

# Are you ready for a smooth transition down the road?

While most business owners believe planning for the transition of their business at death is key, a transition during their lifetime is much more likely. That's why it's also important to plan how your business transition might impact your retirement.

#### Make sure your buy-sell agreement does what you want

A properly funded, well-drafted agreement:

- Identifies a buyer and a fair price.
- Lists who will take control.
- Protects employees, customers, suppliers, and creditors during your transition.

Best practice suggests buy-sell agreements should include at least these top triggers as mandatory rather than optional: **death**, **disability** and **retirement**.

#### Know what your business is worth

An unexpected triggering event could leave you or your successors and heirs frustrated if the buy-sell agreement kicks in, and your stated company value is either more or less than its current or actual value.

### Tie it all together for a smooth transition

A buy-sell agreement that reflects your current financial results means everyone can be happy:

- Retiring or exiting owners/heirs get a fair value for their share of the business.
- Remaining owners don't over-pay or under-pay the exiting owners/heirs.
- Sellers are more likely to receive fair market value.
- You may avoid costly delays and arguments among owners.

# Our complimentary services offer a great starting point

We want you to rest easy and take comfort knowing that your buy-sell agreement is designed and ready to execute the way you want. That's why we offer:

An **informal business valuation** using five commonly used valuation methods. This valuation also satisfies the financial requirements during any life insurance underwriting process with us.

A review of your existing buy-sell agreement if you have one.

The reports you'll get from these services provide a summary of any issues and recommendations. And they'll serve as a starting point for a discussion with your tax and legal advisors. These services are not intended to provide a certified appraisal or market value for the purpose of completing the sale of your business. Nor are they intended to replace the services of your legal counsel. Rather, they're intended to provide you with a meaningful value and best practices feedback to help ensure your business is protected for both planned and unplanned events.

# Ready to begin?

### STEP 1 | Gather your information

Provide your financial professional with the documents and information needed for the informal business valuation and/or buy-sell agreement review:

**Agreements.** If applicable, provide a copy of any current buy-sell agreement and any amendments. Include any documents you think control the transfer of your business.

**Your entity type.** Identify your tax and legal entity type (partnership, LLC, S corporation, etc.).

**Number of owners.** Provide a list of all individuals and entities with ownership interest (including stock options and warrants), and the ownership percentages.

**Financials.** Provide copies of your financial statements (balance sheets and income statements **or** federal business tax returns) from the most recent three full years.

**Insurance.** Provide a complete list of all life and/or disability insurance policies associated with the buy-sell agreement.

- > The list should identify the insured, owner, beneficiary, carrier, benefit amount, contract type (term, universal life, variable universal life), cash value if applicable, duration (if a term policy), and amount of any outstanding loans.
- Include copies of any split dollar or deferred compensation agreements associated with the policies.

### STEP 2 | Get your customized reports

- Informal Business Valuation and Business Planning Report. We provide a complimentary informal valuation of your business that includes action items and suggested solutions to help meet your retirement, business succession, business and key person protection, as well as legacy and estate planning goals.
- **Buy-Sell Agreement Review.** This report includes highlights of your existing buy-sell agreement and our recommendations for your business based on industry best practices. Adequate funding of your buy-sell agreement is at the heart of its success.

## STEP 3 | Meet with your financial professional

Discuss your unique planning considerations with your financial professional (this can include a conference call with the consultant who prepared your reports). Then, rank your priorities and set target dates.

#### STEP 4 | Discuss next steps

Once you and your financial professional have a plan, confirm your objectives with your tax and legal advisors and implement any needed changes. And, if a life insurance policy from Principal is part of the plan, you can easily start the application process. We have underwriting programs to help make this process as simple as possible.



Contact your financial professional or go to principal.com.



#### principal.com

**Note:** Although a buy-sell review from Principal provides a valuable starting point, it does not provide you with a legal opinion as to the legal or tax implications of your agreement or to the appropriateness of any funding strategies. Principal cannot provide you with any legal documents or revise existing legal documents. The valuation will not be a substitute for a formal valuation, nor does it establish a value for estate tax purposes. The review is intended to help identify your objectives for the buy-sell agreement and any issues that must be addressed to help ensure your objectives are being met. The review should be examined by your legal and tax advisors.

All guarantees and benefits of the insurance policy are backed by the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company. Policy guarantees and benefits are not backed by the broker/dealer and/or insurance agency selling the policy, or by any of their affiliates. None of them makes any representations or guarantees regarding the claims-paying ability of the issuing insurance company.

The subject matter in this communication is educational only and provided with the understanding that Principal is not rendering legal, accounting, investment, or tax advice. You should consult with appropriate counsel, financial professionals, and other advisors on all matters pertaining to legal, tax, investment, or accounting obligations and requirements.

Insurance products issued by Principal National Life Insurance Co. (except in NY) and Principal Life Insurance Company<sup>®</sup>. Plan administrative services offered by Principal Life. Securities offered through Principal Securities, Inc., Member SIPC, and/or independent broker/dealers. Referenced companies are members of the Principal Financial Group<sup>®</sup>, Des Moines, IA 50392.

#### Not FDIC or NCUA insured

May lose value • Not a deposit • No bank or credit union guarantee Not insured by any Federal government agency Principal®, Principal Financial Group® and the Principal logo design are registered trademarks of Principal Financial Services, Inc., a Principal Financial Group company, in the United States and are trademarks and service marks of Principal Financial Services, Inc., in various countries around the world.

BB9852-12 | 12/2021 | 1945299-122021 | © 2019 - 2021 Principal Financial Services, Inc.