

# THE ROAD TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

## STAGE 0 - DEPENDENCE

Your lifestyle depends on others for financial support. You're in this stage if your parents still give you money. You're in this stage if you spend more than you earn. You're in this stage if your debt payments exceed your income.

#### STAGE 1 - SOLVENCY

You can meet your financial commitments without outside help. You reach this stage when you begin earning a "profit", when your income exceeds your expenses. You're using the surplus to repay debt and to meet immediate financial obligations.

### STAGE 2 - STABILITY

**You no longer have consumer debt.** You've repaid your credit cards, auto loans, and so on. You may still have some "good debt" — college loans, a mortgage — but you've eliminated other obligations *and* built a buffer of emergency savings to protect yourself from unfortunate events.

## STAGE 3 - AGENCY

You have the freedom to live and work as you choose. You've eliminated all debt, including student loans and mortgage (or you have the cash to do so, if you wanted). You have enough banked that you could quit your job at a moment's notice and feel no trepidation for the future.

# STAGE 4 - SECURITY

Your investment income covers your basic needs. The money you've saved and invested would fund simple housing, basic food, essential clothing, and insurance — even if you never worked another day in your life.

## STAGE 5 - INDEPENDENCE

Your investment income supports your current standard of living. The money you've saved and invested would allow you to live like you do today...until the day you die. It covers the basics and creature comforts. You have enough.

#### STAGE 6 - ABUNDANCE

You have enough — and then some. Your passive income from all sources will not only fund your lifestyle forever, but also grant you the freedom to do whatever you choose: indulge in luxury, build a business empire, explore the world.

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