

# Financial Checklist

By John F. Smith

- Before the meeting with a financial advisor
  - Decide what you hope to accomplish financially within the next year or two.
  - Ask yourself how confident do you feel about where you are today.
  - Ask yourself how confident do you feel about reaching your financial goals for the future.
  - Think what level of risk you are most comfortable with.
  - Decide how involved you want to be in investment decision-making.
  - Think what are your top areas of financial concern today.
  - Decide what do you most look forward to doing in the future.
  - Prepare a list of any other questions you have regarding your current financial situation.
  - Prepare supporting documents for accounts or areas of your financial picture that you feel deserve immediate attention.
  - Prepare a list of future dreams and financial goals you would like to achieve
- Your first meeting
  - Listen to the advisor carefully as to be able to tailor a financial plan that meets your specific needs.
  - Discuss with the advisor an approach to creating a financial plan.
  - Review the details of the planning process and find out how a financial plan could help you reach your goals.
  - Discuss the investment options.
  - Discuss the type of financial service relationship that would best suit your needs.
  - Discuss the fee structure.
- After the meeting
  - Evaluate information and discuss your priorities.
  - Review the financial plan.
  - During each follow-up financial plan meeting with your advisor review your plan and your progress and make adjustments as needed.
  - Keep the advisor up-to-date on anything that might affect your plan.