

Spotlight

A Publication of Cedar Point Federal Credit Union

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Credit Cards: Switch and Save

Do you know what would happen if you went over the credit limit on one of your bank credit cards, or if you made a late payment? If you got the card from a large national card issuer, chances are you'd be charged high penalty fees, and you might find your interest rate hiked to more than 30%.

If you're not sure about the fees and penalties for your credit card, ask your card issuer. The terms may have changed since you opened the account, and you may not have seen the notification, which generally accompanies your account statement. Most articles about credit cards suggest that you make sure to have the following information:

- Your interest rate.

Cedar Point advertises our rates in large type so you can be sure you know exactly what you will pay.

Platinum

Variable Rate:
7.00% APR

Gold

Variable Rate:
8.00% APR

Classic

Variable Rate:
9.90% APR

- Whether there are different rates for balance transfers, cash advances, and purchases.
Cedar Point offers one rate for all transactions.
- Whether the rate could increase to a higher penalty rate, and under what circumstances (such as a late payment--on this card or any other card).
Cedar Point has no penalty rate.
- Annual fee, late fee, and overlimit fee amounts, and when they're charged.
There are no annual fees, no overlimit fees, and a flat \$15.00 late fee.
- What other fees are charged, and when.
There is a 1% fee for transactions originating from countries other than the US.
- The grace period, or number of days from the billing date you may pay in full without incurring finance charges.
Your due date is at least 25 days after the close of each billing cycle. We will not charge you any interest on purchases if you pay your entire balance by the due date each month.

Oh yes, and you get 1% cash back on all your purchases!

So now you have our answers. If you're shopping for a new card, be sure to ask these questions up front. And then stop by Cedar Point Federal Credit Union to get a better deal on your credit card.





Cedar Point Financial Services, Inc.

A wholly owned subsidiary of Cedar Point Federal Credit Union

presents

LESSONS over lunch

Estate Planning Basics

presented by

Joann Wood

of

Dugan, McKissick, Wood and Longmore, LLC

Thursday, January 19, 2012

11:00 am

*You are invited to bring your lunch
Drinks and Desserts will be provided*

Reservations are Requested

Please call 301-863-7071

Dora (ext. 8427) or Michele (ext. 8432)

or sign up online at

<http://www.cpfcu.com/cpfs.html>

**It only takes 15 minutes
to see how much you could
SAVE WITH GEICO**

Cedar Point Federal Credit Union members could get an additional discount on car insurance.

How much could you save?

Call **1-800-368-2734**, visit www.geico.com or stop by your local GEICO office today.



For Your Information

As of September 2011

Loans	\$180,415,767
Assets	\$362,444,576
Shares	\$326,608,955
Members	31,703

Federally Insured
by
NCUA



Estate Planning Myths

Myth: All trusts avoid estate tax.

Fact. All trusts do not avoid estate tax. Property in a revocable (living) trust is subject to estate tax, to the extent that its value exceeds \$5 million in 2011. Property in an irrevocable trust, however, is generally not subject to estate tax because an irrevocable trust cannot be modified.

Myth: Having a will avoids probate.

Fact. You must admit a will to probate for it to be carried out. A probate court determines how your estate will be divided. The court looks to your will for instructions as long as it is valid and uncontested. Probate proceedings must take place to transfer ownership of real estate, to appoint a guardian for minor children, and to appoint an administrator. The court monitors administration of the will to ensure the decedent's wishes are followed accurately and in a timely fashion. In some states, you may avoid probating a will in court if the value of the estate is less than \$50,000 and the decedent did not own real estate or have minor children.

Myth: Life insurance proceeds are exempt from estate taxes.

It depends. Generally, life insurance proceeds avoid probate and pass directly to the named beneficiary--as long as the estate is not the named beneficiary. The beneficiary receiving the proceeds does not pay income tax on them. However, the value of life insurance proceeds usually is included in the federal taxable estate and subject to estate taxes unless the decedent owned the policy. If your life insurance policy is owned by an irrevocable trust or by someone other than the decedent, it will not be taxed as part of your estate.

Myth: A will covers disposition of all your assets.

A will only covers property titled in your name alone at your time of death. Property such as jointly held assets, retirement plans, and life insurance will pass to the surviving owner or designated beneficiary.

The information provided above is not to be taken as legal advice. Always consult with your estate planning attorney and tax professional for advice specific to your situation and the state in which you live.



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