



**American Equity Investment  
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# Annuity Beneficiary Claim Instructions

Please print all information in **BLACK INK**.

**Please note:** We reserve the right to request additional information we may deem necessary to settle the claim.

## Requirements for ALL Beneficiary Claims

- Beneficiary Claim Form 068008 - Each beneficiary must submit a claim form. Forms can be returned by fax, mail or e-mail.
- Copy of a Certified Death Certificate - To ensure the authenticity of a death certificate, each copy must meet the following requirements:
  - **Must be complete** – no parts of the death certificate can be cut off, altered or amended
  - **Must be legible** – we must be able to read the ENTIRE death certificate
  - **Must contain an official seal** – the copy must include a visible seal to verify authenticity

## Additional Requirements

### **Estate as the beneficiary**

- Court-certified executor's appointment or letters of testamentary is required.
  - Please note: The Social Security number for the deceased can not be used as the Tax ID number for the estate. A unique Tax ID number must be provided. This can be obtained from the IRS.

### **Trust as the beneficiary**

- A copy of the Trust – Specifically, the title page, signature page, and pages indicating the current trustees(s) including any amendments made thereafter.
  - Please note: If the Tax ID number for the Trust is the same as the decedent's Social Security number, a new Tax ID number for the Trust must be provided. This can be obtained from the IRS.

### **Attorney-in-Fact is acting on behalf of the beneficiary**

- A current copy of the power of attorney document is required.
  - The Beneficiary Claim Form 068008 must be signed in their capacity as attorney-in-fact.

### **Minor child as the beneficiary/ Conservator has been appointed for beneficiary**

- A certified copy of the birth certificate for the minor child, and/or court-certified letters of guardianship or conservatorship documents are required.
  - The minor child's Social Security number must be provided.

### **Corporation or Charity as the beneficiary**

- A copy of a Corporate Resolution indicating who is authorized to sign on behalf of the entity is required.

### **Non-US Citizen Beneficiary**

- Federal Form W-8BEN must be completed
  - Lump Sum Payout option only

### **Beneficiary's Name has Changed**

- Legal proof of name change, such as a marriage certificate, dissolution decree or court order

The chart below summarizes the claim options available to different beneficiary types. The descriptions are for information purposes only and do not constitute tax or legal advice.

Beneficiary Type	Spousal Continuation	Inherited Stretch	Settlement Option	5-Year Deferral	Lump Sum Payout
Spouse	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Individual (Non-Spouse)	N/A	✓*	✓*	✓	✓
Trust	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓
Charity	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓
Estate	N/A	N/A	N/A	✓	✓

\*Please contact us to determine if this option is available for your situation.

### SPOUSAL CONTINUATION (Spouse must be the sole primary beneficiary)

Description	Considerations	Tax Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surviving spouse steps in as the contract owner</li> <li>Beneficiary must be a 'spouse' as defined by applicable law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract provisions continue</li> <li>Surrender charges are waived for most products</li> <li>Name a new beneficiary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taxes are deferred until the funds are distributed</li> <li>Withdrawals prior to age 59½ are subject to a 10% income tax penalty</li> </ul>

### INHERITED STRETCH

Description	Considerations	Tax Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract is re-titled to include the names of the decedent and the beneficiary</li> <li>Death benefit must be paid over the life expectancy of the beneficiary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penalty-free withdrawals can be taken at any time</li> <li>Name a new beneficiary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taxes are deferred until the funds are distributed</li> <li>Election must be made within the first year following the date of death.</li> </ul>

### SETTLEMENT OPTION

Description	Considerations	Tax Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Death benefit is paid in equal installments over the period you choose</li> <li>Once the payments begin, the amount and frequency cannot change for the remainder of the payment period</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payment period can be as short as three years, or as long as the beneficiary's life expectancy</li> <li>Name a new beneficiary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payments are taxed in the years distributions are made</li> <li>On non-qualified funds, the taxable portion of the death benefit is spread out evenly over the payment period</li> <li>Election must be made within the first year following the date of death.</li> </ul>

### 5-YEAR DEFERRAL

Description	Considerations	Tax Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payment of the death benefit is deferred for a period no longer than five years from the date of death</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Death benefit can be withdrawn at any time within the five-year deferral period</li> <li>Death benefit can be taken in installments at the discretion of the beneficiary</li> <li>Name a new beneficiary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taxes are deferred until the funds are distributed</li> <li>On non-qualified withdrawals, the taxable portion is withdrawn first</li> <li>Qualified contracts only: If the contract owner was over 70½ at the time of their death this option is not available</li> </ul>

### LUMP-SUM PAYMENT

Description	Considerations	Tax Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full distribution of the death benefit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surrender charges are waived on a lump-sum payment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payment creates a taxable event</li> </ul>