



Life Insurance Beneficiary— protect who matters the most to you

You've taken an important step to financially protect your loved ones with life insurance. Next, name your beneficiary—and keep it up to date. It isn't always a simple decision but selecting the right beneficiary for your life insurance policy will make it easier on your loved ones in the future.

➔ Start here

What is a beneficiary?

Your life insurance beneficiary is an individual or entity that will receive all or a portion of the insurance proceeds that may become payable if you die, while the policy is still active. This means choosing your beneficiary is an important step to remember. After all, your beneficiary is probably the reason you have life insurance.

Who can be a life insurance beneficiary?

Almost anyone can be a life insurance beneficiary, including people or entities—such as trust or your estate. If you designate more than one beneficiary, the proceeds are divided equally unless you indicate otherwise on the Beneficiary Designation form. You can divide the proceeds based upon a percentage or fraction, as long as the total equals 100%.

How to name your beneficiary?

You will need to include the following information for each beneficiary:

- Full first and last name
- Full address
- Telephone number

- Social Security number
- Relationship to you
- Date of birth

What's the difference between primary and contingent beneficiaries?

- A primary beneficiary is the individual, group of individuals, entity, or entities entitled to receive the insurance proceeds that are payable at the time of your death.
- A contingent – or secondary – beneficiary is the individual, group of individuals, entity, or entities eligible to receive the insurance proceeds that are payable at the time of your death, if none of your primary beneficiaries survive you.

If you list a minor as your beneficiary, how will they receive the proceeds?

When selecting a minor as your beneficiary, the insurance proceeds will be disbursed to either:

- The legal guardian of the minor's financial assets (please note this is not necessarily the same as the minor's natural guardian)
- The adult responsible for the well-being of the minor beneficiary, if permitted under any applicable Uniform Transfer to Minor Act.
- Prudential, which holds them until the beneficiary is legal age (based upon state law) to receive the payment.

When and how can you change a beneficiary?

Generally, you may update your beneficiaries at any time. It is important to reassess your life insurance beneficiaries after significant life events—like marriage, divorce, or the birth of a child, to name a few. You are **not** required to notify the original beneficiary. In some states, however, if the beneficiary you wish to name is someone other than your spouse, spousal consent may be required.

To make a change, simply contact your benefit administrator.

What happens if you don't name a beneficiary?

If there is no named beneficiary, if all the named beneficiaries die before you, or if the beneficiary records are lost or destroyed, Prudential generally pays insurance proceeds to the first of the following:

1. The surviving spouse
2. Surviving children in equal shares
3. Surviving parents in equal shares
4. Surviving siblings in equal shares
5. The estate

Can your life insurance be assigned to another person?

Unless otherwise stated in your certificate, you may only make a gift assignment of your life insurance. A gift assignment is when you give ownership and control of your life insurance to another person without receiving anything of value, such as money, in exchange for the assignment.

Please make sure you seek legal and/or financial counsel before making any assignments, including a gift assignment.

What happens to your beneficiary designation if your life insurance is assigned to another person?

Because the assignee has control of your life insurance, you cannot name a beneficiary. Only the assignee can do so. If the insurance was assigned and at the time of your death the assignee didn't choose a beneficiary, the proceeds will be payable in the following order:

- The assignee if living
- The estate of the assignee

What's Next?

Contact your benefits administrator for more information.