

Shipwrecked... How do you financially weather a personal crisis?

by Larry Moskat, CFP®

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IMAGINE yourself on a deserted island. Alone. Afraid. Your only hope is an airplane sitting on an abandoned airstrip, filled with fuel and apparently fully operational. One problem exists, however. You are not a pilot! While you have the machinery to accomplish your objectives, you probably lack the training and temperament required to get out. So what are your choices? (1) You can pull out the flight manuals and spend your days studying how to fly the thing. (2) You can resign yourself to your marooned status and convert the plane into a nice condo. (3) Or you can get on the radio and **Call for Help!**

Like the desert island dweller, a major life change such as death, settlements, retirement, job loss, caregiving or inheritance can leave you feeling financially marooned and understandably terrified. Here you are with assets, an insurance company or properly settlement, your life's nest egg (much like the airplane), but you are too distracted, too numbed by change to respond to the maze of financial and legal matters at hand. You face the same choices as our desert island castaway: (1) Do it yourself. (2) Give up. (3) **Call for Help!**

We've all heard stories of newly widowed women, lottery winners and retirees who go broke within 18 months of receiving their windfalls. The ravages of guilt, emotional interference and financial inexperience can be disastrous. Everyone needs time to adjust so that emotional distortion and financial judgment can stabilize. Yet this confusing, vulnerable time is exactly when financial events demand immediate attention. **Successful**

and Objective Management Assistance is Crucial to your well being at this point, and your first step is to get on the "Radio" and **Call for Help!**

I stand ready to answer your call. From the start of my career, I have helped people to make good financial decisions under circumstances of very high stress, fear, loss and anxiety.

If it were all just about the money, managing our finances would be much easier. But it is not so easy. Counterproductive relationships exist between money and emotions, and your advisors need to understand what you are going through and help you sort out emotional trauma from sound money management.

**Stress and money...
A potent cocktail
leading many down
a dangerous path.**

We tend to go where other advisors prefer not to go... and that is directly to the heart of various difficult human events, where stress, fears, deeply felt personal loss, anxiety and uncertainty serve to skew and sabotage financial decisions.

As a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, I have acted as a team player to coordinate financial moves in relation to major life changes, and to synchronize the proper information flow between our client's various advisors. My work has taught me that good working relationships are always mutual, respectful, aligned and satisfying. And that listening is the most powerful connection-dynamic in

any relationship. My graduate education in clinical psychology helps me to listen not just with my ears, but also with my heart.

WHILE the investment advice of well-intentioned friends, neighbors, or relatives may seem convenient and even logical, it is non-professional and their situations are probably very different from yours. So move slowly! Don't try to financially plan the rest of your life right away. Establish a relationship with a financial professional.

I invite you to contact my office and request an appointment with me. Our brand of planning can help you protect your money and your sanity. Acting thoughtfully and methodically will help preserve assets, both financial and emotional until new directions are formulated and acted on.

AS you obtain money calmness and clarity, you will gain a new sense of control and feel better. Money is your servant, not your master. Ultimately, you will feel confident enough to "fly solo"! Call me today, and begin to plan confidently for the future.

Larry Moskat, CFP® is the Managing Member of Retirement Income and Inheritance Advisors, LLC located in North Scottsdale, Arizona. As a former practitioner in Clinical Psychology, his firm delivers objective, compassionate and experienced financial counseling to people in crisis by way of retirement, loss of loved ones, caregiving, financial settlements and unexpected job loss. See the website at www.RIIAdvisors.com or call their office at 480.556.7033.

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