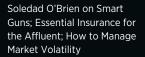




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VOLUME 25 | EDITION 02

# What are some formal and informal ways to engage the next generation?

BY MATTHEW A. HELFRICH



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TEAM

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FINANCIAL SERVICES EXPERIENCE 112+ years (combined) ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT \$1.1 billion (as of 12/31/2014)

MINIMUM FEE FOR INITIAL MEETING None required

MINIMUM NET WORTH REQUIREMENT \$5 million

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LARGEST CLIENT NET WORTH Confidential

COMPENSATION METHOD Asset-based (investment services), hourly and fixed fees

#### PRIMARY CUSTODIANS FOR INVESTOR ASSETS

Fidelity Family Office Services and Pershing

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES PROVIDED

Planning and investment advisory services

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Allow the next generation to help plan

for these conversations. This could be as informal as picking out the restaurant for

the initial conversation, or as involved as

researching and booking the trip for the

responsibility and creating accountability

conveys a sense of worth and shows your confidence in family members' decision-

making. It also creates a valuable sense

next family-meeting getaway. Giving



e have all seen the number: \$30 trillion. Put it into Google and see how many hits you get; I just got 616,000.

According to an oft-cited 2012 report from Accenture, \$30 trillion is the amount of wealth the baby boomer generation will be transitioning to Generation X and millennials over the next 30 years.

Then there are **70 percent** and **90 percent.** These are the numbers cited by Roy Williams and Vic Preisser, founders of the Institute for Preparing Heirs, that represent the failure rates for wealth transfer between generations.

And those figures couldn't be more startling: 70 percent of the nation's wealthy will see their wealth disappear by the end of the second generation, and 90 percent will see it disappear by the end of the third.

As advisors, we often find ourselves at the center of engagement between parents and their children as it relates to developing a plan for successfully transferring wealth. In that context, we have found the following strategies beneficial as we work to engage multiple generations in conversations about family wealth.

#### **BE INTENTIONAL AND PURPOSEFUL**

Do not have the conversation in the

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car on the way to the ball game or during a period of high emotion. Create a setting that is thought through. Put a quick agenda in place, and communicate that everyone is expected to contribute. Send the agenda in advance with a quick email. These meetings are about co-creating expectations and setting up a family vision, and the outcomes typically benefit from allowing participants the opportunity for advanced thought and preparation.

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Giving responsibility and creating accountability conveys a sense of worth and shows your confidence in family members' decision-making.

MAKE IT FUN

#### **BE TRANSPARENT**

Withholding information creates an environment of mistrust. The information age is powerful, and we live in a search and discover world. So while your next generation probably has a good idea of your wealth, and likely do not understand the liquidity implications. Being open about these factors helps establish realistic expectations. And talking openly about your wealth and its challenges shows that you care about the success of future generations.

#### **CREATE BOUNDARIES**

Being transparent doesn't change the golden rule; whoever has the gold still makes the rules. Parameters should be set around what will be discussed and how family decisions will be made. As for younger family members, their ability to voice an opinion isn't the same as a vote. While the next generation should have a say, we work to leave the ultimate decisions in our clients' hands.

ALDRON PRIVATE WEALTH IS A BOUTIQUE PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT FIRM THAT ADVISES A SELECT GROUP OF HIGH NET WORTH INDIVIDUALS,

FAMILIES AND FAMILY OFFICES. By limiting the number of clients it serves, Waldron can offer greater focus on how to best simplify the complexities of significant wealth, so all clients can achieve what's important in their lives. Waldron's advisory team is prepared to serve the firm's clients across a wide range of key financial disciplines. The advisory team includes: three CPAs, ten CFPs, two CFAs, an attorney, a certified divorce financial analyst and three members holding certificates from the Institute for Preparing Heirs. of peership between our clients and thier next generation.

Creating the wealth was almost certainly not easy, and the statistics show that perpetuating it is no walk in the park either. Yet, there are practical ways to begin the discussion, and many of these tools and tips can evolve into more sophisticated conversations.

The key is to start the engagement process between our clients and their legacy.

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