



**About  
Matthew Crider, J.D.**

Matthew Crider formed [Crider Law PC](#) in 1999 so he could help individuals and business owners by providing creative solutions and be their trusted advisor and legal counselor. He serves his clients by listening closely to their goals, dreams and concerns and working with them to develop superior and comprehensive estate and asset protection plans. His estate planning practice focuses on preserving and growing wealth by providing comprehensive, highly personalized estate planning counsel to couples, families, individuals and businesses.

## Obama budget impact on estate planning

By Matthew Crider, JD | Family Wealth Protection Attorney

Although legislation was passed this year on the estate tax, limiting the top tax to 40 percent, with only estates worth over \$5.25 million subject to the tax, President Obama's budget still wants to return to the 2009 levels starting in 2018.

Under the proposal, starting in 2018, the top estate, gift and generation skipping tax (GST) rates would go up to 45 percent, the estate and GST exemptions would revert to \$3.25 million and the gift tax exemption down to \$1 million, according to an article in [Private Wealth](#).

None of the exemptions would be inflation-indexed, meaning more families would be affected over time.

The article says the proposed changes would make estate planning more complicated for wealthy families and closely held business owners who want to transfer ownership to family owners during their lives.

Proposed GST changes would affect the long-term tax advantage leveraged by GST exempt trusts and would affect certain transfers to avoid the GST tax.

However, all of the proposed changes referenced in the article are simply that - proposals that are on the president's "wish list" and there is no guarantee they will pass.

Still, there are techniques to get around the GST changes that you may want to talk about with your estate planning attorney.