



ED SLOTT'S IRA ADVISOR

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TAX & ESTATE PLANNING FOR YOUR RETIREMENT SAVINGS

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"American tax laws are constantly changing as our elected representatives seek new ways to ensure that whatever tax advice we receive is incorrect."

—Dave Barry

2004 marked a flurry of breakthrough IRA rulings from the IRS. This month's feature article "*Top IRA Rulings of 2004*" includes the highlights of these rulings. Some of these rulings were just released so they were not covered here before.

IRA Trust Rulings

The area of IRA trusts took many twists this year. If you or any of your clients have named trusts as IRA beneficiaries, you should review those trusts to see if any of these rulings or regulations require the trust to be amended or redone. This issue also contains a new trust ruling just released that allows distant trust beneficiaries, such as a charity, to be excluded when

determining the payout period on an inherited IRA left to a trust.

60-Day Rollover Rulings

The 60-day rollover relief rulings are still being released by the truckload. We have been reporting on these all year and last year as well. As of this writing, the IRS has released 166 Private Letter Rulings on this one issue alone. This is incredible and tells us that there is still an epidemic of botched rollovers. If you are going to do a rollover, get it right. Review our June 2004 issue which contained the 60-day rollover basics.

2004 Annual Index

This issue contains our year-end index of 2004 articles and Guest IRA Expert columns. Use this index to find and review the IRA events of 2004

I wish all of our readers a safe, successful, and happy holiday season.



For more IRA information, visit our website at www.ira-help.com.

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— Ed Slott

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- 72(t) PLRs:
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IRS Allows 72(t) Recalculation
IRS Holds to a Ceiling on SEPP Interest Rates
PLR 200437038

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