

Slide 1



Good morning/afternoon.


Note to Speakers: Introduce yourself and provide your qualifications for speaking.

I work for the Customer Education and Outreach group in the IRS office of Employee Plans. Our mission is to help retirement plan sponsors and participants understand and comply with tax laws and to protect the public interest by applying the law fairly.

Today, we're going to talk about what I call the Goldilocks rules relating to retirement plan contributions and distributions - how to avoid the additional income and excise taxes from adding or taking too much, too little, too early or too late from your retirement plan – how to get it just right.

A couple of years ago we gave a presentation on common errors we see in SEP plans. One error was not including employees of another business in a controlled group situation. After the presentation, audience members swarmed us with

questions. So, we thought we would spend a little more time going over the very complicated rules on how controlled groups can affect retirement plans.



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Retirement Plan and Excise Tax Basics

- Defined contribution plan
 - Benefit depends on amount of contributions and investment earnings
- Defined benefit plan
 - Plan states benefit and employer must contribute to make that benefit happen

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First, I'd like to give you a little refresher on the retirement plan basics. Congress enacted retirement plan law because Congress wants employers to sponsor retirement plans and they want employees to have those benefits when they retire.

There are two main types of retirement plans. Defined contribution plans are funded with either employee or employer contributions or both. The contributions and their earnings and losses are placed in an individual account for each employee. The retirement benefit depends on the amount of contributions and the investment earnings or losses. The investment risk lies with the employee. You get what you get.

A defined benefit plan works in the reverse. The plan document promises a benefit to the employee. The investment risk lies with the employer because the employer is required to contribute an amount each year that will provide those promised benefits. If the investments lose money, the employer has to contribute more. If the investments do better than expected, a smaller or no contribution may be required to meet the promised benefit.

Until Roth IRAs hit the scene, retirement account contributions were tax-deferred. That is, you don't pay the tax now, but you do eventually on the contributions and the earnings. With Roth accounts, you pay tax today on the contributions and, if you wait a few years until retirement, never pay tax on the earnings.


To encourage employers and participants to follow the retirement plan rules, Congress instituted taxes to impose when plan sponsors or participants don't follow those rules. These taxes are in addition to regular income taxes.

The government has to pay its bills, so there's a limit on how much you can shelter in a retirement account. If you put too much into a retirement plan, there's an excise tax to pay.

Employers must fund certain types of plans. If the employer doesn't meet that funding obligation and puts too little money into the plan, there's an excise tax on that also.

Congress wants the money to be there when the employee retires. There are circumstances where you can withdraw the money early. However to encourage participants to think twice about withdrawing their accounts too early, Congress added an early distribution tax.

Finally, to enforce the idea that the money should be there for use in retirement – not as an inheritance for your beneficiaries – there are required minimum distribution rules. If you withdraw too late, there's an excise tax.



Too Much

- Maximum contributions
 - IRA
 - \$5,000, plus \$1,000 if age 50 or over
 - 6% excise tax on excess contributions
 - Employer plans
 - SIMPLE IRA plan - \$11,500, plus \$2,500 if age 50 or over
 - 403(b) and 401(k) plan - \$16,500, plus \$5,500 if age 50 or over
 - 10% excise tax on nondeductible contributions

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First, let's talk about IRAs.

The maximum amount you can contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA for 2011 is \$5,000. That amount is increased by \$1,000, if you're 50 or older at any time during the calendar year.

You can make Roth IRA contributions at any age, but if you contribute to your traditional IRA for the year you turn age 70 ½ or a later year, that is an excess contribution.

There is a 6% excise tax on excess contributions to IRAs that are not timely removed. This excise tax applies for each year the excess contributions remain in the IRA.

To avoid the 6% excise tax, you must withdraw any excess contribution plus earnings. You must complete the withdrawal of the excess within 6 months of the due date of your return, not including extensions.

Excess contributions that you timely withdraw from your traditional IRA are not included in your gross income as long as you don't take a deduction for the excess contribution and you also withdraw the income earned on the excess.

Earnings distributed with the excess contributions are includible in income and are subject to a 10% early withdrawal tax. Earnings include both price changes and distributions of dividends and capital gains. If the excess contribution had negative earnings, you consider the loss in calculating the amount that you must withdraw.

Now, let's talk about contributing too much to qualified plan. The limits differ depending on the type of plan.

Employee elective deferrals to SIMPLE IRA plans have an annual limit subject to cost-of living adjustments - \$11,500 in 2011, with an additional \$2,500 if you are 50 or over.

Employee elective deferrals to 401(k) plans (other than SIMPLE 401(k) plans) and 403(b) plans have a different limit – \$16,500 in 2011, with an additional \$5,500 if you are 50 or over. Excess elective deferrals not removed timely can cause the entire plan to lose its tax-exempt status.

If a participant's elective deferrals are more than the limit, to avoid having the plan lose its tax-exempt status, you must distribute the excess amount plus earnings to the participant by April 15 of the year following the year in which the excess occurred. Excess deferrals not timely returned to the participant are subject to additional tax.

If you withdraw the excess deferrals by April 15

- Excess deferrals are taxable in the calendar year deferred.
- Earnings are taxable in the year distributed.

- There is no 10% early distribution tax, no 20% withholding and no spousal consent requirement on amounts timely distributed.

If you do not withdraw the excess deferrals by April 15

- If the excess deferrals were made to one or more plans of just one employer, each affected plan of the employer is subject to disqualification and would need to go through the IRS correction programs.
- Excess deferrals are subject to double taxation - both in the year contributed to and in the year distributed from the plan.

What about employer contributions? If you contribute more than your deduction limit to a retirement plan, you have made nondeductible contributions and you may be liable for an excise tax. In general, a 10% excise tax applies to nondeductible contributions made to qualified employer plans, including SIMPLE IRA plans and SEPs.



Too Little

- Funding requirements for money purchase pension and defined benefit plans
 - 10% initial excise tax on unpaid amount
- Employer matching contributions
 - Loss of favorable tax status

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If your plan is a money purchase pension or defined benefit plan, you must pay enough into the plan to satisfy the annual minimum funding standard. The required contribution in a money purchase pension plan is stated in the plan document: for example, 25% of compensation. Determining the amount needed to satisfy the minimum funding standard for a defined benefit plan is complicated and requires an actuary to determine the required contribution using actuarial assumptions and formulas.

If your plan is a DB plan subject to the minimum funding requirements, you must generally make quarterly installment payments of 25% of the required contribution. The due date for each installment is 15 days after the end of each quarter. For a calendar-year plan, the installments are due April, July, October and January 15 (of the following year). Additional contributions required to satisfy the minimum funding requirement for a plan year will be considered timely if made by 8½ months after the end of that plan year. If you don't pay the full installment timely, you may have to pay interest on any underpayment for the period of the underpayment and if these contributions are not made when

required, there is generally a 10% excise tax on the required contributions that remain unpaid.

Another type of contribution employers might make is a matching contribution. Most 401(k) plans provide a matching contribution based on the amount of participant deferrals. If the plan requires the employer to match a certain percentage of a participant's deferral, and that matching contribution is not timely made, then the plan is not being operated according to its terms, which may cause the plan to lose its favored tax status if the situation is uncorrected.

You need to read the plan document closely to determine:

- the amount of the matching contribution
- when you must make the match and
- whether the match is mandatory or discretionary.

SIMPLE IRA plans are required to make either a matching contribution of 100% of a participant's deferrals, up to the first 3% of compensation, or a 2% contribution to all eligible plan participants, regardless of whether or not they chose to defer. This contribution must be made to the plan by the due date of the employer's tax return, plus extensions. If not, the SIMPLE IRA plan would lose its favorable tax status.



Too Early

- Generally, not until age 59 ½
- 10% early distribution tax
- SIMPLE IRA plans
 - 25% if within 2 years of participating
- Exceptions differ for IRAs and qualified plans

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You can withdraw all or some of the funds in your traditional or Roth IRA, or SEP or SIMPLE IRA, at any time. The tax consequences of the withdrawal depend on factors such as what type of account from which you withdrew the money, and when and why you made the withdrawal.

Typically, the amount you withdraw from a traditional IRA is from deductible contributions and their earnings. These withdrawals must be included in your gross income in the year withdrawn. Additionally, unless you're at least age 59 ½ at the time of the withdrawal, or you meet one of the exceptions, you'll also owe an additional 10% early distribution tax. These exceptions include:

You have unreimbursed medical expenses in excess of 7.5% of AGI.

You are unemployed and the distributions are not more than the cost of your medical insurance.

- You're disabled.
- You die.
- You're receiving distributions in the form of an annuity.
- The distributions aren't more than your qualified higher education expenses.

- You use the distributions to buy, build or rebuild a first home.
- The distribution is a qualified reservist distribution.
- Because of an IRS levy.

Publication 590, *Individual Retirement Arrangements*, contains a complete list of the exceptions to the additional 10% early distribution tax for IRAs.

SIMPLE IRAs are a bit different. Just like other IRAs, you can withdraw contributions and earnings from a SIMPLE IRA at any time. You'll pay tax on the withdrawal in the year you receive it. With SIMPLE IRAs, though, the early distribution tax increases to 25% on amounts withdrawn within 2 years of participating in the SIMPLE IRA plan.

Now, what about taking money from Roth IRAs? Because they're funded with after-tax contributions, you don't have to pay income taxes on them (including earnings) when they're distributed, if the distribution is a qualified distribution. Otherwise, you'll have to include the earnings in your gross income in the year of distribution and, unless an exception applies, you may also have to pay the additional 10% early distribution tax on the earnings.

What are qualified distributions from a Roth IRA? They're distributions made:

- after 5 years – measured from January 1 of the year for which you first made any Roth IRA contributions, including rollover or conversion contributions, and ending on the last day of the fifth year; and
- because of any of four events: age 59 ½; disability, death or to purchase or rebuild your first home.

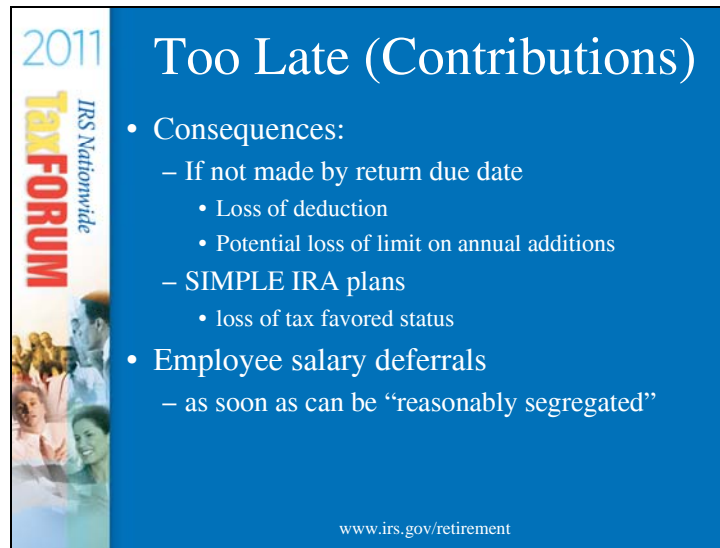
Now let's talk about when you can receive money from your company retirement plan.

Any money you withdraw from a qualified plan that you haven't already paid tax on is includible in your gross income in the year you receive it. You may also have to pay the additional 10% early distribution tax unless:

- You are age 59 ½;
- You die;
- You are disabled; or
- The distribution was made:
 - as an annuity after your separation from service,
 - after your separation from service if the separation occurred during or after the calendar year in which you reached age 55;
 - for unreimbursed medical expenses in excess of 7.5% of AGI;
 - because of an IRS levy on the plan; or
 - as a qualified reservist distribution.

Publication 560, *Retirement Plans for Small Business*, contains a complete list of these exceptions.

At our booth, we have a one-page publication that compares the exceptions to the 10% additional tax that are available to IRAs and retirement plans.



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Too Late (Contributions)

- Consequences:
 - If not made by return due date
 - Loss of deduction
 - Potential loss of limit on annual additions
 - SIMPLE IRA plans
 - loss of tax favored status
- Employee salary deferrals
 - as soon as can be “reasonably segregated”

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Deferrals and contributions deposited too late lead to many problems, depending on the type of plan – it could lead to the loss of a deduction, an excise tax, or in certain circumstances, the loss of the plan’s favored tax status.

We’re starting with a SEP. SEP contributions should be paid to the plan by the due date of your tax return, plus extensions.

In a SIMPLE IRA plan, depositing the contributions late may not only lead to a loss of an anticipated deduction, but could disqualify the entire arrangement.

A SIMPLE IRA has a required employer contribution in the form of a 100% match on deferrals up to 3% compensation, or a 2% non-elective contribution for all eligible employees, even the ones who choose not to defer salary. The matching and non-elective contributions must be made by the due date of the plan sponsor’s tax return, plus extensions.

The employer must deposit salary reduction contributions no later than 30 days after the end of the month in which the amounts would otherwise have been paid.

For example, amounts withheld from an employee's paycheck in May must be deposited by June 30.

Salary reduction contributions made for a self-employed individual must be made no later than 30 days after the end of the self-employed person's tax year, for a calendar-year taxpayer by January 30, 2011.

What happens if you make the contributions beyond the 30-day period?


The SIMPLE IRA plan will lose its tax-preferred status, but you may use our Voluntary Correction Program, allowing the plan to continue as a qualified SIMPLE IRA.

401(k) plans have the most complicated rules for contributions and deductions. These plans often have employee salary deferrals, matching contributions and discretionary employer contributions.

Salary deferrals must be deposited as soon as they can be reasonably segregated. Several things come into play here. Employee salary deferrals are considered "employer contributions" and must, therefore, be made no later than the due date of the return. If made after the due date, the contributions will count against the limits for the following year. Plans subject to DOL rules must contribute employee contributions as soon as can be "reasonably segregated." For employers with less than 100 employees, the DOL interprets this to mean within 7 days of the pay date.

Now, let's talk about 401(k) matching contributions. Some plan documents require the match to be contributed near the same time the salary deferral is made. If the contributions are not made at the required time, then you have an issue that will require correction under the IRS's correction program.

Most plans allow the match to occur at the end of the year. Read the document carefully to make sure you're matching the correct amount. Sometimes the document bases the match on each payroll's salary deferral, other times it's based on the end of year total percentage of salary deferrals. After determining the correct amount of the match, these matching contributions must be made by the due date of the plan sponsor's tax return, plus extensions.



Too Late (Distributions)

- IRA
 - Age 70 ½
- Qualified Plan
 - Later of age 70 ½ or retire
 - If more than 5% owner – age 70 ½

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So far, we've been talking about how to keep money in retirement plans but, at a certain point, the law requires people to start taking distributions from plans and traditional IRAs annually. You must begin taking required minimum distributions - RMDs - from any of your traditional IRAs when you turn age 70 ½. If you participate in an employer-sponsored retirement plan, you must begin taking RMDs by the later of when you turn 70 ½ or retire. However, if you own more than 5% of the business that sponsors the retirement plan, you must begin taking RMDs when you turn 70 ½ and don't have that "later of" date.

Qualified plans will usually calculate the amount of your RMD, but for IRAs, you may have to calculate the amount yourself by dividing the IRA account balance on the preceding December 31 by the applicable distribution period. A person's account balance is adjusted for any outstanding rollovers and recharacterizations of Roth IRA conversions that aren't in the account at the end of the preceding year. The distribution period is the maximum number of years over which you are allowed to take distributions from the account and is found in the life expectancy tables published in Publication 590. The table you use depends on whether you're a beneficiary, or if the owner, on whether or not you have a spouse more

than 10 years younger than you and the sole beneficiary of your account. Publication 590 has more details on how to calculate RMDs from IRAs.

You can always withdraw more, but you must withdraw at least the amount of your RMD. Otherwise, you're subject to an excise tax of 50% of the amount that you should have withdrawn.



Controlled Group

- One business owns at least 80% of another business
- Two or more businesses owned at least 80%
 - By 5 or fewer persons, and
 - Identical interests in any business owned by the group members > 50%
- Affiliated service group

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Retirement plan rules get complicated if you have related businesses. Why is it important to determine if your business is part of a controlled group or an affiliated service group? If Business A and Business B are determined to be a controlled group or affiliated service group, the employees of A and B are considered to be working for one employer. Any retirement plan must take into consideration all the employees of a controlled group.

Generally, you may need to include employees of another business in a retirement plan if that other business:

- effectively owns 80% or more of your business, or your business owns 80% or more of that other business - that's 80% of stock in a corporation, 80% of the profit interest in a partnership, or a sole proprietorship;
- in the case of a group of 5 or fewer persons who together own 80% or more of both businesses and effectively control more than 50% of each business; or
- is part of an affiliated group of businesses working together to provide services to customers.

Applying these rules can become complicated. If you believe these rules may apply to your situation, it may be time to look for some assistance from a retirement plan professional.

We're going to start with a simple example of the rules before we add a few complications on the next slide.

Let's look at an example of Mary, who owns 100% of Business A that sponsors a SIMPLE IRA plan. Here are a few examples of when the employees of Business B must be included in Business A's plan.

Mary owns 80% of Business B and the remaining 20% is owned by an unrelated party. A and B are part of a's controlled group.

Mary's Business A owns 80% of Business B. A and B are part of a controlled group.

Another way IRS rules may cause two or more businesses to be treated as one is if they are part of an affiliated service group. An affiliated service group consists of a First Service Organization and at least one A-Org or B-Org. These require the FSO to be a professional service corporation and are most common with doctors, dentists and attorneys. Or you may have an ASG in a business that is established to provide management services to another business or organization. If you have a client with a separate management company or service professional with interests in other similar groups, ask questions and get help.

Overlooking the employees of related businesses can cause several plan failures:

An employer is ineligible to establish a SIMPLE IRA plan if:

- The employer exceeds the 100-employee limit, or
- A related business sponsors another retirement plan.

Excluding employees of related businesses from participating in the plan could cause the plan to lose its tax favored status.

On the flip side, including employees who were at one time part of a controlled group, but that controlled group situation no longer exists can cause problems as well.

Our example involves a SIMPLE IRA plan but you'll have similar issues no matter what type of plan. These failures can result in the loss of tax benefits for both the employer and employees. To correct these failures, you can use the IRS's correction programs.

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Controlled Group

Who does my plan need to cover?

- Family attribution rules
- Spousal exceptions
- Community property states – really?
- What does this all mean?

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The slide features three small images: a woman reading, a family with a dog, and a man sitting at a desk.

In the previous slide, we talked about a controlled group situation where Mary owns 100% of A and 80% of B and made a controlled group out of A-B.

The problem Mary has is the same one many of us have. A family. Mary has a spouse, children, parents, grandparents, two dogs, plus a cat she hasn't told husband, John, about. We can ignore the dogs and cat, but what about the rest of the family? Are you ready for the complications?

The ownership interests of the spouse, John, are attributed to Mary, unless Mary and John are legally separated pursuant to a divorce decree or a decree of separate maintenance.

There is another exception to the spousal attribution rule. If all the conditions under Code section 1563(e)(5) are met, there is no attribution between spouses. In our running example, Mary's business ownership is attributed to John and John's to Mary unless **all** of the following are met:

- Each spouse does not own any direct interest in the other's business;

- Neither spouse participates in the other's business as a director, fiduciary, officer, employee, and does not help manage the business at any time during the year;
- Not more than 50% of either business' gross income is derived from passive income; and
- Neither ownership interest is restricted to favor the other.

What about Mary and John's children?

If the child is under age 21,

- the ownership interests of the parent are attributed to the minor child, and
- the ownership interests of the minor child are attributed to the parent.

If the child is age 21 or over

- the ownership interests of the parent are attributed to the adult child only if that child owns >50% of that business.
- the ownership interests of the adult child are attributed to the parent only if the parent owns >50% of that business.

Example: Mary owns 100% of A, 51% of B

Mary's child, Wiley, age 28, owns 30% of B. Since Mary owns >50% of B, Wiley's ownership interest would be attributed to Mary, giving her 81% ownership in B.

Mary's minor child, Brenda, would be considered to own 100% of A, 51% of B.


A common scenario involves spouses, each with a separate business – for example, a husband who is a self employed restaurant owner, the spouse is a self employed doctor. Even if they meet the spousal exception, having a minor child may cause their separate businesses to be considered a controlled group, through that child. A minor child is attributed the ownership interest of both

parents, making the child a 100% owner of both parents' businesses. This attribution will cause the two parent's businesses to be subject to the controlled group rules.

Now we're done with attribution, unless you live in a community property state. In a community property state, a childless John and Mary are considered to be owners of each others business because they're married and their separately owned businesses would be considered a controlled group. There may still be a way to treat these ownership interests as separate property, but that depends on the community property laws of each state. That would take an ERISA attorney familiar with that state's laws to make such a determination.

What does all this mean? You need to recognize when your client has ownership interests in multiple businesses. Start asking questions. It might mean those businesses may be a part of a controlled group and would be treated as one business for retirement plan purposes.

If you have someone with these multiple ownership interests, it may be time to hire a benefits professional. In our audit experience, most of the controlled group situations we encounter are not properly identified by the plan sponsor, but, instead, were uncovered by the agent. This is especially true in the IRA-based plan population.



Maximum Deductible Contributions (under age 50)

Maximum Contributions			
Compensation	SIMPLE IRA	SEP/Profit-Sharing	401(k)
\$50,000	\$13,000	\$12,500	\$29,000
100,000	14,500	25,000	41,500
130,000	15,400	32,500	49,000
196,000	17,380	49,000	49,000

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You may have clients who are very interested in making large retirement contributions – maybe to lower their current tax liability or it might be they want to live comfortably in retirement. We’ve noticed that many business owners who have no employees other than a spouse have shown interest in the “solo 401(k)” plans.

But do you need a solo 401(k) to maximize your contribution, or will a profit-sharing or SEP plan do the job? These plans appear to be intended for a select group of sole owners who want to maximize their contributions and deductions.

These plans use many names, including unik, solok, ONE K, but they all are designed to squeeze the largest possible retirement plan deduction, short of adopting a defined benefit plan. We’re going to call them solo 401(k) plans, just to be consistent.

401(k) plans - including solo 401(k)s do offer an advantage, especially in the lower compensation amounts. Looking at the first compensation level, \$50,000, a 401(k) plan allows for a contribution that is \$16,500 greater than in a SEP or

profit-sharing plan. If the participant is at least age 50, the \$16,500 turns into \$22,000 because of a \$5,500 catch-up contribution.

Why is this? Profit-sharing and SEP deductions are limited to the lesser of 25% of compensation or \$49,000 in 2011; \$12,500 in our example. 401(k) deferrals have their own deductible limit of 100% of compensation and these amounts are not subject to the 25% of compensation limit. In our \$50,000 example, a 401(k) plan is allowed a 25% employer contribution, \$12,500, plus the \$16,500 deferral limit, for a total of \$29,000. In addition, there could be another \$5,500 for the age 50+ catch-up.

At \$100,000 of compensation, you'll notice the SEP and profit-sharing plan provide a \$25,000 contribution. Again, the 401(k) provides for an advantage up to \$22,000.


That's a big difference, but is it necessary? Before recommending a solo 401(k) plan, find out if your clients have a need to contribute more than \$25,000 to their retirement. If so, a solo 401(k) works. If \$25,000 is more than enough, a profit-sharing or SEP plan is easier to administer.

The \$16,500 advantage peaks at the \$130,000 compensation level. Beyond \$130,000 in compensation, the advantage begins shrinking.

Notice the \$196,000 compensation level. The SEP, profit-sharing and 401(k) plan all provide the maximum \$49,000 deduction. At that point, the solo 401(k) only provides an advantage if you're age 50+ and make a catch-up contribution. All the added costs and additional administrative headaches of a solo 401(k) plan only provide an additional \$5,500, and that's only if you're at least age 50.

The point of this slide is to emphasize that a solo 401(k) plan may not be the right plan for everyone. If you're interested in contributing the absolute maximum

amount possible, other than with a defined benefit plan, than a solo 401(k) plan might be the right plan for you. Just be aware that once other employees meet eligibility requirements and become participants, it's just another 401(k) plan with testing and coverage requirements and with the owners' deferrals tied to the deferrals of the other employees.



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2 Employers Plans

- W-2 employee and sole proprietor, businesses not part of a controlled group
 - Both have 401(k) plans
 - Can I participate in both plans?
- W-2 employee for unrelated employer, independent contractor for another
 - Participate in employer's 401(k) + a SEP for self-employed income
 - How are my contributions limited?

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Do you have a client with several jobs? They might be an employee for two unrelated employers, both with retirement plans. Or maybe they're a W-2 employee for a hospital with a 401(k) plan, and they're moonlighting at a different hospital where they're considered self-employed and they have a self-employed retirement plan. We'll take a look at both scenarios and what you may need to watch.

Even though nobody else can find a job, you're lucky enough to have two. Both employers sponsor 401(k) plans and you have salary deferrals in both. How do some of the limits work in this situation?

If you participate in both 401(k) plans, you are limited to \$16,500 in salary deferrals for both plans. If you are age 50 or over, \$22,000.

The 401(k) deferral limit is a personal limit - \$16,500 for all of your salary deferrals, in either a 401(k) or a 403(b) plan, no matter how many plans in which you participate.

If you contribute \$16,000 in the first employer's plan, you may only contribute \$500 to the second.

The \$5,500 catch-up contribution is also a personal limit. If you're age 50+, you may contribute up to a total of \$5,500 as a catch-up.

What if each plan makes a profit-sharing contribution of \$30,000 to each? The 25%, \$49,000 limits are plan limits, not personal limits. Even though the total contributions - \$60,000 - exceeds the \$49,000 limit, because this limit applies to each plan individually, the hard-working person in our example would not have to worry about being in excess of the deductible limits.

In the next situation, you're a W-2 employee for an employer with a 401(k) plan and you work as an independent contractor. Your business as an independent contractor is a sole proprietorship, and you set up a SEP for this business. For a completely unrelated business with a SEP. You do well in both areas. You max your 401(k) contributions at the W-2 job, \$16,500. Now you're preparing to file your taxes and want to contribute the maximum possible to your SEP. Your earned income accommodates the maximum contribution, \$49,000. Can our person make the full \$49,000 or is that amount reduced by amounts contributed at the W-2 job?

Amounts contributed on your W-2 job have zero effect on what you can contribute in your self-employed SEP. Many CPAs and other tax preparers, even investment writers, say that the 401(k) deferral made to the one plan reduces the \$49,000 maximum deduction to the other plan. It does not. The only time that another plan has an effect on your self-employed contribution is if there are two 401(k) plans and the amounts exceed the \$16,500 deferral limit for that individual. If the person in our example has an ownership interest in the W-2 employer, this all gets very difficult and would require a benefits professional to assist.

The slide features a blue background with a vertical banner on the left side. The banner contains the text "2011" in white, "IRS Nationwide" in small white letters, and "Tax FORUM" in large, bold, red letters. Below the text is a small photograph of a group of people. The main content area is a solid blue rectangle with the word "Resources" in white, serif font at the top. Below it is a bulleted list of resources in white text.

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Resources

- www.irs.gov/retirement
- RetirementPlanQuestions@irs.gov
- 877-829-5500
- Newsletters
- Visit our booth
- Keep Your Client's Retirement Plan in Compliance

We have developed many tools to assist you and your clients with retirement plans, whether your question is “How do I choose a retirement plan?” or “How much money can I contribute to my retirement plan?”

You can visit our website at www.irs.gov/retirement. Or you can find the Retirement Plans Community tab from the main irs.gov landing page.

There are two different ways that you can discuss your questions with a retirement plan specialist. You can email your questions to RetirementPlanQuestions@irs.gov or, if you prefer, call our Customer Account Services toll-free at (877) 829-5500. Our specialists must respond to all email questions by telephone, so please remember to include your phone number and we'll call you with the answer to your questions.

We also have two free, quarterly electronic newsletters. The first is the *Employee Plans News* geared to the practitioner community and is more technical and involved than our newsletter geared to plan sponsors, *Retirement News for*

Employers. Being web-based, both these newsletters make excellent reference guides as we fill them with embedded links to source materials.

You can easily subscribe to these newsletters. Just click on “Newsletters” in the left navigation pane of our web page, then “Employee Plans News” or “Retirement News for Employers,” “Subscribe,” and provide us with your email address. That’s all it takes. Then, whenever we issue an edition, you’ll receive a message in your email inbox with a link.

Don’t forget to visit our exhibit booth to have the opportunity to speak with a retirement plan specialist and be sure to drop in to our other presentation at the forum, “Keep Your Client’s Retirement Plan in Compliance.”

Questions?