

Child Credit Theft

Most people do not think of child identity theft as a problem, but a recent study by Javelin Strategy and Research found that there were over a million cases of child identity theft reported in 2017, resulting in \$2.6 billion of total losses, and that's just what was actually reported.

Children make for easy targets because they have a clean record and several years can pass before the theft is discovered.

Credit freezes are free, thanks to Congress' approval of the Dodd-Frank reform law. The law also requires credit bureaus to create and freeze files for children under 16 at their parents' request. Sixteen and 17-year-olds can request a freeze themselves, and files must be created if none exists.

Parents should be proactive and protect their child's Social Security number and consider running annual credit reports. Additionally, thieves can gather information from social media posts on sites like Facebook, Snap and Instagram to target individuals, so these should be monitored as well.

Celebrities Lack Planning

Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul, died this past August. While she left a vast history in the entertainment world, she did not leave a detailed estate plan. In fact, her attorney is quoted to having said that he "was after her for a number of years to do a trust, but never finalized any documents." Ms. Franklin passed away at the age of 76 after fighting pancreatic cancer leaving an approximately \$80 million estate for the probate court to sort through.

Along these same lines, in June, Prince the performer, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 57. He too left no last will and testament or estate plan in place and his estate

has been dragged through and contested in probate court.

Even though these people had teams of individuals assisting them with every aspect of life, several lessons can be learned from their absence of an estate plan.



Just as inadequate estate planning can result in increased taxes and financial uncertainty, adding to the stress of an already difficult situation, good planning can help ease the burden on loved ones.

Panic Selling is Never a Winner

June 23, 2018 was the two year anniversary of the "BREXIT" referendum vote that took place in the United Kingdom. When British voters surprised the world by voting in favor of the UK leaving the European Union, markets around the world panicked. As a reaction, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell almost 1,000 points in two days. The market then rallied and within two weeks the Dow was higher than where it stood before the UK referendum shocked the world's markets.

There is an old Wall Street adage that states "Never change long term plans because of short term events." Naturally, that is often easier said than done as the 24/7 news media cycle often magnifies the fear and negatives in order to sell papers and attract viewers. History teaches us that panic losses often provide the best buying opportunities. The "best" days in the market usually follow the "worst" days in the market. As the Dow Jones and S&P 500 currently trade close to the all-time highs,

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How old were the American Revolutionaries when the colonies declared independence from Britain in 1776?

Some were older, like Thomas Jefferson who was 33, John Hancock who was 39, or Benjamin Franklin who was 70. Others were shockingly young - even teenagers. James Monroe, for example, was 18 and Alexander Hamilton was 21.

Stock investors might be interested to know what portion of the U.S. market's long-term return is attributable to dividends, as opposed to price appreciation. The answer: 50.8%. Since 1871, the S&P 500's total return has been 8.89% on an annualized basis, versus 4.37% on a price-only basis. - MSN.com

It doesn't make sense to hire smart people and then tell them what to do; we hire smart people so they can tell us what to do.

- Steve Jobs

Continued from Panic Selling...

remember the S&P 500 experienced a 9.7% correction in late January and early February of this year. The memory of the devastating melt-down in 2008-2009 is still fresh in many investors' minds. Even then the market recovered and achieved new highs for those who realized that successful investing is based on time, not timing the stock markets. Good money managers know this and take advantage of these opportunities when they present themselves.

Panic is a human emotion that is difficult to "override" in the heat of the moment. There will be more surprise negative events at points in the future and panic selling will undoubtedly result. Remember that at those stressful times, smart

investors and money managers are probably buying investments "on sale" at values that will look very attractive at points in the future. History bears this out. ❖



Year-End Retirement Planning Reminders

- Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) must be taken by December 31st for applicable IRAs and for Qualified Plans. Liquidation instructions for GPTC Qualified Plan RMDs need to be received no later than November 30th to allow for liquidation and distribution prior to December 31st.
- GPTC must receive liquidation instructions no later than November 30th for plans that will be terminating in 2018 to allow for distributions prior to December 31st.
- For those plans that are terminating, GPTC can work with any plan participants to make the necessary arrangements to rollover distributions into new IRAs. Plan sponsors should contact their account executive for assistance.
- Deferrals to 401(k) plans for 2018 must be initiated by December 31st; however, due to some payroll cycles, funds may not reach plans until 2019. The maximum deferral amount for 2018 is \$18,500 (\$24,500 if age 50 or over).

Lessons Learned From Celebrities (continued from page1)

Lesson Number 1: If you desire privacy in your planning, you should strongly consider using a revocable living trust. A trust is established and funded with your property while you are alive, and upon your death the successor trustee distributes the property without the burden, or publicity, of the probate court. Additionally, since a trust avoids probate court, it is generally more efficient and settled faster. A successor trustee could be a competent and trusted family member or friend; however, often times people do not want to put that burden on one individual and thus name a trust company such as GPTC that specializes in this area.

Lesson Number 2: Keep Things up to Date. Estate plans should be reviewed and updated as necessary when significant events happen, such as the birth or death of a child; marriage or divorce; change in career or retirement; or significant change in the value of your estate. In addition, plans should be reviewed every three to five years to make sure that there have been no changes in the law or tax rules that will affect the plan, as well as changes in family circumstances. Failure to keep a plan up to date can lead to additional tax and legal costs and can increase the stress and burden on loved ones.

Federal law provides an estate tax exemption on the first \$11.18 million in an individual's estate, and an unlimited marital deduction for assets passing to a spouse. As a result, there is often no estate tax due upon the death of the first of a married couple to pass.

Lesson Number 3: Build Flexibility into the Plan. An estate plan should provide for foreseeable events, such as the birth or death of potential heirs. In addition, the plan should be flexible enough to allow the trustee or beneficiaries to address situations which may not have been considered. "Special trustees" or "trust protectors" can provide a way to modify the estate plan to address things like tax law changes that occur after death. Naming contingent beneficiaries can also be used with disclaimer planning to create flexibility in an estate plan and when establishing retirement plan beneficiaries.

Lesson Number 4: Consider establishing long term or lifetime trusts for your beneficiaries. Many trusts that were created 20 years ago or more, generally distributed everything outright to beneficiaries upon reaching ages 21-31. By keeping property in trust, rather than distributing it outright at a certain age, assets can be protected from things like creditors and bankruptcy, failed marriages, poor spending habits, and estate taxes. The assets can still be used for the beneficiary, and the beneficiary can even be given the ability to select the trustee. Multi-generational trusts, often called "Dynasty Trusts," can be used to protect future generations and shelter wealth from estate taxes.

An estate plan can be used to provide incentives to beneficiaries; authorizing increased distributions if the beneficiary demonstrates hard work, good grades, or whatever behavior is encouraged. Some view this as trying to "control from the grave," but rather than just putting limitations on distributions, instructions can be helpful to trustees and guardians in determining what is important and how assets should be spent.

Lesson Number 5: Leave clear instructions for your loved ones. Creating this type of instruction can be difficult. It is not found in the boilerplate language of most estate planning documents. But it can be helpful to both trustees, beneficiaries, and loved ones in making sure your estate plan accomplishes your goals, and passes on values other than money including setting forth funeral plans.

Unexpected death and disability happen to people every day. With no estate plan, or one that is out of date, a bad situation is made worse. If you have an estate plan, make sure it is up to date and that it will accomplish your goals. If you do not have a plan, we can help you begin the process of getting one set up. ❖

COLLECTIVE FUND PERFORMANCE

NET PERFORMANCE (9/30/2018)

PENSION FUNDS	YTD	ANNUALIZED 1 YR.	ANNUALIZED 3 YR.	ANNUALIZED 5 YR.	ANNUALIZED 10 YR.	ANNUALIZED 15 YR.	ANNUALIZED 20 YR.	ANNUALIZED 25 YR.
GPTC Large Cap Fund	13.49%	20.92%	16.56%	14.52%	12.99%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russell 1000 Growth Index	17.09%	26.30%	20.55%	16.58%	14.31%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Growth Fund	17.76%	24.76%	16.46%	12.67%	12.28%	10.05%	8.94%	N/A
Russell 1000 Growth Index	17.09%	26.30%	20.55%	16.58%	14.31%	10.67%	7.23%	N/A
GPTC Small Cap Fund	24.59%	29.26%	20.74%	10.19%	12.88%	11.10%	13.30%	N/A
Russell 2000 Growth Index	15.76%	21.06%	17.98%	12.14%	12.65%	10.61%	8.59%	N/A
GPTC Equity Fund	-1.37%	3.44%	6.01%	3.41%	7.59%	11.20%	12.12%	11.31%
S&P 500 Index	10.56%	17.91%	17.31%	13.95%	11.97%	9.65%	7.42%	9.81%
GPTC Discovery	11.17%	16.19%	15.86%	13.22%	15.31%	12.00%	11.89%	N/A
Russell Midcap Growth Index	13.38%	21.10%	16.65%	13.00%	13.46%	11.10%	9.41%	N/A
GPTC Mid Cap Fund	11.21%	15.32%	10.44%	8.56%	11.23%	9.46%	N/A	N/A
Russell Midcap Growth Index	13.38%	21.10%	16.65%	13.00%	13.46%	11.10%	N/A	N/A
GPTC International Fund	5.09%	7.69%	13.80%	7.76%	7.73%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Russell Global Ex-US Index (Net-USD)	-3.23%	1.88%	10.26%	4.54%	5.79%	N/A	N/A	N/A
GPTC Fixed Fund	-21.71%	-21.02%	-7.46%	-4.96%	5.31%	5.19%	5.76%	6.65%
BofA Merrill Lynch HY Master II Index	2.52%	2.94%	8.19%	5.54%	9.38%	7.64%	6.81%	7.30%

Past performance is not indicative of future results. Investments are not insured by the FDIC, are not deposits or other obligations of Great Plains Trust, and are not guaranteed by Great Plains Trust. Investments are subject to risk, including possible loss of principal invested. Performance for the GPTC Pension Funds are net of the 1% annual fee and include the reinvestment of interest and dividends.

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Trust and Asset Management

When you work with Great Plains, you're putting your wealth in the hands of real professionals, not just some algorithm. Real people who have built real wealth. Real businesses. Not just for our customers, but for ourselves. We know firsthand the hopes, fears, ambitions and challenges that individuals and small business owners in Kansas City and nationwide face. It's what makes Great Plains the first name in wealth management. And it's always on a first-name basis.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To be a premier provider of investment and trust services to the business owner and high net worth/income individual. We shall deliver responsive, reliable and informed service combined with a commitment to achieve superior long-term investment returns for our customers. We shall at all times deal honestly and respectfully with all clients and associates.

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