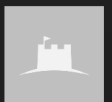


5 Things You're Probably Doing Wrong with Your IRA and 401(k)

*(And How to Fix Them Without
Losing Your Mind)*



Let's be honest—
retirement accounts
like IRAs and
401(k)s sound
boring... until you
realize how much
your future self
depends on them.



The good news is
you don't need a
PhD in personal
finance to avoid
these blunders.



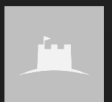


1. Not Contributing Enough

Saving a little is better than nothing —but not enough to retire on.



Not maxing out or skipping your employer match? That's free money wasted.



Fix it:

Max your allowable contribution and pay yourself first.

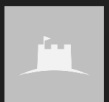
Always contribute enough to grab the full employer match.



2. Withdrawing Early



Raiding your retirement before age 59½? That's a 10% penalty, plus taxes—a pricey mistake. Worse, you lose out on years of compounding growth.





Fix it:

Treat your retirement accounts like your grandma's good china: only break them out in *real* emergencies.

Build an emergency fund so you don't have to rob your retirement when life throws a curveball.

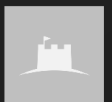


A photograph of a roller coaster with red tracks and yellow cars, viewed from a low angle against a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

3. Investing Too Conservatively (or Too Aggressively)



Being too conservative early on can mean you barely outpace inflation. Being too risky late in the game could leave you eating instant noodles in retirement. There's a happy middle ground.



Fix it:

Consider target-date funds that auto-adjust to your risk level.

Check your allocation at least every year—your 401(k) shouldn't be more rebellious than your teenager.

Consult a reputable financial planner to determine an appropriate allocation.



4. Rolling Over Funds Incorrectly

Got a new job? Congrats! But if you cash out or roll over your 401(k) the wrong way, the IRS may treat it like income—and surprise! You just gave yourself a tax bill and a penalty.



If a check gets made
out to *you*, the
government
assumes you went
on a Vegas bender
with your
retirement savings.



Fix it:

Use **direct rollovers**—let the funds go straight to a rollover IRA account or directly to your new plan.

If you get a check, deposit it into a retirement account within **60 days**.

Keep all paperwork—especially if you want to avoid awkward letters from the IRS.

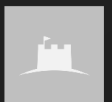


5. Not Updating Beneficiaries

(We see this one more than you would imagine.)



**Your will and trusts WILL NOT
override your account forms and
beneficiary elections. So if you
don't update them, your money
might end up in the wrong hands—
*cue the dramatic music.***



Fix it:

Review your beneficiary designations once a year.

Add contingent beneficiaries too (just in case).



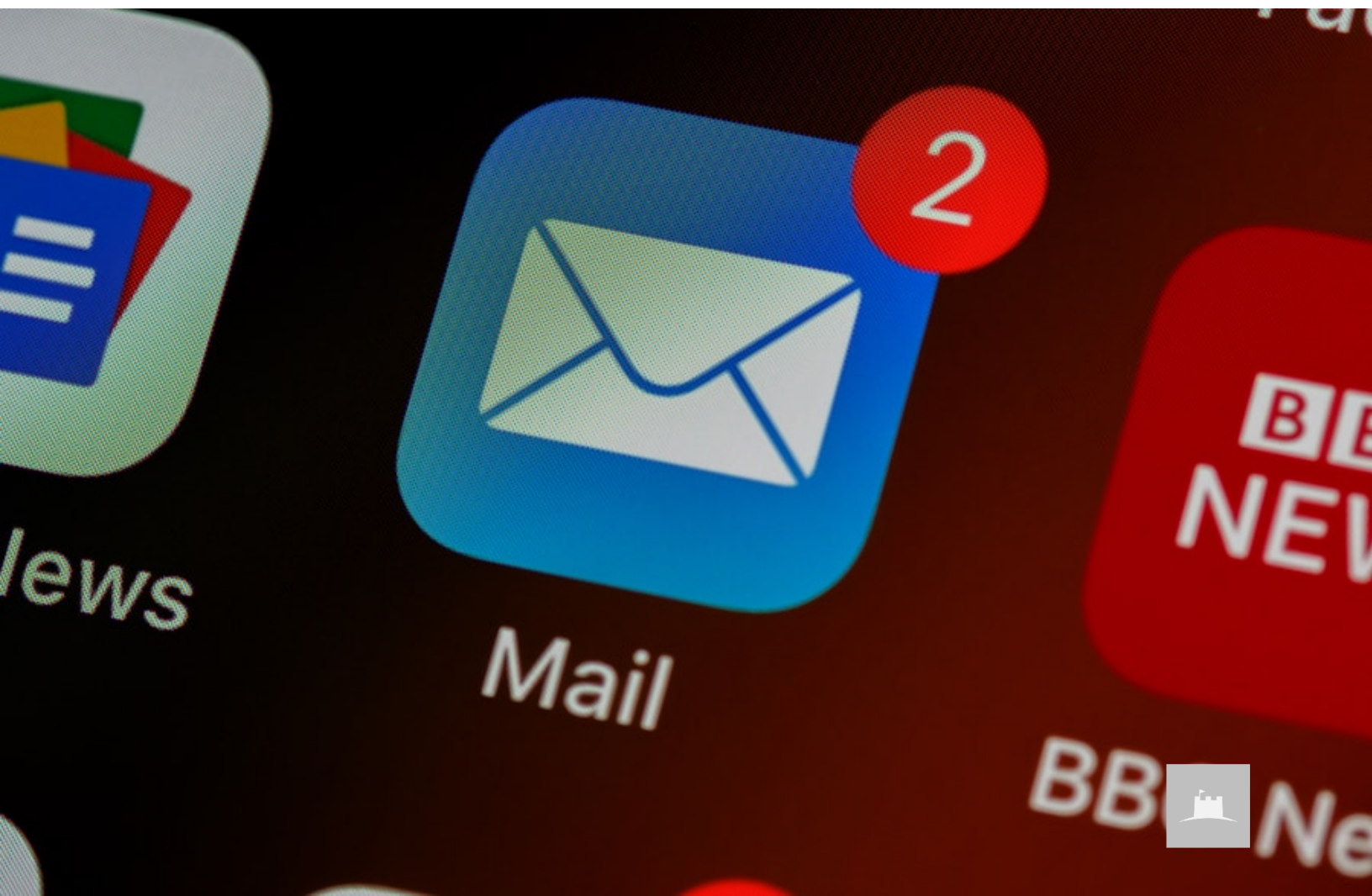
Final Thoughts

We've all made a money move or two that wasn't exactly Nobel Prize-worthy. But your IRA and 401(k) are serious power tools in your retirement toolkit—and the fewer mistakes you make, the more future-you will be living their best life.



What's Next:

Contact our team at info@fredericawealth.com to schedule your complimentary retirement funds allocation analysis.



A bit about us

We are a boutique financial planning and wealth management firm located on St. Simons Island, Georgia. Home of Southern Soul BBQ and more pro golfers than you can shake a putter at.





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