apply. These include the following:

- The individual must be at least 18 years of age the year for which the credit is claimed
- The individual must not be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return
- The individual must not be a full-time student

Refer to IRS Form 8880 to determine the amount of credit for which the individual is eligible. Individuals who claim the credit should file a copy along with their tax returns.

#### Distributions Can Reduce the Saver's Credit

Certain distributions taken by the individual at the time of the contribution can reduce the contribution eligible for the savers credit. These include any 10% early distributions from a Roth IRA:

- That are received during the year that the credit is claimed
- During the two preceding years, or
- During the period after the end of the year for which the credit is claimed and before the due date for filing the individual's tax return for that year.

A distribution from a Roth IRA that is not rolled over is taken into account for this reduction, even if the distribution is not taxable. Additional details on the Saver's Credit can be found in IRS Announcement 2001-106, which along with the instructions for Form 8880 and IRS Publication 590, are all available at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).



**Q: I want to contribute to a Roth IRA only if I am unable to deduct a Traditional IRA contribution. How do I determine if I am eligible to deduct a Traditional IRA contribution?**

The first step is to determine if you are an active participant, or married to an active participant.

- If you are not an active participant, and are not married to an active participant, then the Traditional IRA contribution is fully deductible.
- If you are an active participant, or married to an active participant, then the deductibility of the contribution is determined by your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) and tax-filing status.

The following chart shows the MAGI limits that apply to each tax-filing status, and when a deduction is allowed.

**Note:** 100% in this case means \$5,000, unless you will be at least age 50 by 12/31/2010, in which case it means \$6,000.

Tax Filing Status	2011 MAGI	2010 MAGI	Allowed deduction
Single	\$0 or less	\$5,000 or less	100%
	\$5,000-\$6,000	\$4,000-\$5,000	Partial
Married filing jointly or a qualifying widower, and active	\$90,000 or less	\$89,000 or less	100%
	\$90,000-\$110,000	\$89,000-\$109,000	Partial
Married filing jointly, not active, but spouse is active	\$110,000 or less	\$109,000 or more	100%
	\$110,000-\$179,000	\$167,000-\$177,000	Partial
Married filing separately	Less than \$10,000	Less than \$10,000	Partial
	\$10,000 or more	\$10,000 or more	None

If you fall in the middle, where you are eligible for a partial deduction, a calculation must be done to determine the amount that you are eligible to deduct. If you do not know your contribution, the deduction amount to your Traditional IRA and the balance to your Roth IRA. Your aggregate contribution should not exceed \$5,000 or \$6,000 if you are at least age 50 by the end of the year.

**Q: If my MAGI falls within the phase-out range for Roth contribution eligibility how do I determine the amount I am eligible to contribute?**

**A:** If you use tax-preparation software it should calculate the amount that you are eligible to contribute. If you want to calculate the amount yourself, use the following steps:

1. Subtract the lower dollar amount in the range from your MAGI
2. Divide the result by the difference between the lower and higher dollar amounts
3. Multiply the result by the maximum contribution amount in effect for you for the year
4. Subtract the result from the maximum contribution amount in effect for you for the year

The result is the amount you are allowed to contribute to a Roth IRA.

**For example:**

- Assume you are under age 50 by the end of the year, which makes your maximum contribution \$5,000
- Assume also that your MAGI is \$107,000 and your tax filing status is single which makes the applicable range \$107,000 to \$122,000.

Step 1  $110,000 - 107,000 = 3,000$

Step 2  $3,000 / (122,000 - 107,000) =$

$3,000 / 15,000 = .20$

Step 3  $.20 \times \$5,000 = \$1,000$

Step 4  $\$5,000 - \$1,000 = \$4,000$

You are eligible to contribute \$4,000 to a Roth IRA.

**Note:** If the result is not divisible by \$10, round the amount up to the nearest \$10.

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