



**Alameda County
Office of the Treasurer
and Tax Collector**

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March 9, 2020

TO: All Alameda County/Superior Court/First 5 /Fire Employees

FROM: Henry C. Levy, Alameda County Treasurer-Tax Collector

SUBJECT: EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020, THE REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS MUST START AT AGE 72

The “Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act”, (the SECURE Act) effective January 1, 2020, changed the Required Minimum Distribution (“RMD”).

Effective January 1, 2020, the new age that Required Minimum Distributions must start is 72, or the year in which you actually stop working, if later. The first RMD must occur April 1 of the following year. RMDs for individuals who turned 70 ½ in 2019 are not delayed, and instead, must continue to take their RMDs under the same rules prior to passage of the SECURE Act.

- To be 70 ½ in 2020, you must have been born on or after July 1, 1949, then you can wait until age 72 to begin taking required distributions.
- If you have not already reached age 70 ½ by December 31, 2019, the first RMD must occur by April 1st of the year after attaining age 72.
- RMDs for individuals who turned 70 ½ in 2019 are not delayed, and instead, must continue to take their RMDs under the same rules prior to passage of the Secure Act.
- Regarding after-death RMDs from inherited retirement accounts, most Designated Beneficiaries will need to take distributions from an inherited retirement account within a ten (10) year period, instead of stretching the distributions over their life expectancies.

There are exceptions to this rule for “Eligible Designated Beneficiaries”, such as surviving spouses, minor children, individuals with disabilities or chronic illnesses, and those who are less than ten (10) years younger than the deceased retirement account holder. Trusts for individuals with disabilities may qualify for the life expectancy method under the SECURE Act.