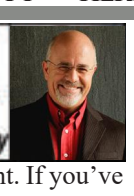
DAVE Says

By Dave Ramsey



Your retirement, your money

Dear Dave,

I've been following your plan, and I'm ready to start investing. Do employer contributions count toward the 15 percent you recommend putting into retirement?

Brenda

Dear Brenda,

Investing 15 percent of your income in retirement accounts is Baby Step 4 of my plan. That means you've already paid off all your debt, except for your home, and you've increased your $1,000 beginner's emergency fund to a fully-funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. Way to go!

I want you to control your destiny, so employer contributions do not count toward the 15 percent I recommend setting aside for retirement. The first thing you should put money into is a matching retirement account. If you've got access to a 401(k) — and your employer offers a match — you should do that up to the match before anything else.

It's nice if your company will match up to a certain point, but chances are that will still mean you've got some work to do. To make up the remainder, you could look at a Roth IRA. Then if the Roth, plus what you invested previously to get the match doesn't equal 15 percent, you could see about a 403(b) or go back to your 401(k) to complete the 15 percent.

You're doing great, Brenda. Keep up the good work!

Dave

Precisely detailed

Dear Dave,

My mother wants everything, except for her home, left to my brother and I when she dies. She would like her long-time boyfriend to have her house. We don't have a problem with this, but it has not been written into her will. Her mind is still sound, so does she need to officially update the will?

Dawn

Dear Dawn,

Yes, the will needs to be changed to reflect her wishes where the house is concerned. Since she's still able to make decisions independently, the will should be legally updated to reflect exactly what she wants to have happen with every piece of her estate.

It's fine if she wants to give her boyfriend the house. It's your mom's will, and her estate, so she can do pretty much whatever she wants. She could also leave what's called a life estate that says her boyfriend gets use of the home while he's alive. Technically, in this kind of situation the house would be left to you, but he would legally have use of it during his life. Upon his death, the home could then revert to you or your brother.

Dave

The Boys & Girls Club of the Mississippi Delta Lexington Unit has been invited to participate in a Spring Break AAU Tournament March 10-11, in Dallas, Texas. The team is made up 5th -7th grade players. The players were able to advance throughout a six-week basketball league out of Batesville, Mississippi. For more information or to make a donation to your local boys and girls club, please contact Kawanna S. Horton, Unit Director or Leroy Riley, Advisory Board President at (662) 571-7944. Pictured above (from left): Dillion Jennings, Lamarion Crawford, Jamarcus Stewart, TreShaun Hodges, Karmarion Kincaid, Trayveon Horton, Demarcus Cobbins, Coreleone Pate, Lamarcus Crawford, DeMarion Simpson, Jaylin McQueen, John Jenkins, TreQuan Hodges Not pictured is Coach Christopher Horton. (Photo submitted)

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