

Beneficiary Designations

One of the unique benefits of a Group RRSP account is that it allows members to designate who investments will be transferred to upon their death.

Members can designate their estate, spouse, children, other individuals or organizations such as charities. More than one beneficiary can be chosen, but the percentage of distribution must be clearly indicated on the enrolment or change form. Without a complete designation RRSP assets will be subject to the public probate process, whereby assets are gathered up, inventoried, debts are paid off, and any remaining assets are distributed.

There are 3 different beneficiary classifications:

1. Preferred Beneficiary

A spouse, parent, child or grandchild is considered a "preferred beneficiary". If a preferred beneficiary is designated then the benefit may be protected from creditors. For this reason it is important that plan members specify their relation to the beneficiary on the enrolment form.

If the beneficiary is a minor then an adult must be named as Trustee. They will receive the funds in trust for the minor beneficiary.

2. Primary Beneficiary

The "primary" beneficiary is the person(s) who is the first choice to receive the death benefit. You can appoint two or more primary beneficiaries. (i.e. my sister Sue 50% , my grandmother Marcy 50%).

3. Contingent Beneficiary

A "contingent beneficiary" can be named in case the primary beneficiary dies before or at the same time as the insured.

To Change Your Beneficiary:

- ◆ Logon to GRSAcess (www.grsaccess.com)
- ◆ Select Change your portfolio from the top menu bar
- ◆ Choose Printable forms from the menu on the left
- ◆ Complete and return the form titled *Designation of revocable beneficiary/trustee appointment*.
- ◆ If you require assistance with the form or the site, contact Great-West Life at 1-800-724-3402.

