



LIVING AUTHENTICALLY, PLANNING ACCORDINGLY

Financial planning for the LGBTQ+ community

RAYMOND JAMES





A plan for your future starts with shared values

Choosing a wealth manager is the start of a personal relationship – the right one can help guide you through the milestones of your life.

Every financial plan, like every life, is unique, and working with a wealth manager who understands the nuances of the issues members of the LGBTQ+ community face can help ensure a more meaningful and beneficial relationship.

At Raymond James we celebrate pride, diversity, love and acceptance. We foster an environment of affirmation among our associates and wealth managers. We're honoured to further pave the way with lifelong financial planning that reflects our shared values.

Coming together to protect your shared successes

Opening up about finances with your significant other will help you pursue your goals, your dreams, and build the future you want together. To nurture your shared success, it's important that the lines of communication are open and discussions become a habit. Your wealth manager can guide this conversation and help you establish healthy, routine communication about your mutual and individual goals.

COMMITTED BUT NOT MARRIED

Marriage isn't for everyone, but there are well-honed contractual plans to create similar – but not identical – financial and asset protections automatically assigned to married couples. These financial and legal agreements are especially important when it comes to protecting surviving partners, estate plans and shared assets.

THINKING OF GETTING MARRIED

There's a lot of admin to deal with when organising your wedding, and more to do afterwards! If you or your partner change surname, you'll need to let the relevant authorities such as HMRC know, as well as your bank, local council, etc. You and your partner may also want to draft a will and update beneficiaries on pensions. Work with a solicitor to make sure your important legal documents are up to date.

Research in the UK found that more than three-quarters of committed couples share at least some of their money with partners, but overall keep their finances separate.¹

¹ AIG UK, 2019.

Planning tips

Clear communication and openness can go a long way to keep the financial knot-tying unobjectionable.

- > **Share your financial inventory:** With both of you bringing your financial pasts and presents to the table, get a handle on the details you'll need to move forward in your new life together. Include any debt and current credit scores as part of the discussion.
- > **Get organised:** Talk through how you're going to manage your short- and long-term finances. Will you keep separate bank and investment accounts or join them together? Is a prenuptial agreement right for you? Will one person be responsible for bill paying? Although you divvy up the doing, each partner should be privy to all the information and part of the decision-making process.
- > **Discuss expectations:** Once you've decided to get married, other milestones may follow suit, such as buying a home, travelling and starting a family, which all bring their own financial implications.



Giving your family your best foot forward

A multitude of options are now available for LGBTQ+ people hoping to start a family, but depending on the method – including adoption, IUI/IVF and surrogacy – it can represent a significant financial event that should be included early as part of your major goals. At minimum, raising a child is a considerable change to your household budget, with higher costs for housing and other necessities like childcare. Income changes should be considered for self-employed parents and parents without paid parental leave.

As a new parent or future parent you should also take the opportunity to consider all the ways having a child can impact your taxes, insurance and estate planning.



Planning tips

1. PLAN YOUR BUDGET

The average cost for raising a child to age 18 is around £160,000 for couples and £200,000 for single parents.¹

2. START SAVING FOR THEIR FUTURE

Junior ISAs are tax-free savings accounts for under 18s that can be opened on behalf of a child by the child's parent(s) or guardian(s). In some instances, other investment instruments may prove more useful to your situation. Speak to your wealth manager for advice.

3. CREATE (OR UPDATE) YOUR ESTATE PLAN

When your new arrival joins the family, it's a good opportunity to not only update your plan with your estate solicitor, but to also review beneficiaries for your life insurance policies and retirement plans.

4. CLAIM THE TAX BENEFITS

You may be able to claim additional tax benefits, depending on your income. You should speak to an accountant for further guidance.

¹ Child Action Poverty Group 2022.



Inner peace and financial security don't have to be at odds

Your financial plan can be a pillar of support during your transition, lowering the barriers to actualising your true self. Every route through gender transition is a personal one, but each can include significant expense, especially if you use private healthcare on your journey.

Your wealth manager can also help you prepare for potential events like changes in income and time away from work with goal monitoring tools.

Caring for those you love without sacrificing your well-being

Caring for a loved one is a significant act that has the power to renew or deepen relationships at a time when it's needed most. Of course, it can be an overwhelming experience. There can be added dimensions for LGBTQ+ people whose closest family may be a family of choice.

Appointing a power of attorney can help make sure a trusted person can act on behalf of a loved one for legal and financial issues.



Dedicating yourself to lasting wellness and well-being

As people are living longer, healthier lives – and long-term health concerns are more easily managed – what they can expect from their elder years has also changed.

Planning ahead financially could help you manage risks, live comfortably and reach your later-life goals.

Many LGBTQ+ people may also wish to stay near their communities and families of choice in diverse cities – an important consideration when designing your plans.



Planning to handle the unexpected

As you achieve milestones in your life, it becomes even more important to protect what you've built. With each step the tendency is to seek more coverage – for your house, your family, income insurance and life insurance, for example – and pay more in tax. There is also the risk of missing out on

insurance products that could fit your situation. Working with a financial planner could help you make sure you're on track to meeting your goals, even if your situation changes along the way.



Charitable giving that does more for others

The strength and achievements of the LGBTQ+ community were built on the steadfast desire to make the world a better, more accepting place for future generations. Charitable giving can be an effective and fulfilling way to continue the tradition, building on what you're able to give and setting up a lasting legacy.

If you're a UK taxpayer, charities can claim Gift Aid on your donations and you may benefit from tax relief if you're a higher rate taxpayer. Should you decide to leave part of your estate to charity, you could also receive a proportionate deduction on your IHT rate.

Crafting lasting protection for your loved ones

Whether you're married or in a long-term relationship, it's important to put things in writing to prevent obstacles to having your final wishes fulfilled, especially for singles and those in committed relationships other than marriage.

For those committed couples, there are a number of legal structures that with the help of a solicitor can help keep their wishes intact. For those who established those agreements prior to getting married, it's important to review their continued value to avoid conflicting directives later on.

A plan for you

You don't have to know all the answers right away – you don't even need to know all the questions. Your wealth manager can help you figure out your priorities and work with you to build a plan and strategies that are right for you. Planning and investing for your future doesn't have to be complicated, especially when you have a trusted partner working in your best interest.

LET'S GET STARTED

Let's take the next step together and start prioritising your goals, addressing your needs and planning for the future you envision.

LIFE WELL PLANNED.

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