



MOULTON WEALTH MANAGEMENT INC.
MOULTON HOT MINUTES

SPECIALIZING IN RETIREMENT AND TAX PLANNING

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**“My Advisor Isn’t a
 Fiduciary – Is That a
 Problem?”**

***Why Fiduciary Advice Matters More
 Than Ever in Retirement***

As you move into retirement, financial decisions become more important - and harder to reverse. During your working years, time helped smooth out mistakes. In retirement, there is far less room for error. You are no longer saving for the future; you are relying on what you have built.

That’s why who you work with, and how they are legally required to act, matters more than ever.

We are often asked:

***“I asked my advisor if they are a fiduciary,
 and they said no. Is that bad?”***

The short answer is **yes** - and in retirement, it should be taken seriously.

***What Does It Mean to Be a
 Fiduciary?***

A fiduciary is a financial professional who is **legally required to act in your best interest**. That means they must:

- Put your needs ahead of their own
- Avoid or clearly disclose conflicts of interest
- Recommend strategies based on your goals, not commissions

Not all advisors are fiduciaries. Some only need to make recommendations that are considered “reasonable.” In retirement, that lower standard can lead to higher costs, unnecessary risk, and poor coordination between income, taxes, and investments.

When your savings are supporting your lifestyle, “reasonable” simply isn’t good enough.

Why the CFP® Designation Matters

CFP® stands for **Certified Financial Planner™**, and it is widely considered the gold standard in financial planning.

To earn the CFP® designation, an advisor must complete advanced education in retirement planning, taxes, investments, insurance, and estate planning. They must pass a rigorous exam, gain years of experience, follow strict ethical standards, and complete ongoing education each year.

More importantly, a CFP® is trained to look at your entire financial picture - not just your investment accounts. For retirees, that means better coordination between income planning, tax strategy, and risk management.

***Retirement Planning Is Different
 Than Saving***

Accumulating money during your working years is one skill. Turning that money into dependable income is another.

In retirement, the focus shifts to:

- Creating steady income

- Managing taxes over time
- Controlling risk and volatility
- Making your savings last

A fiduciary CFP® helps make sure these pieces work together, instead of competing with each other.

The Often-Overlooked Need for a Sell Discipline

Most investors spend far more time thinking about what investments to buy than when to sell. In retirement, that oversight can be costly.

A **sell discipline** is a set of rules designed to manage risk and protect gains. It helps:

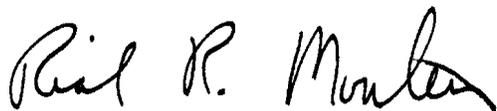
- Lock in profits after strong market rallies
- Reduce exposure before losses become permanent
- Remove emotion during market downturns

Just as a doctor creates a plan before an emergency, a retirement portfolio should have risk rules in place before markets turn. Hoping markets will recover is not a strategy when income depends on your portfolio.

Inflation and Market Risk Don't Retire When You Do

Even in calmer markets, retirees face ongoing risks. Inflation continues to pressure purchasing power, healthcare costs tend to rise, and market declines can arrive without warning.

Yours truly,



Rial R. Moulton, CFP®, CPA / PFS, RFC
Certified Financial Planner™ professional
Estate Planning Attorney

A fiduciary advisor helps you:

- Adjust your plan as conditions change
- Maintain income without taking unnecessary risk
- Protect your independence over the long term

The Bottom Line

You worked decades to build your retirement savings. Protecting it requires a different approach than simply growing assets.

That's why:

- **Working with a fiduciary is essential**
- **A CFP® brings deeper planning around income, taxes, and risk**
- **A sell discipline helps protect what you've earned**

Retirement isn't about predicting markets. It's about disciplined planning, thoughtful risk management, and peace of mind.

If your advisor isn't a fiduciary, it's worth asking why - and whether someone legally required to put your interests first may be a better fit for this stage of life.

If you are retired or close to retirement...

What is your plan?

Attend one of our free seminars or call the office to hear about your options.



Donald J. Moulton, CFP®, RFC
Certified Financial Planner™ professional

P.S. Please feel free to forward this commentary to family, friends, or colleagues. If you would like us to add them to the list, please ask them to send an email with their information and permission to be added.

The Standard & Poor's 500 (S&P 500) is an unmanaged group of securities considered to be representative of the stock market in general. The Dow Jones Industrial Average is a price-weighted index of 30 actively traded blue-chip stocks. The NASDAQ Composite Index is an unmanaged, market-weighted index of all over-the-counter common stocks traded on the National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System. Yahoo! Finance is the source for any reference to the performance of an index between two specific periods. Opinions expressed are subject to change without notice and are not intended as investment advice or to predict future performance. Some or all of this letter may have been written with A.I. Investments in securities do not offer a fixed rate of return. Principal, yield and/or share price will fluctuate with changes in market conditions and, when sold or redeemed, you may receive more or less than originally invested. No system or financial planning strategy can guarantee future results. Consult your financial professional before making any investment decision. You cannot invest directly in an index

Working with a Fiduciary is even more important in Retirement!

Weekly Radio Show
Saturday Morning:

8:00 AM KXLY 920 AM
Spokane and Area

9:30 AM KFLD 870 AM
Tri-Cities and Area

Moultonwealth.com

SPOKANE

Hampton Inn Valley
Breakfast
16148 E. Indiana — Spokane
Feb. 25th @ 9:30 AM

TRI-CITIES

Hampton Inn
Breakfast
486 Bradley Blvd — Richland
Feb. 18th @ 11:00 AM

- ◇ How employing and consistently following a defensive system could help you to a better retirement.
- ◇ The “Widow’s Tax” could be a major drain on the survivor’s spendable income!
- ◇ What happens when an economic downturn makes it difficult for companies to pay back their massive debt?
- ◇ Why Buy and Hold Investing was right for the 80’s and 90’s yet very wrong for today.
- ◇ Will inflation eat up your assets?
- ◇ How to potentially decrease taxes on your hard earned Social Security Income
- ◇ To Roth or not to Roth?

And so much more!

COMPLIMENTARY SEMINAR

For those 50 years old and older



Donald J. Moulton
Certified Financial Planner™
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Call to reserve a spot: 509-922-3110



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**Call for assistance:
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**Feb 25th
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9:30 AM**

Details Inside

*No Cost
Seminars for
Retirees and
those close to
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