

Planning Health Check

Prepared for: **Sample Advisory Group**

Review type: **Document scan**

Status: **Advisor review required**

Date: **June 28, 2026**

ADVISOR-FACING · INTERNAL USE ONLY · NOT A CLIENT DELIVERABLE

DEMO STATUS: SYNTHETIC CASE – NO REAL CLIENT DATA

Advisor use: This is advisor-facing planning intelligence to prepare for the client meeting. Read the brief (Parts 1-7); the Technical Appendix is reviewer backup. Verify findings with the appropriate licensed professional before any client relies on them.

PART I · ADVISOR BRIEF

1 · Executive Summary

3

Priority review items

5

Additional observations

6

Missing information

1

Planning opportunities

This planning file shows a coordinated estate plan, but several beneficiary designations may not match the trust and special-needs planning. The first review priority is whether the retirement and insurance beneficiary forms still route the intended shares through the trust structure.

Suggested posture: Treat this as a beneficiary-alignment review, not a claim that the plan is wrong. The main question is whether the current beneficiary forms still match the trust's planning.

2 • Top Findings

CRITICAL

State law

High confidence

COVERAGE INVOLVED

\$2,500,000

Review with: Estate attorney + benefits counsel

Life insurance beneficiary forms may need trust-alignment review

WHY IT MATTERS

A beneficiary form names an individual rather than the special-needs trust, so the proceeds could pass directly and affect needs-based benefits.

WHAT TO ASK NEXT

Was the policy meant to name the special-needs trust as beneficiary rather than an individual? — worth reviewing with the client's estate attorney.

CRITICAL

State law

High confidence

Review with: Estate attorney + benefits counsel

The Roth IRA may pass directly to the children

WHY IT MATTERS

The Roth IRA appears to name the children outright. If that's current, a child's share could be paid directly instead of through the special-needs trust, which could affect needs-based benefits.

WHAT TO ASK NEXT

Was the Roth IRA meant to pass outright, or to follow the same special-needs trust structure used elsewhere? — worth reviewing with the client's estate attorney.

CRITICAL

State law

High confidence

Review with: Estate attorney + benefits counsel

The 403(b) share may bypass the special-needs trust

WHY IT MATTERS

If this beneficiary form is current, that share could be paid directly rather than through the special-needs trust, which could put needs-based benefits at risk.

WHAT TO ASK NEXT

Is the 403(b) beneficiary form still current, and is this share meant to route through the special-needs trust? — worth reviewing with the client's estate attorney.

Additional findings

- **Some assets may sit outside the trust structure**

AMOUNT INVOLVED

\$157,000

Jointly held or untitled assets can pass outside the trust, which may or may not match the plan's intent.

ASK NEXT Are these assets intentionally outside the trust, or worth confirming with the attorney that it still matches the plan? — worth reviewing with the client's estate attorney.

- **The trust's line of succession may have a gap**

The reviewed pages may not establish a complete line of successor trustees, which can leave a gap in who administers the trust.

ASK NEXT Who is the current successor trustee, and is the chain of succession complete? — worth reviewing with the client's estate attorney.

- **The trust may need review before it receives IRA assets**

AMOUNT AT RISK

\$310,000

When a trust is named to receive retirement assets, the trust language has to meet see-through requirements or the payout timeline can compress, raising the income-tax cost.

ASK NEXT Does the trust meet the see-through requirements for the retirement assets it's named to receive? — worth reviewing with the client's estate attorney.

- **Life insurance may sit inside the taxable estate**

MONITOR

IN TAXABLE ESTATE

\$2,000,000

Depending on ownership, a policy's death benefit can be counted in the taxable estate. With the current exemption it may be a monitor-only item rather than a current problem.

ASK NEXT Is estate-tax exposure a current concern here, or is this simply something to monitor as the estate grows? — worth reviewing with the client's estate attorney.

- **Life insurance may sit inside the taxable estate (group life)**

MONITOR

IN TAXABLE ESTATE

\$500,000

Depending on ownership, a policy's death benefit can be counted in the taxable estate. With the current exemption it may be a monitor-only item rather than a current problem.

ASK NEXT Is estate-tax exposure a current concern here, or is this simply something to monitor as the estate grows?

Planning opportunities

ADVISORY

Federal tax

Medium confidence

EST. SAVINGS
up to \$403,425

Review with: Tax professional / CPA

Retirement assets carry an embedded income-tax cost

WHY IT MATTERS

Retirement assets are taxed as income to the people who inherit them and don't get a basis step-up, so the after-tax value can be meaningfully lower than the balance suggests.

WHAT TO ASK NEXT

Has anyone modeled the income-tax impact of the retirement accounts if the first spouse isn't the survivor?

Assumes: Potential savings from systematic Roth conversion strategy.

3 • Missing Information

- Current beneficiary designation forms for the flagged accounts and policies — to confirm whether each names the trust or an individual.
- The full trust instrument, including any special-needs subtrust and the see-through / SECURE Act qualifying language.
- Confirmation of each policy's owner and any incidents of ownership, for the estate-inclusion question.
- Guardian designations for the minor children.
- The complete chain of successor trustees named in the trust.
- Whether the employer group coverage is portable or convertible if employment ends.

4 • Advisor Next-Step Checklist

REQUEST BEFORE THE MEETING

- Current beneficiary designation forms for all retirement accounts and life policies.
- Full trust instrument, including any special-needs subtrust and successor-trustee provisions.
- Policy ownership and incidents-of-ownership information.
- Employer group-life portability / conversion details.

DECIDE BEFORE THE FOLLOW-UP

- Whether to invite the client's estate attorney to the follow-up.

- Whether to route coverage and beneficiary forms to an insurance professional.
- Whether to model the flagged planning opportunity with the client's CPA.

5 • Suggested Follow-Up Conversation

"I ran the planning file before our meeting. A few things are worth confirming before you rely on the current plan — nothing alarming, just gaps worth a closer look."

- Was the policy meant to name the special-needs trust as beneficiary rather than an individual? — worth reviewing with the client's estate attorney.
- Was the Roth IRA meant to pass outright, or to follow the same special-needs trust structure used elsewhere? — worth reviewing with the client's estate attorney.
- Is the 403(b) beneficiary form still current, and is this share meant to route through the special-needs trust? — worth reviewing with the client's estate attorney.
- Can the client provide the missing documents listed above?
- Who else advises this client — an estate attorney or CPA — who should be looped in?

Don't say: "This will disqualify the beneficiary." **Say:** "This could put benefits at risk and should be reviewed with counsel."

6 • Source Citations

- INS-001 — insurance policy
- INS-002 — insurance policy
- RET-001 — retirement account
- RET-003 — retirement account
- RET-002 — retirement account

7 • Recommended Next Step

- Continue gathering the missing information before the meeting.
- Request the specific documents flagged so the picture is complete.
- Order a Senior Analyst Review for a deeper, human-reviewed pass on this case.
- Consider outside legal or tax review for any finding that turns on legal judgment.

REVIEW ROUTING SUMMARY

Beneficiary / SNT alignment	Estate attorney + benefits counsel
Trust structure / succession	Estate attorney
Retirement / income-tax modeling	Estate attorney + tax professional
Policy ownership / estate inclusion	Estate attorney + tax professional

Connect with an attorney. Where a finding turns on legal judgment, consider reviewing it with a qualified attorney. If requested, Socrates Crayon may help identify independent attorneys for the professional user to evaluate; any attorney engagement is separate from Socrates Crayon.

Technical Appendix

Internal reference for the reviewer — analytical detail, authority, and provenance. Not part of the advisor brief.

A1 • Life Insurance Beneficiary Designations (INS-001, INS-002) Name Spouse Outright

Severity: Critical **Confidence:** High **Jurisdiction:** State law (not confirmed) **Reviewer:** Estate attorney + benefits counsel

Ref: SYN-BATCH-insurance-001-2

Both policies name Thomas Caldwell as the primary beneficiary. This structure may conflict with the objective of preserving Arjun Caldwell's SSI/Medicaid eligibility, as funds would pass to the spouse rather than the SNT, potentially creating a risk that subsequent transfers to Arjun could put needs-based benefits at risk. Reviewing life insurance beneficiary designations relative to SNT goals is warranted.

Authority: —

Source documents: INS-001, INS-002

A2 • Retirement Account Beneficiaries Include Minors Without Trust or Guardian Designation

Severity: Critical **Confidence:** High **Jurisdiction:** State law (not confirmed) **Reviewer:** Estate attorney + benefits counsel

Ref: SYN-BATCH-estate_planning-001-2

The 403(b) (RET-001) and Roth IRA (RET-003) currently name 'Children equally' as beneficiaries. Since Maya (age 9) and Kavya (age 6) are minors, these assets typically cannot be distributed directly. Management of these funds may require establishing a trust or securing court-supervised guardianship.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4)

Source documents: RET-001, RET-003

A3 • Retirement Account Beneficiary Designations Bypass Special Needs Trust for Arjun Caldwell

Severity: Critical **Confidence:** High **Jurisdiction:** State law (not confirmed) **Reviewer:** Estate attorney + benefits counsel

Ref: SYN-BATCH-estate_planning-001

The 403(b) (RET-001) and Roth IRA (RET-003) currently name 'Children equally' as beneficiaries. Direct distributions to Arjun, who is SSI/Medicaid eligible, typically require coordination with the SNT subtrust mentioned in the Caldwell Family Trust. Failure to review these designations could put needs-based benefits at risk, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4).

Authority: 42 U.S.C. §1396p(d)(4); 42 U.S.C. §1382

Source documents: RET-001, RET-003

A4 · Significant Assets Titled Individually Despite Existence of Caldwell Family Trust

Severity: Significant **Confidence:** High **Jurisdiction:** State law (not confirmed) **Reviewer:** Estate attorney

Ref: SYN-BATCH-estate_planning-002

Assets, including Checking & Savings (\$92,000) and Vehicles (\$65,000), are currently titled individually. While the Caldwell Family Trust is noted as a beneficiary for RET-002, these assets remain outside the trust structure. This situation may warrant review, as the assets may be subject to probate.

Authority: —

Source documents: RET-002

A5 · No Business Entities or Interests Reported in Case Data

Severity: Significant **Confidence:** High **Jurisdiction:** State law (not confirmed) **Reviewer:** Estate attorney

Ref: SYN-BATCH-business-001

The intake data and calculator output report zero business entities or ownership interests. Given the client's professional designation as a physician, this absence of data may warrant review of a sole proprietorship or the omission of professional entity interests (e.g., PLLC, PC). Such omissions could potentially impact estate valuation and succession planning.

Authority: —

Source documents: —

A6 · Caldwell Family Trust Named as Contingent Beneficiary for RET-002 — See-Through Status Unconfirmed

Severity: Significant **Confidence:** Medium **Jurisdiction:** Federal + state (not confirmed)

Reviewer: Estate attorney + tax professional **Ref:** SYN-BATCH-family_dynamics-001-2

The Traditional IRA (RET-002) names the Caldwell Family Trust as a contingent beneficiary. While the intake data notes the trust includes an SNT subtrust for Arjun, the compliance of the trust instrument with IRC 'see-through' requirements (identifiable beneficiaries, no charitable remainder) is unconfirmed. Failure to meet these requirements may subject the distribution to the 5-year payout rule, which may warrant review. The trust instrument for IRC see-through compliance should be reviewed.

Authority: Treas. Reg. §1.401(a)(9)-4; IRC §401(a)(9)

Source documents: RET-002

A7 · Northwestern Mutual Term Policy (INS-001) Individually Owned

Severity: Critical **Confidence:** High **Jurisdiction:** Federal + state (not confirmed) **Reviewer:** Estate attorney + tax professional

Ref: SYN-BATCH-insurance-001

Policy INS-001 is owned by the decedent, which typically results in the \$2,000,000 death benefit being included in the gross estate under IRC §2042. Policy ownership and estate-inclusion treatment should be reviewed before relying on the current structure.

Authority: IRC §2042

Source documents: INS-001

A8 · Employer Group Policy (INS-002) Retains Incidents of Ownership

Severity: Critical **Confidence:** Medium **Jurisdiction:** Federal tax (not confirmed) **Reviewer:** Estate attorney + tax professional

Ref: SYN-BATCH-insurance-002

Policy INS-002 is owned by the employer but is flagged as being inside the estate due to retained incidents of ownership. This suggests the decedent possesses rights that trigger inclusion under IRC §2042, potentially increasing the gross estate by \$500,000. Policy ownership and estate-inclusion treatment should be reviewed before relying on the current structure.

Authority: IRC §2042

Source documents: INS-002

A9 · High Concentration of Traditional Retirement Assets Relative to Roth Assets

Severity: Advisory **Confidence:** Medium **Jurisdiction:** Federal tax (not confirmed) **Reviewer:** Tax professional / CPA

Ref: SYN-BATCH-tax-001-2

The estate currently holds \$990,000 in Traditional IRD assets (403b and Trad IRA) compared to \$145,000 in Roth assets. Given the projected combined tax rate of 40.8% (35% Federal + 5.8% VA), there may be a planning opportunity to implement a systematic Roth conversion strategy. This approach could potentially reduce the future income tax burden on beneficiaries, particularly those who are projected to be in higher tax brackets.

Authority: IRC §408A

Source documents: —

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