COORDINATING THE WHOLE BOARD

CarriageGate Steward Risk Assessment SM

A short, non-scored self-assessment for responsible family stewards

Good plans can still fail when the major pieces are handled separately.

This assessment is designed to help you consider whether your retirement income, investments, tax strategy, risk management, and estate and legacy planning are coordinated to work together when it matters most.

How to complete this assessment

Choose the response that best describes your current situation. There is no score and no perfect answer — a response of Partly, No, or Not sure simply flags an area worth clarifying. No account numbers or sensitive financial information are needed. Most people complete it in 10–15 minutes. If you're completing this with a spouse or partner, each of you should fill out your own copy separately, without comparing notes.

When you're finished, save this PDF and email it back using the link on the last page — or bring a completed copy to your Vision & Values conversation.

Completed by: ____________________ **Date:** __________

ECONOMIC	REGULATORY	PHYSICAL	BEHAVIORAL
Markets, inflation, liquidity, longevity	Taxes, benefits, laws, ownership	Health, care, property, liability	Decisions, communication, coordination

ECONOMIC

How markets, inflation, liquidity, longevity, and income design may affect the plan.

1. Do you have a documented plan for covering essential retirement spending during an extended market decline — particularly early in retirement — without being forced to sell investments at an unfavorable time?

Why it matters: The order of market returns can materially affect retirement outcomes even when long-term average returns look reasonable.

○ Yes — coordinated and current ○ Partly ○ No ○ Not sure ○ N/A

2. Are your investments, cash reserves, guaranteed income sources, and withdrawal strategy coordinated to address longevity, inflation, and changing spending needs?

Why it matters: A portfolio can look diversified and still be poorly aligned with the household's income obligations and time horizon.

○ Yes — coordinated and current ○ Partly ○ No ○ Not sure ○ N/A

3. Do you have a documented strategy for any meaningful concentration in a single stock, business, rental property, private investment, or other illiquid asset?

Why it matters: Concentrated or illiquid wealth can limit flexibility precisely when capital is needed most.

○ Yes — coordinated and current ○ Partly ○ No ○ Not sure ○ N/A

REGULATORY

How taxes, benefits, laws, account ownership, and estate structures may interact.

4. Do you have a multi-year tax strategy that coordinates Roth conversions, required minimum distributions, Social Security taxation, capital gains, charitable giving, and withdrawal sequencing?

Why it matters: Managing one tax year at a time can create avoidable lifetime tax costs and missed planning windows.

○ Yes — coordinated and current ○ Partly ○ No ○ Not sure ○ N/A

5. Have Social Security timing, Medicare premium exposure, pension or annuity elections, and survivor income been analyzed together?

Why it matters: These decisions interact — optimizing one in isolation can weaken the overall retirement-income plan.

○ Yes — coordinated and current ○ Partly ○ No ○ Not sure ○ N/A

6. Are your estate documents, account ownership, and beneficiary designations current and aligned with your intentions — including blended-family, special-needs, business-succession, or out-of-state property issues where applicable?

Why it matters: Documents, titling, and beneficiary forms can produce conflicting outcomes unless reviewed as one system.

○ Yes — coordinated and current ○ Partly ○ No ○ Not sure ○ N/A

PHYSICAL

How health events, care needs, property, liability, and operational readiness may affect the family.

7. Have your umbrella liability, homeowners replacement-cost, auto, rental or vacation property, recreational asset, and cyber protections been reviewed against your current assets and exposures?

Why it matters: Property, liability, and cyber risks can threaten assets regardless of how well the investment portfolio performs.

○ Yes — coordinated and current ○ Partly ○ No ○ Not sure ○ N/A

8. Have you decided how an extended disability, major illness, or long-term care need would be funded without unnecessarily undermining the other spouse's security or the family's legacy?

Why it matters: A prolonged care or health event can redirect income and assets unless the funding approach is considered in advance.

○ Yes — coordinated and current ○ Partly ○ No ○ Not sure ○ N/A

9. Could the right person quickly locate your accounts, policies, estate documents, advisors, passwords or access instructions, and emergency contacts if you were unable to act?

Why it matters: A technically sound plan can still fail when essential information is unavailable during an emergency.

◯ Yes — coordinated and current ◯ Partly ◯ No ◯ Not sure ◯ N/A

BEHAVIORAL

How communication, coordination, and decision-making may strengthen or weaken otherwise sound planning.

10. Are your investment, income, tax, insurance, and legacy decisions reviewed together through one coordinated process rather than handled independently?

Why it matters: Many expensive planning errors occur between professional silos, not within any single plan component.

◯ Yes — coordinated and current ◯ Partly ◯ No ◯ Not sure ◯ N/A

11. Does your spouse, partner, or chosen successor understand the plan well enough to carry it forward and know when to involve your advisors?

Why it matters: Family readiness and decision continuity matter most when the primary financial decision-maker is unavailable.

◯ Yes — coordinated and current ◯ Partly ◯ No ◯ Not sure ◯ N/A

12. Do you have a clear decision-making process for periods of market stress, family pressure, incapacity, or major life change, so important choices aren't made reactively or in isolation?

Why it matters: Behavioral risk often shows up when uncertainty is high and normal decision processes break down.

◯ Yes — coordinated and current ◯ Partly ◯ No ◯ Not sure ◯ N/A

Your whole-board view

Use these final questions to identify what deserves the most attention — not to produce a score.

How confident are you that your plan's major pieces would work together if tested today — by a market decline, a health event, or your own absence?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

1 = not at all confident *10 = fully confident*

Which one to three areas would be most useful to clarify?

What matters most for your plan to protect — your lifestyle, your spouse or family, your business, your independence, your legacy, or something else?

Is there a concern or unresolved decision that wasn't covered above?

Using this assessment

BEFORE YOUR CONVERSATION

Complete this assessment on your own. There's no need to gather statements or account numbers — your honest first read is enough. Bring it with you, or return it in advance so we can focus the conversation on what matters most to you.

AFTER YOUR CONVERSATION

Keep this copy. It's a record of where things stood and what we discussed — not a static form. Revisit it after a major life change, a market event, or once a year, to see what's moved.

A POSSIBLE NEXT STEP

A Vision & Values Conversation is a brief, no-obligation discussion to explore whether the CarriageGate Steward Retirement Program℠ is appropriate for your situation. It is not a sales presentation, and it does not require account statements or sensitive personal information.

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IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES

The CarriageGate Steward Risk Assessment is provided for educational purposes only. It is a general self-assessment and does not constitute personalized financial, investment, tax, legal, estate-planning, or insurance advice. It does not identify every potential risk or determine whether any strategy, product, or professional service is appropriate for a particular person. Any recommendations require a separate review of your circumstances by appropriately qualified professionals. CarriageGate Wealth Management and LPL Financial do not provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your tax or legal professional regarding your specific situation.

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