

As life's circumstances change, it's important to stay focused on the road to retirement. If you've left your employer for any reason, you should know and understand the options for the money in your retirement account.

Generally, you have four main options. Take a few moments to consider the advantages and disadvantages of each.

	ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
<b>OPTION 1</b> Roll your money into an IRA	<ul> <li>You can consult with a financial advisor to help you choose an appropriate investment strategy and answer retirement planning questions</li> <li>Investment gains in your account remain tax-deferred</li> <li>Avoid early withdrawal penalties and taxes associated with cashing out your account</li> <li>Consolidation of your retirement assets may make asset allocation and rebalancing easier</li> <li>Gain independence from your former employer</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>You cannot borrow money against an IRA</li> <li>Assets may not be fully protected from the claims of some creditors</li> <li>You may lose access to features and benefits of an employer-sponsored plan that are important to you</li> </ul>
OPTION 2 Roll your money into your new employer's plan (if available)	<ul> <li>Investment gains in your account remain tax-deferred</li> <li>Avoid early withdrawal penalties and taxes associated with cashing out your account</li> <li>Your employer is responsible for the oversight of investments in the plan</li> <li>Assets are protected from the claims of creditors</li> <li>Access to potentially lower cost investments</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Your new employer's plan may not allow rollovers from previous employer-sponsored plans</li> <li>Your new employer's plan may have less flexibility than an IRA and may have fewer investment options</li> <li>You may lose access to features and benefits from your previous employer's plan that may be important to you</li> <li>You may be subject to asset transfer charges</li> </ul>
OPTION 3  Cash out or take a distribution from your retirement account	You will have cash readily available	<ul> <li>You will lose the opportunity for tax-advantaged growth and compounding</li> <li>You could be subject to a 10% federal tax penalty (if you cash out before age 59½)</li> <li>The IRS requires withholding of 20% as prepayment of your federal income tax</li> <li>You could pay more in income taxes</li> <li>You may also be subject to state withholding for prepayment of state income taxes</li> </ul>
OPTION 4  Leave your  money in your former  employer's plan	<ul> <li>Investment gains in your account remain tax-deferred</li> <li>Avoid early withdrawal penalties and taxes associated with cashing out your account</li> <li>Your former employer is responsible for the oversight of investments in the plan</li> <li>Penalty-free withdrawals may be made from the plan if you are 55 or older the year you separate from service</li> <li>Assets are protected from the claims of creditors</li> <li>Since your prior employer's plan is administered through Transamerica you have access to a retirement advisor for general retirement questions</li> <li>Access to potentially lower cost investments</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>You typically cannot contribute additional outside assets to the plan</li> <li>Your investment options may be limited to what's offered by the plan</li> <li>Some retirement plans do not offer flexible distribution options, such as systematic withdrawals</li> <li>You may lose access to features and benefits available in your new employer's plan that may be important to you</li> </ul>

## **DETERMINE WHAT OPTION MAY BE RIGHT FOR YOU**

In addition to the advantages and disadvantages listed above, you should review the fees, expenses, or other costs that may be associated with each of the options. If you still have questions, you can talk with a Transamerica financial professional who can help review and explain your options.

## Speak with a retirement professional today:



Review the fees and expenses you pay to see if rolling over into an IRA or consolidation in an employer plan could help reduce your costs. The information provided herein is general in nature and may not apply in all situations. Because each person's circumstance is unique, you should consult a financial advisor to address your particular situation.

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