

# Required Minimum Distributions

Making the right decisions about RMDs helps ensure tax efficiency and avoids penalties

## What is a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)?

An RMD is the minimum amount you must withdraw from retirement accounts (like IRAs or 401(k)s) starting at age 73, to avoid tax penalties.

## When do I need to start taking RMDs?

You must start RMDs by April 1 of the year following the year you turn 73. After that, withdrawals must be made by December 31 each year.

## How are RMDs calculated?

RMDs are calculated by dividing the account balance at the end of the prior year by a life expectancy factor from IRS tables.

## Can I take more than the RMD amount?

Yes, you can withdraw more than the required amount, but be aware that additional withdrawals are subject to income tax.

## What happens if I don't take my RMD?

If you fail to take your RMD, the IRS imposes a hefty penalty—50% of the amount you were supposed to withdraw.

## Are RMDs taxable?

Yes, RMDs are considered ordinary income and are subject to federal income tax. State taxes may also apply.

## Can I delay RMDs if I'm still working?

If you're still employed and have a 401(k) with your current employer, you may delay RMDs from that account until retirement.

## Do I have to take RMDs from every account?

Yes, you must take RMDs from each account, but you can aggregate RMDs from IRAs to withdraw from any single IRA.

## How do RMDs affect my retirement planning?

RMDs impact your retirement cash flow and tax strategy. You'll need to plan withdrawals to minimize taxes and ensure enough funds remain for future needs.

