



Plan Today to Secure your Tomorrow

Q&A

Question:

How does the Democrat's newly proposed tax bill affect the federal state and gift tax exclusion?

– Concerned Planner

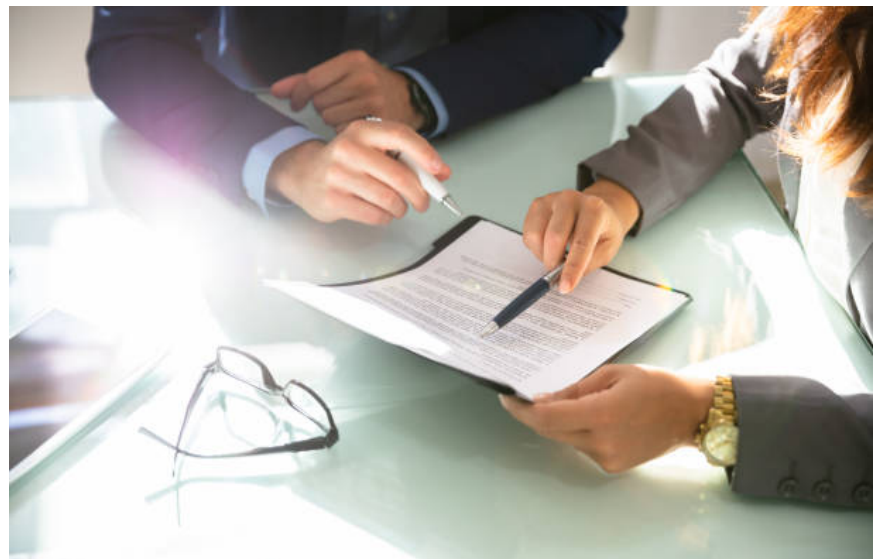
Answer:

Dear Planner,

The new bill would reduce the federal estate and gift tax exclusion from its current level of \$11.7 million for individuals and \$23.4 million for married couples to its 2010 level of \$5 million per individual, adjusted for inflation, which would bring the estate and gift tax exclusion to roughly \$6 million.

The proposed reduction would apply to estates of descendants who die or make gifts after December 31, 2021. This reduction would expose estates and gifts above the exclusion amount to a 40% federal estate tax.

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3 Questions To Ask Before Hiring An Estate Planning Lawyer

Since you'll be discussing topics like death, incapacity, and other frightening events, hiring an estate planning lawyer may feel intimidating—but it definitely doesn't have to be. Instead, it can be the most empowering decision you ever make.

The key to transforming the experience is to educate yourself first. This is the person who is going to be there for your family when you can't be, so you want to really understand who the lawyer is as a human, not just an attorney. Here are three questions to ask to ensure you get an attorney you can truly trust.

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If you have assets in excess of \$6 million, you should make any gifts before the end of the year to qualify for the higher exclusion rate. Some families may even want to consider making gifts before the legislation is passed due to the bill's proposed changes to certain types of trusts.

With this in mind, if your estate is over the \$6 million exemption, contact us, your Personal Family Lawyer® right away.



Super Easy Crockpot Broccoli Cheese Soup

- 2-3 large heads of broccoli
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 cans cream of chicken, potato, or mushroom soup
- 1 can milk (refill empty soup can)
- 2 12 ounce cans evaporated milk
- salt and pepper to taste
- cheddar cheese for topping

1. Chop broccoli into bite-sized florets.
2. Place soup, milk, evaporated milk, onion, and broccoli in a slow cooker. Cook on high for 4 hours or low for 6-8 hours.
3. Blend 3-4 cups of soup until broccoli has broken into small pieces, about 10 seconds. Add back to the pot and stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper and top with shredded cheese.

Recipe: www.pinchofyum.com

1. How do you bill for your services?

There's no reason you should be afraid to ask a lawyer how he or she bills for their work. When someone is hesitant to discuss billing, you could be in for some costly surprises. Find a lawyer who bills for their services on a flat-fee basis—and never on an hourly basis— unless it's required by the court.

2. How will you proactively communicate with me on an ongoing basis?

The sad truth is most lawyers do a terrible job of staying in regular communication with their clients. Unfortunately, most lawyers don't have the business systems set up for proactive communication, and they don't have the time to really get to know you or your family

3. What happens if you die or retire?

This is a critically important question. Sure, it may be uncomfortable to ask, but a true professional will have a plan to ensure their clients are taken care of no matter what happens to them.

A Lasting Relationship

Although hiring an estate planning lawyer may not seem like a super important decision, it's actually one of the most critical choices you can make. After all, this is the individual you are trusting to protect and provide for your loved ones in the event of life's most traumatic experiences.

As your Personal Family Lawyer®, we will develop a relationship with you and with your family that lasts not only for your lifetime, but for the lifetime of your children and their children, if that's your wish. To learn more about our systems and services, contact us today.

Thank you for referring our practice... We appreciate your trust in us and we will take great care of them. Here's this month's good word from one of our delighted clients:

"I would ONLY recommend Dalia at Legacy Life Plan to do your structuring and Wills. She is smart, sharp, patient and quick all the qualities you look for when writing and creating your documents. Hands down the easiest and best person I have ever worked with when creating a WILL and Trust for my parents."

- Happy Client

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Beyond the Food: Thanksgiving Rituals to Create Memories

Thanksgiving Rituals to Create Meaning and Memories

We have all had that moment. We spent hours preparing and then minutes eating, and then hours cleaning up. After so much anticipation and work, Thanksgiving, our yearly celebration of gratitude and family, can leave us feeling like something is missing. But often, tired, and filled up with turkey and stuffing, we are not sure what else we could possibly add.

Food Writer Jenny Rosenstrach of *Dinner: A Love Story*, uses the phrase Empty Celebration Syndrome (ECS) to describe that unshakable feeling that something is missing, even when each and every detail is perfect. And Jenny Rosenstrach, master of the family dinner, fears contracting ECS most with Thanksgiving! So, if you have suffered from ECS, fear suffering from ECS, or love every moment of Thanksgiving but just want to love it even more, read on for some small Thanksgiving rituals that create meaning and build memories beyond the gastrointestinal ones...

Take Notes of Past Thanksgiving Rituals

In her book "How to Celebrate Everything" Rosentrach suggests taking notes on the feast as a great way to remember what was done, what could be done better, and what should not be done again. Whether it be in diary form, or holiday journal, or just a legal pad you keep with the cookbooks, over the years you will build a treasury of details. This will help you remember food preferences and how many pies were too many, but more so, reading the notes, year after year, can provide great opportunities for reflection and laughter, and "oh I do remember that pie that caved in!" moments.

Gratitude Activity

We are often accustomed to going around the table and stating what we are thankful for...but take a creative turn by offering a Thanksgiving Mad lib for guests to fill out with each other and then read aloud. Or collect gratitude offerings on slips of paper to be read aloud at the table, allowing guests to guess to whom they belong.

Table Prayer

A prayer is a simple way to pause for a longer quiet moment before the meal. Assigning roles to the prayer beforehand gives guests a way to contribute and produces a more collective experience. There are a number of Table Prayers specifically designated for Thanksgiving, or consider writing your own as a host or as a group.

Say Something to Name the Moment

This role does not have to fall on the host, but someone who is willing should offer a few words contextualizing the meal. That's the way-too-many-syllables- way of saying that though yes, Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated throughout the United States, around your table, Thanksgiving is happening in a very particular way with this particular group of people. What does Thanksgiving mean here, today, this year?

Often this involves naming certain realities that do not feel light. Don't be afraid of that. Remember, on the first Thanksgiving the Pilgrims gathered with only half of the group that had first arrived in Plymouth. Realities are around us, naming them does not give them more power, it releases tension. And then you get to eat.

New Thanksgiving Rituals: Improv Hour

Do you have a gaggle of young cousins or a friend coming to your table? Consider giving them a project and some props or costumes. Preparing a sketch on Thanksgiving or - depending on your Creative Types - the topic of their choice occupies the group while final preparations are done and entertains turkey-satiated adults after dinner, creating meaning and memory on Thanksgiving.

Choosing a Thanksgiving ritual relies heavily on the culture of the group gathering. Is this a group that wants to sing together? Would costumes be weird? :) Would these guests appreciate a chance to pray or share or would they feel put on the spot? Think through your holiday dynamics and build collaboration beforehand. Greeting everyone at the door with "SURPRISE! Today we'll be sharing a high and low from each month of the year before we can eat" may not create the meaning and memories you had hoped.

Be committed to creating a ritual - America's Favorite Holiday feels like an enduring sweet spot in a culture overcome with busy-ness and buying. Celebrate being around the table together, with each other, once again. Don't leave with a full tummy, feeling empty.

Source: <https://familyapp.com/beyond-the-food-thanksgiving-rituals-to-create-memories/>

I have much to be thankful for - not the least of which is being able to serve my community. As my way of giving back and saying "thank you", I'm going to not only help you and your family but also help the less fortunate members of our community during this Thanksgiving season. A gift your family will thank you for ...for generations to come.

Here's something important you need to know that directly affects your family: To ensure your loved ones know exactly what to do and how to handle your things after you are gone, PLUS make sure your kids are taken care of by people you love if the unthinkable should happen...CALL NOW. Taking care of these things you've been putting off is how you show your loved ones your gratitude and appreciation this holiday season! If you own a home and have minor children, and make an appointment this month for a "Family Wealth Planning Session", I will waive my regular \$750 planning fee, plus make a donation of \$100 to our local food bank in your name.

During your FREE Planning Session you and your spouse will choose the right guardians for your kids and avoid making the six common mistakes! The Planning Session is absolutely FREE and there is NO OBLIGATION and NO PRESSURE. Plus, when you make an appointment now, I'll donate \$100.00 in your name to our local community food bank. So by taking care of YOUR family, you will also be taking care of a family who needs your help this holiday season.