

Distribution Options for Inherited IRAs



The chart below summarizes the options outlined in IRS Publication 590 when an IRA is inherited. Please consult with your tax advisor to determine what options may be available to you if you inherit an IRA.

Type of beneficiary	Spouse	Non-Spouse
Available options		
Treat inherited IRA as your own – can make contributions	Yes, if sole beneficiary with unlimited withdrawal rights	No
Roll over inherited IRA to your own IRA	Yes	No
Roll over inherited IRA to qualified plan (i.e., qualified employer plan, 403(a) annuity plan, 403(b) plan, 457 plan)	Yes, to the extent inherited IRA is taxable and the qualified plan will accept IRA funds	No
Treat self as beneficiary of inherited IRA (rather than treating the IRA as your own)	Yes	Yes
Transfer inherited IRA to an IRA at another custodian/trustee	Yes	Yes