

A Simple Way to See Where Clarity Is Missing

A short reflection tool for navigating complex financial decisions.

Financial Clarity Checklist

Palatino Wealth Advisors
Clarity for Complex Financial Lives

1. Before You Begin

Financial clarity rarely comes from markets alone. It comes from understanding how income, protection, liquidity, and long-term decisions connect, and where assumptions may be doing more work than clarity.

This checklist is a simple reflection tool designed to help you notice those connections. It is not a test, a diagnosis, or a set of recommendations. Its value comes from the questions it surfaces and the awareness they create.

Take your time. Notice what feels clear, and what doesn't.

2. The Checklist

1. Income Protection

- Do you have an updated term policy that matches current income?
- Is your disability coverage aligned to your *real* earnings (W-2 + distributions)?
- Are old workplace policies still active and relevant?
- Do you know what gaps or overlaps exist?

2. Liquidity Readiness

- Do you have 6–12 months of liquidity accessible without penalty or borrowing?
- Do you have a plan for high-expense months or uneven cash flow?
- Are taxes, quarterly estimates, and big yearly expenses accounted for?
- Do you know your short-/mid-/long-term liquidity windows?

3. Beneficiary & Legacy Alignment

- Are all beneficiaries updated in the last 12–18 months?
- Are account titles coordinated across assets?
- Does your family know the essential information if something happens?
- Is your estate plan aligned with your wishes?

4. Protection of the Household

- Do you have umbrella insurance?
- Are home/auto policies aligned with current property and lifestyle?
- If you're a business owner, is your business income and continuity protected?

5. Organization & Clarity

- Can you quickly locate essential documents?
- Are you tracking your main accounts, policies, and obligations in one place?
- Do you have a simple, clear financial map for the year ahead?
- Are things easy for your partner/spouse to understand?

3. Interpreting What You Noticed

This checklist is not meant to be scored like a test.

Most people find that clarity varies by area - some parts feel solid, others less so. That's normal. The purpose of this section is to help you notice where clarity feels established and where questions remain.

Use your responses to reflect on patterns, not outcomes. Areas that felt uncertain, interconnected, or difficult to answer are often the ones worth paying attention to first.

There is no ideal score; only insight.

A Snapshot of What You Noticed

0–4: Areas to explore

5–8: Developing clarity

9–12: Clear foundation

13+: High structural clarity

A simple way to reflect:

For every question, you score:

- 2 points: "Yes, fully in place" - Clear, updated, aligned.
- 1 point: "Partially" - Somewhat true, but outdated, incomplete, or unclear.
- 0 points: "No" - Needs attention.

4. A Simple Way to Reflect

Rather than focusing on totals, consider grouping your responses loosely:

- **Areas to Explore**
Sections that raised questions, uncertainty, or required assumptions.
- **Developing Clarity**
Areas that feel partially defined but may change with circumstances.
- **Clear Foundation**
Areas where structure, understanding, and confidence feel aligned.

It's common to see a mix across all three. Clarity is rarely uniform, and it doesn't need to be.

5. After You've Worked Through the Checklist

If parts of this checklist felt unresolved or harder to answer than expected, that's useful information, not something to rush past.

If working through these questions raised issues you'd prefer to talk through, a **Financial Clarity Session** may be an appropriate next step.

The session is a structured conversation designed to bring clarity to complex financial lives - before advice, recommendations, and commitments.

[Learn what a Financial Clarity Session involves →](#)

(There's no obligation to proceed. The checklist is designed to stand on its own.)