

Planning for important money conversations

This tool will help you identify important money conversations to have with your family, document decisions you make, and plan steps to implement these decisions.

Taking care of day-to-day financial management often overshadows the time and need for important and, in many cases, longer-term financial conversations and decisions. You can make plans to make these important decisions by identifying the money conversations you need to have.

What to do

- **Read through each money conversation.** Conversations with family about money can include everything from the weekly shopping list to plans for retirement.
- **Put a check next to the conversations you need to have with those who help you manage your finances.** Use this to help you plan to set aside time to have these conversations and determine decisions you need to make.
- **Write down the decisions you make or additional information you need to make decisions.** Write down the next steps you need to take to implement your decisions.

A step further

Use these money conversations as the basis for setting goals and develop an agenda for productive conversations about money.

To access a dynamic and fillable version of this tool, visit consumerfinance.gov/your-money-your-goals/companion-guides.



Get prepared by **Planning for important money conversations**

1. Read each money conversation.
2. Put a check next to those conversations you need to have.
3. Write down the decisions you make or additional information you need to make decisions.
4. List the next steps to implement the decision under "action steps."

Money conversation	My decisions	Action steps if needed
<input type="checkbox"/> How will I make financial decisions if I'm out of the country, incapacitated, or during undisclosed assignments? Do I need to establish a power of attorney?		
<input type="checkbox"/> How will I cover expenses like debt payments during deployment or while on temporary duty?		
<input type="checkbox"/> How will I manage seen and unseen duty-related illness or injury?		
<input type="checkbox"/> How do I go about renting or buying a home in a Permanent Change of Station move?		
<input type="checkbox"/> How can I fund additional education or my children's education using the GI Bill?		

Money conversation	My decisions	Action steps if needed
<input type="checkbox"/> How can I save for retirement? Should I consider the Thrift Savings Plan or other options like an Individual Retirement Account?		
<input type="checkbox"/> How can I manage spouse unemployment or underemployment in both the short and long-term?		
<input type="checkbox"/> How can I plan for the care of dependent family members like my children, family members with disabilities, and aging parents?		
<input type="checkbox"/> How do I manage changes in income that may be temporary or permanent?		
<input type="checkbox"/> How can I plan for end of life decisions and expenses?		

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