

*We at Great Plains Trust Company hope that you and your families are safe and well. We are monitoring the COVID-19 situation and we are mindful of our employees' and clients' health. We will continue to maintain GPTC's commitments to you.*

## 2020 RMD Rules Updated AGAIN by IRS on June 23, 2020

- 2020 Required Minimum Distributions, for all account types, have been waived for 2020.
- IRA owners who have taken any portion of their RMD so far in 2020 can roll the distribution back into the IRA by August 31, 2020. Prior to the new guidance only distributions taken after February 1st could be rolled over by a deadline of July 15th.
- Total of all monthly distributions taken can be repaid by August 31, 2020. The IRS has waived the one rollover per 12 month period for this situation. Prior to the new guidance, only one distribution was allowed to be rolled over.
- Beneficiary IRA distributions can be repaid by August 31, 2020. Prior to the new guidance, beneficiary IRA distributions could not be repaid.

## Trust Protectors

When it comes to a trust, most people that have a handle on the subject understand that it begins with someone creating the trust (grantor), someone who benefits from the trust (a beneficiary), and someone who controls or makes decisions regarding the trust (a trustee). A less well-known role of a trust is called a Trust Protector.

Originally, a Trust Protector was created to fire a trustee, presumably for irresponsible management of a trust and not upholding the fiduciary and legal duties required by the trust. Over time, however, this role has grown into something

more and can provide benefits for many trusts. The idea behind the Trust Protector is to have somebody who can watch over the trustee and ensure that the wishes of the grantor are carried out. A Trust Protector may need to amend the trust due to changes in the law or may need to terminate the trustee for misconduct and then appoint a new one.

In a traditional revocable trust, the role of a Trust Protector does not come into play while the grantor is still living because the grantor is generally acting as the Trustee and may also amend the

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## Online Statements

*With the current situation of COVID-19, consider switching your paper statements to online statements to ensure there is never an interruption or delay in receiving them. Along with saving paper, online statements are received more quickly and can be downloaded, saved, or printed at home. Please contact your Account Executive or email us at: [trustops@greatplainstrust.com](mailto:trustops@greatplainstrust.com).*

*If you are still receiving paper trade advices in the mail, please consider turning those off and signing up for online account services. On Trust Reporter you are able to view activity on a daily basis as well as view current holdings and account statements.*

## Caller ID Spoofing: What it is and How to Protect Yourself

Almost everyone has been on the receiving end of an unsolicited or unwanted phone call at some point. Most of the time, such calls are merely a nuisance. They can, however, be startling or even a bit scary:

“You must call the IRS immediately to avoid criminal prosecution,” or

“We have noticed highly suspicious activity concerning your bank account.”

When you check your caller ID, the call “matches up” and appears to be from a legitimate source. You are left wondering what to do and tempted to respond, just in case. Don’t do it without checking things out first.

Creating a fake caller ID is known as “caller ID spoofing” and you may be surprised by how easy it is to do. A common technique essentially involves visiting a website, creating an account, entering the number you wish to appear on the caller ID and the number to be called. The creator can be off and running for \$10 or less.

Often these calls are designed to come from sources the receiver will trust or be afraid to avoid, such as the IRS, other government entities, banks, hospitals or even a friend or relative. What the callers are looking for is personal information they can use to steal from you, such as a social security number.

What can you do to protect yourself from these calls?

1) If you answer the phone and the caller, or a recording, asks you to hit a button to stop getting calls, just hang up. Scammers often use this trick to identify potential targets.

2) Never give out personal information such as account numbers, social security numbers, passwords or other identifying information in response to unexpected calls.

3) If you receive a call from someone claiming to represent a government agency, hang up and call the phone number on the agency’s official website.

4) If you receive a call from someone claiming to represent a bank or other company you work with, hang up and call the phone number on your account statement or the company’s website. At Great Plains, you are always welcome to call us with any questions or concerns.

5) Be especially cautious if you feel pressured for information or immediate payment.

6) Check with your phone company about call-blocking tools or apps you can download to your phone. ❖

Reference: <https://www.fcc.gov/protect-yourself-social-security-number-spoofing-scams>, Federal Communications Commission, updated March 10, 2020; see also <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/spoofing-and-caller-id>, updated June 11, 2020.

## Trust Protector from page 1...

trust if needed. It is only after the death of the grantor when the trust becomes irrevocable that it may be important to utilize this planning tool.

A Trust Protector is commonly used in modern trust law and should be discussed with your estate planning attorney during the course of drafting your documents. Technically, the Trust Protector can be anyone, but it is generally an independent third party rather than a family member or a beneficiary, or obviously a trustee. Similar to a trustee, the role should be filled by somebody that you trust to oversee the decisions of trustee.

The trust document should also define the Trust Protector's powers. Often times it is expanded to provide some ability to amend a trust for changes in tax laws or other changes that may arise over the long duration of a trust and provide more flexibility for the trust to adapt to factual and legal changes.

A few of these changes might be to remove and

replace a trustee, allow the trust to be amended due to changes in the law, resolve disputes between trustees

or beneficiaries, change distributions from the trust based on changes in the beneficiary's lives, allow new beneficiaries to be added if there are additional descendants, or veto investment decisions.

Regardless of the power granted to the Trust Protector, the trust should be as specific as possible. The more specific it is, the more likely your wishes will be carried out. This can all be discussed and implemented with your attorney during the drafting stage and GPTC would be happy to consult with you. ❖



## Roll Over Your Retirement Funds to an IRA

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment claims have surpassed 40 million in the US. Many questions arise with such a large job loss count, including what to do with retirement savings such as your 401(k) plan. If you don't want to leave the funds in your former employer's plan, one option is to roll over the 401(k) plan to an IRA. Three benefits that result from doing a roll over from a plan to an IRA are as follows:

1) Your retirement savings can continue. Even if you are no longer employed, you might still be able to contribute funds to an IRA in order to preserve those dollars for your retirement.

2) You can avoid a tax hit. When times are tough, it may be tempting to hold on to any funds distributed to you from your employer plan; most retirement plan funds are taxable when distributed, and if you are under age 59 ½, a 10% early distribution penalty may apply.

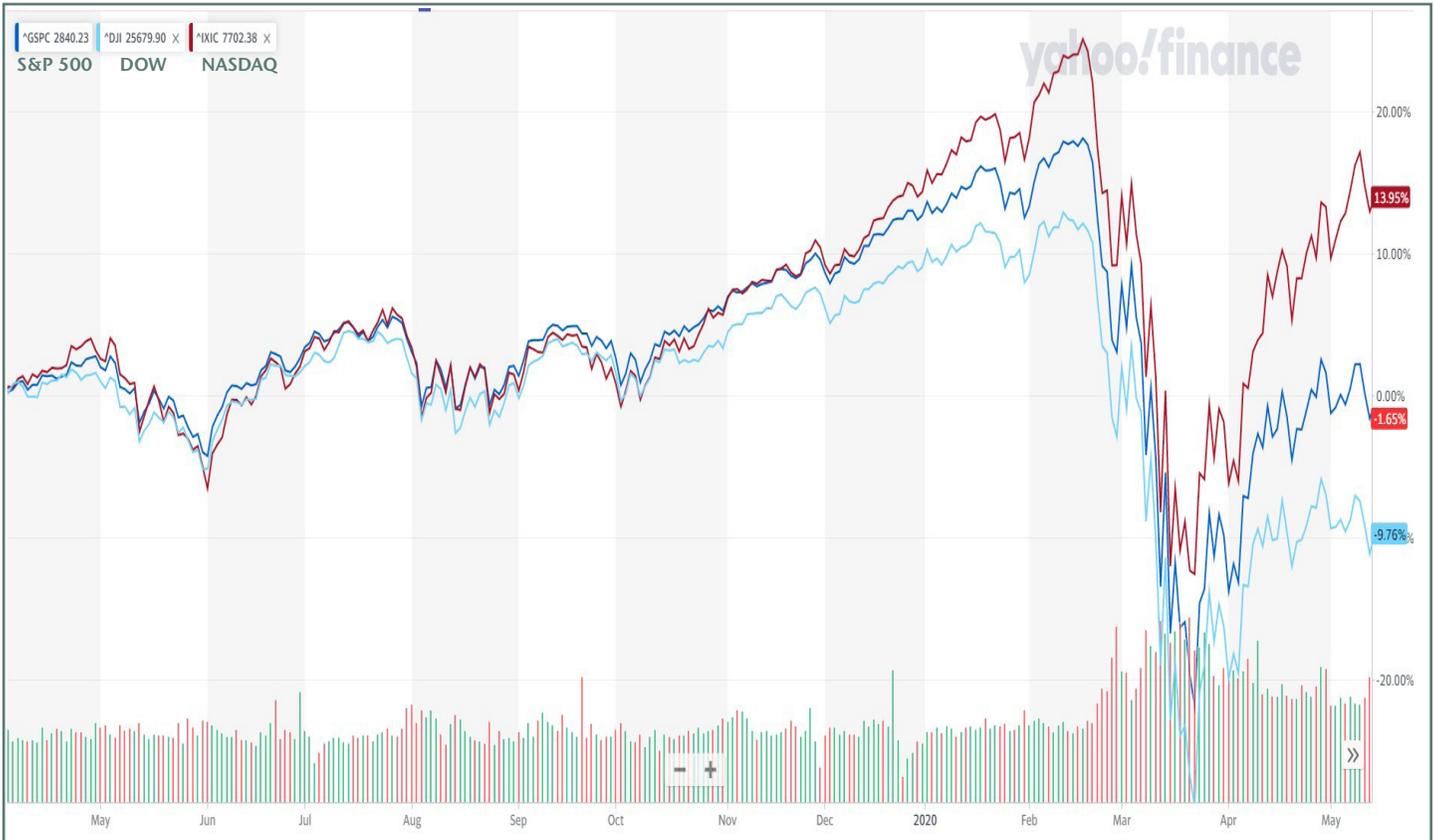
3) You can control how your retirement savings are invested. While employer plans may have some options, once funds have been rolled into an IRA, there are many more options that can be customized to fit you specifically. With funds in an IRA that is unique to you, GPTC is able to customize a portfolio that is specific to your needs and goals. ❖

## Annual Gifting

The annual gift tax exclusion was indexed for inflation beginning in 1997. The 2020 amount is \$15,000 per person. This means that you can gift anyone up to \$15,000 without breaking rules or incurring a tax liability. The \$15,000 amount can be given to an

unlimited number of people. In addition, you can make unlimited gifts in the form of tuition or other qualified educational expenses or medical expenses if you pay the learning institution or healthcare provider directly. ❖

# June 30, 2020 Market Performance - 1 year



Source: Yahoo!Finance

## GREAT PLAINS

*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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