



Make sure loved ones are taken care of after you're gone.

Name a beneficiary to ensure your retirement savings are distributed the way you want.

Planning how your assets will be divided when you pass away can be overwhelming. But knowing your family won't face the added stress of making sure your retirement funds are designated the way you intend can help.

Here's what you need to know about designating or changing your beneficiary:

If you don't name a beneficiary

Generally, your retirement savings will automatically go to your spouse. Designating a beneficiary is important if you intend on leaving money to your children or another recipient.¹

If you're single and don't name a beneficiary

Your savings becomes part of your estate, and the courts will decide how it's distributed. This can be a long, expensive process for your loved ones.

If you name a minor as a beneficiary

You'll need to designate a custodian to manage the money in your beneficiary's interest. If you don't, the state may decide for you.²

When to update your beneficiary

Your beneficiary designation typically overrides all other estate documents, including wills. That's why it's so important to update it after a major life change, like the following:

- Divorce
- Remarriage
- Birth of a baby
- Death in the family
- Any other significant life changes

Have questions? We can help.

Call **800.547.7754** to talk to a retirement specialist.

Check out My Virtual Coach at principal.com/myvirtualcoach-all to learn more about setting up your beneficiary.

Name your beneficiary now.

Go to principal.com/beneficiary or request a beneficiary form through your employer.

¹ Naming someone other than a spouse requires the spouse's signature.

² A minor is generally a person under 18. The age of a minor can vary by state. Be sure to know the rules regarding naming a custodian and the age of a minor for your applicable state.

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