MOVING FORWARD ON YOUR OWN

Financial Feelings Survey

Read each statement and rate how you feel now. Then comment about why you feel this way.

- 1 = I feel confident about this area
- 2 = I feel neutral about this area
- 3 = I feel uncertain or fearful about this area

Here's how I feel about:	Rating
1. My ability to manage my financial situation as a widow. COMMENTS:	
2. My ability to think clearly about money matters. COMMENTS:	
3. What I spend money on. COMMENTS:	
 Knowing what to do with money from my husband's life insurance and other sources after his death. COMMENTS: 	
5. My emotional responses to money issues. COMMENTS:	
6. My understanding of financial matters. COMMENTS:	
7. Income from my job and/or retirement income sources. COMMENTS:	
8. My financial investments. COMMENTS:	
9. Knowing I have enough money for my retirement years now or in the future. COMMENTS:	
10. Work I'm currently doing, either for pay or as a volunteer. COMMENTS:	
11. My financial recordkeeping and organization. COMMENTS:	
12. My ability to give financial help to family members if they need assistance. COMMENTS:	
13. My estate plan. COMMENTS:	



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REFLECTION EXERCISES

Here's how I feel about:	Rating
14. Talking about financial matters with a family member. COMMENTS:	
15. My insurance protection. COMMENTS:	
16. My debts. COMMENTS:	
17. My charitable giving. COMMENTS:	
18. My financial goals. COMMENTS:	
19. How much stress money matters cause me. COMMENTS:	
20. Professional relationships with my insurance agent, banker, financial planner, broker, tax preparer or other financial professional. COMMENTS:	

What do your responses indicate?

- Which area(s) do you feel most confident about? _____
- What's an area(s) you want to improve in? _____
- Write one thing you could do to help you feel more secure about your money life.

For example, if you feel uncertain about your estate plan, it may be time to update your will.

Circle any areas you rate as a "3," and talk about these with someone you trust. If you are in a widow's support group, ask other women how they are dealing with their misgivings about finances.

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From Moving Forward on Your Own: A Financial Guidebook for Widows, by Kathleen M. Rehl.

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