

Women & Finance

10 Important Facts About Your Personal Finances

(NAPSA)—Did you know that women represent the world's largest economy, influencing 83 percent of all U.S. consumer purchases, represent a majority of the management and professional positions, and earn 60 percent of the college degrees? Still, many don't feel confident in their knowledge of financial matters and look for no-nonsense information to guide them. This basic financial information is available in a brochure, "Real Facts About Money For WomenSM" created by The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

Whether you're married, single or divorced...whether you have kids, a job, a business or inheritance, whatever your income or age, these facts are important:

Fact #1: Women in the U.S. are living longer.

Fact #2: Women in the U.S. are not protected against death as well as men.

Fact #3: The probability of experiencing a long-term disability or nursing home stay is much greater than the probability of dying without a long-term illness.

Fact #4: A large part of the financial impact faced by widows occurs BEFORE the spouse's death.

Fact #5: During most of your lifetime, the annual rate of inflation has always been positive, which means that purchasing power keeps declining.

Fact #6: For years, college costs in the U.S. have been rising faster than general inflation.

Fact #7: If you systematically save money in retirement plans over many years, you can poten-



DID YOU KNOW that life insurance pays a death benefit to a beneficiary that is generally tax-free, for federal income tax purposes?

tially accumulate well over \$1 million by the time you retire.

Fact #8: Women of all ages should have a written will that expresses their wishes in the event of death or incapacity. Many women should also consider other estate-planning techniques, including living wills, gifts and trusts.

Fact #9: Life insurance pays a death benefit to a beneficiary that is generally tax-free for federal income tax purposes.

Fact #10: For married couples, the greatest estate tax burden often falls on the estate of the second spouse to die. Statistically, this is more likely to be the woman.

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