Retirement Paycheck Checklist

A one-page checklist to help you choose your Social Security claiming age and organize a simple withdrawal plan.

1) Social Security Claiming Decision

- ■ I know my Full Retirement Age (FRA).
- ■ I've compared what my benefit looks like at ages 62, FRA, and 70.
- ■ I've considered my health and family longevity.
- ■ I've identified whether I need income now or can wait.
- ■ If I'm working before FRA, I understand the earnings test and how it could affect cash flow.

2) Withdrawal Plan (Next 12 Months)

- ■ I have a written withdrawal plan for the next 12 months (not just a guess).
- ■ I know which account my withdrawals will come from first (taxable, traditional, Roth).
- ■ I've considered tax impact before pulling from traditional IRA/401(k) accounts.
- ■ I've set a target monthly paycheck amount from my portfolio (in addition to Social Security).

3) Inflation & Market Drop Plan

- ■ I have a plan for how my income increases over time as costs rise.
- ■ I understand how my portfolio is rebalanced so withdrawals aren't forced from the wrong place.
- ■ I know what I would do if markets drop (without panic-selling).

4) Couples & Survivor Income (If Married)

- ■ We've discussed how the higher earner's claiming age affects survivor income.
- ■ We've modeled the plan assuming one spouse lives longer.
- ■ We understand the difference between spousal benefits and survivor benefits (high level).

5) Healthcare & Medicare Budget

■	I've included Medicare premiums in my monthly budget.
■	I know whether higher income could trigger IRMAA surcharges.
■	I have a plan for healthcare costs beyond Medicare basics.

Next step (optional): If any box feels unclear, a short educational conversation can help you organize your next steps.