

Married Couple Estate Tax Worksheet

What each of you owns, and exactly how it is titled.

Last reviewed September 2026 • Companion to the guide at botelholawgroup.com/massachusetts-estate-tax-married-couples

What this is, and what it is not

This worksheet does not calculate a tax, does not give legal advice, and will not tell you what to do. It records facts: what each spouse owns, how each asset is titled, and who is named as beneficiary. In Massachusetts, those facts decide whether both spouses' \$2 million thresholds can actually be used. Fill it in together. Copy titles and beneficiary names exactly as they appear. Approximate values are fine. Leave blanks where you do not know.

SECTION 1 The two of you

	Spouse A	Spouse B
Full legal name		
Date of birth		
U.S. citizen?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Children from a prior relationship?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No

SECTION 2 Your documents

	Spouse A	Spouse B
Will — date signed		
Trust — name and date signed		
Signed before January 1, 2023?	☐ Yes ☐ No	☐ Yes ☐ No
Mentions a credit shelter, bypass, family, or disclaimer trust?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure
Leaves everything outright to the other spouse?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

SECTION 3 What you own and how it is titled

For "Titled as," copy the owner line from the deed or the account title from the statement. Examples: "Spouse A alone," "joint with right of survivorship," "tenancy by the entirety," "Trustee of the ____ Trust."

Asset	Approx. value	Titled as (copy exactly)	Notes
Home			
Other real estate			
Bank accounts			
Brokerage accounts			
Business interests			

Asset	Approx. value	Titled as (copy exactly)	Notes
Vehicles and valuables			
Other			

SECTION 4 Retirement accounts and life insurance

These generally pass by beneficiary designation, not by the will or trust. Record what each form says today.

Account or policy	Owner	Value or death benefit	Primary beneficiary	Contingent
Retirement account — Spouse A				
Retirement account — Spouse B				
Life insurance on Spouse A				
Life insurance on Spouse B				
Other policy or annuity				

SECTION 5 Lifetime gifts

Gifts are not taxed in Massachusetts when made, but gifts above the federal annual exclusion can count toward the \$2 million filing line. Record them; do not evaluate them.

Year	Given by	To whom	Approx. amount	Federal gift return (Form 709) filed?
				☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure
				☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure
				☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

SECTION 6 Totals — simple addition only

Question	Answer
Everything listed that is in Spouse A's name alone	\$
Everything listed that is in Spouse B's name alone	\$
Everything that is joint	\$
Everything in a trust	\$
Grand total of everything above	\$
Is the grand total over \$2,000,000?	☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

SECTION 7 What did you find?

☐ Almost everything is joint or names the other spouse as beneficiary

- ☐ Our documents were signed before 2023
- ☐ Our documents mention a credit shelter or similar trust, but nothing is titled to it
- ☐ A beneficiary form surprised us
- ☐ We could not tell how something is titled

SECTION 8 Five things worth knowing

Two thresholds	Each Massachusetts resident's estate can pass up to \$2 million without Massachusetts estate tax, through a \$99,600 credit.
No portability	Massachusetts has no portability. A threshold unused at the first death cannot be claimed by the survivor later.
Marital deduction	Transfers to a spouse generally pass without Massachusetts tax at the first death. Requirements apply, including citizenship.
Titling can override	Joint assets with right of survivorship, and accounts naming the spouse, can pass around the will and trust.
Gifts	No Massachusetts gift tax, but gifts over the federal annual exclusion count toward the \$2 million filing line.

Before you act on anything in this worksheet

Do not retitle property, change a deed, change a beneficiary, or make large gifts based on this page. Each of those can have tax, basis, long-term care, and family consequences that depend on your whole picture. Writing things down costs nothing and closes no doors.

Want someone to tell you whether both thresholds are actually protected?

Botelho Law Group • Free consultation

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Read the full guide and watch the video: <https://botelholawgroup.com/massachusetts-estate-tax-married-couples/>

Sources: Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Massachusetts Estate Tax Guide; G.L. c. 65C, § 2A; Form M-706 Instructions.

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