Lifetime Income Audit — 12-Point Checklist

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This is the list I work through with every client in the first 30 minutes. Do it yourself with your statements on the table. Anything you cannot answer is the thing to look into first.

EVERY ACCOUNT

- [ ] **1. List every retirement account you own.**
  Current and former employer 401(k)s, IRAs, Roth accounts, pensions, annuities, brokerage, savings. Write the balance next to each. Old 401(k)s are the most commonly forgotten.
- [ ] **2. Write down what each one costs.**
  Fund expense ratios, plan fees, advisory fees. If you cannot find the number, the statement is hiding it; call and ask for the total annual cost in dollars.
- [ ] **3. Mark each one pre-tax, after-tax, or tax-advantaged.**
  This decides what a withdrawal costs you and what your heirs owe.
- [ ] **4. Mark which ones take the full hit in a down market.**
  A 401(k) in stock funds does. Anything with a 0% floor does not. Circle the total exposed.

EVERY POLICY

- [ ] **5. List every life insurance policy.**
  Term, whole life, universal, IUL, group coverage through work. For each: death benefit, cash value, premium, and the date the term ends or converts.
- [ ] **6. Check the beneficiaries on every policy and every account.**
  Primary and contingent. An ex-spouse or a minor child named directly is the most common error I find.
- [ ] **7. If you own a permanent policy, request an in-force illustration.**
  Ask the carrier what happens if you stop paying at retirement. That document, not the one from the sale, tells you what the policy will actually do.
- [ ] **8. Ask HR what happens to group coverage when you leave.**
  Most ends at separation; some converts within 31 days without a medical exam. That window matters if your health has changed.

THE INCOME MATH

- [ ] **9. Get your Social Security estimate from ssa.gov.**
  At 62, at full retirement age, and at 70. Add any pension.
- [ ] **10. Write down your real monthly spending.**
  Housing, food, insurance, utilities, transportation, medical. Use last year's bank statements, not a guess.
- [ ] **11. Subtract.**
  Social Security + pension − fixed expenses = the gap (or surplus) in dollars per month. This is the number the whole plan is about.
- [ ] **12. Look up your state in the 50-state table.**
  State income tax on Social Security, pensions and 401(k)/IRA withdrawals changes the gap. vidawealthgroup.com/retirement-income-tax-by-state

If you want me to walk through it with you: 30 minutes, no fee, nothing sold during the audit. Book at **vidawealthgroup.com/get-started** or call **(713) 205-0359**. English or Spanish.

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