

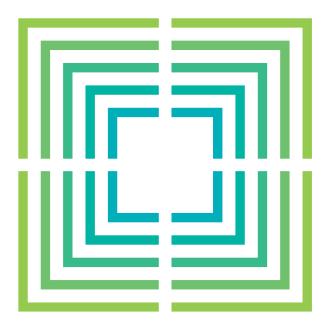
## **Brighthouse Shield® Level Annuity**

Discover the Benefits of a Level of Protection and Participation in Growth Opportunities



Brighthouse Shield® Level Select 6-Year Annuity, Brighthouse Shield® Level Select 3-Year Annuity, and Brighthouse Shield® Level Select Advisory Annuity are collectively referred to as "Shield® Level Annuities" or "Shield® Annuities." This material provides a general overview of the Shield Level Annuity suite of single premium deferred index-linked annuity products. Please refer to the product fact card and prospectus for complete details regarding the Shield Level Annuity being discussed. Product availability and features may vary by state or firm.





## **Brighthouse Shield Level Annuity**





A Brighthouse Shield® Level Annuity provides a level of protection to help ensure that losses are limited when markets turn volatile.



## Participate in growth opportunities

With a Shield Level Annuity, balance is built in. This means that even with a guaranteed level of protection, there are opportunities to take advantage of market growth.



### Pay no annual fees

Unlike many financial products, there are no annual fees with a Shield Level Annuity.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Withdrawals may be subject to withdrawal charges.

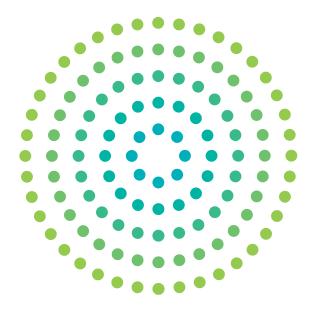


## What is an indexlinked annuity and how does it fit into a portfolio?

Index-linked annuities are long-term financial products designed to help you save for retirement. This type of annuity lets you participate in growth opportunities, up to a certain percentage, by tracking the performance of a market index while allowing you to enjoy a level of protection in down markets.

A Brighthouse Shield® Level Annuity offers growth opportunities by tracking the performance of well-known market indices. And with a level of downside protection, it can help limit the impact of market volatility.² Plus, a Shield Level Annuity features no annual fees.

The contract owner can participate in rising markets up to the rate crediting type. Growth opportunities are based on the elected rate crediting type. The Shield Rate (level of protection) and rate crediting type accrue daily and fully accrue on the term end date. The issuing insurance company will absorb losses up to the level of protection in falling markets. The account value will be reduced by any negative index performance beyond the elected level of protection. If the Fixed Account is not elected, there could be a substantial loss if the index declines more than the level of protection.





# Add a Level of Protection to Retirement Assets

Achieving financial goals can take more than one strategy – and index-linked annuities can play an important role.

When planning for retirement, you can't risk everything and you can't protect everything. But there is a way to achieve some of both. A Shield Level Annuity from Brighthouse Financial® can help use a portion of retirement assets to participate in market growth opportunities with a level of downside protection other investment options may not provide. A Shield Level Annuity is designed to help provide some protection in an unpredictable endeavor – investing.



# Participate in Market Growth Opportunities

### Equities. Don't be afraid – they can still be a great retirement asset.

Investing in equities has its ups and downs, but anyone who has looked at historical returns knows the truth.<sup>3</sup> Equities can offer a great opportunity for your retirement assets to potentially grow, which is eye-opening when you look at the numbers.

Some investors may sell at the first sign of bad news,<sup>4</sup> but staying fully invested in the markets will likely produce better results than trying to time market ups and downs. For example, missing the 10 best trading days of the S&P 500® Index<sup>A</sup> from 2004 through 2023 would have reduced an investor's return by 64%.<sup>5</sup> What about your retirement portfolio? Are your numbers telling this same story?

A Shield Level Annuity is specifically built to help take advantage of some of the potential growth opportunities equities offer. But what about the possibility of a significant market downturn? We've got that covered too. With a Shield Level Annuity, balance is built in, so there's potential for equity-like returns while a portion of your assets is protected against loss.<sup>2</sup>



64%

Missing the 10 best trading days of the S&P 500 within a 20-year period would have reduced an investor's return by 64%.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Past performance does not guarantee future results.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Should You Take Money Out Of The Stock Market? Forbes Advisor, August 14, 2023.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Data from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2023. Franklin Templeton, January 2024.



### Pay No Annual Fees

### Shield Level Annuities won't add to overall investment portfolio fees.

A Shield Level Annuity has no annual fees. Brighthouse Financial is able to realize earnings through the assets deposited in the product. Importantly, any money we earn is not taken from the growth provided by the selected index beyond the rate crediting type specified in the Shield Level Annuity.

Remember that a Shield Level Annuity is designed to work over the full length of the selected term by providing exposure to equities that may help accumulate funds. After the first contract year, if a need arises, up to 10% of the account value (as of the previous contract anniversary) can be withdrawn each year without a withdrawal charge.<sup>6</sup>



### Tax treatment – another bright spot.

Worried about tax implications? Rest easy. A Shield Level Annuity is tax-deferred.<sup>7</sup>

This generally means that taxes aren't paid until money is withdrawn. And because taxes aren't paid on the earnings each year, hard-earned money stays hard at work until ready for use.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Withdrawals of taxable amounts are subject to ordinary income tax. Withdrawals made before age 59½ may also be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Distributions of taxable amounts from a non-qualified annuity may also be subject to the 3.8% Net Investment Income Tax that is generally imposed on interest, dividends, and annuity income if the modified adjusted gross income exceeds the applicable threshold amount. Withdrawals will reduce the death benefit and account value. Withdrawals may be subject to withdrawal charges.

Buying an annuity to fund a qualified retirement plan or IRA should be done for the annuity's features and benefits other than tax deferral. Tax deferral is generally a feature of a qualified retirement plan or IRA, so an annuity would not provide an additional tax deferral benefit. References throughout this material to tax advantages, such as tax deferral and tax-free transfers, are subject to this consideration. The product described in this material is not made available to employer-sponsored qualified retirement plans. For non-qualified annuities, tax deferral is not available to corporations and certain other entities.

## How a Shield Level Annuity Works

In a perfect world, retirement portfolios would enjoy uninterrupted growth, leaving you with few decisions outside of where you will spend your comfortable retirement. But that's not the way saving for retirement goes. Losses are very real and can drag the entire value of your portfolio down.

#### **Diversify Retirement Planning**

#### **A Brighthouse Shield Level Annuity**



### A Valuable Portfolio Asset

#### The right level of protection

Like its name implies, a Brighthouse Shield Level Annuity can help protect a portion of your portfolio from some of the losses that can derail plans. The best part is that there's a built-in level of protection (Shield Rate) as well as potential growth opportunities offered by the selected index or indices.

#### **Potential growth opportunities**

- Cap Rate is the maximum rate that can be earned at the end of the term based on index performance<sup>8,9</sup>
- Step Rate credits a predetermined percentage of growth if index performance is either flat or up at the end of the term<sup>8,9</sup>
- Step Rate Edge credits a predetermined percentage of growth, called the Edge Rate, if index performance is greater than or equal to the Shield Rate at the end of the term<sup>8,9</sup>
- Our Performance Lock feature, which is available on Shield Options with a Cap Rate, allows you
  to lock positive index performance once during your term<sup>10</sup>

#### Tailored to suit individual needs

A Shield Level Annuity immediately puts money to work and allows participation in some of the growth opportunities the market offers, up to the rate crediting type. At the end of each term, the index value at the beginning and end of the term will be compared – factoring in the level of protection as well as the rate crediting type – which will result in a new account value.

At the end of the term, the investment allocation can be kept the same or adjusted to meet changing needs. See the fact card for more details. Your financial professional can also tell you which options, features, and indices are available with your Shield Level Annuity.

- <sup>8</sup> The rate crediting type accrues daily and fully accrues on the term end date. If a withdrawal is taken from the contract prior to the term end date, any gain may be limited by the applicable accrued rate crediting type. See the prospectus for more details.
- The Shield Rate (level of protection) and rate crediting type accrue daily and fully accrue on the term end date. In exchange for a predetermined percentage of growth, Step Rates and Edge Rates are generally lower than Cap Rates for the same Shield Options. Additionally, Edge Rates are generally lower than Step Rates for the same Shield Options. Rates will vary based on the selected term, index, and level of protection.
- Once Performance Lock takes effect, a Performance Lock Factor applies in the calculation of Interim Value prior to the end of the term and the calculation of the investment amount at the end of the term. The Performance Lock Factor will result in a reduction of the Interim Value, and the contract owner may receive less than they would have received had the Performance Lock not been in effect. The index value of the selected index may increase above the Locked Index Value; however, this higher index value will not be utilized in the calculation of the investment amount at the end of the term. Performance Lock is not available on Shield Options with a Step Rate or Edge Rate. Performance Lock is only available for contracts issued by Brighthouse Life Insurance Company, based on applications received on or after 08/02/2021. This feature is not available in New York.

## **Tailored to Individual Needs**

#### Ready to get started? Use these simple steps.

With an investment time horizon in mind, consider how a Shield Level Annuity might fit your future needs.



#### Decide what portion of retirement assets should be allocated to help protect from loss.

This money will not only benefit from a level of protection, it can also allow you to participate in potential growth opportunities. Remember that a Shield Level Annuity is designed to work over the full length of the term by providing equity exposure via index tracking.



#### **Choose the Shield Options that best fit individual goals.**

Each Shield Option has an associated term (length of time), index, Shield Rate (level of protection), and rate crediting type. The available Shield Options are listed on the fact card and new contract rate flyer.<sup>11</sup>

#### Select an index or indices:

• S&P 500 $^{\circ}$  Index $^{\mathsf{A}}$  • Russell 2000 $^{\circ}$  Index $^{\mathsf{B}}$  • MSCI EAFE Index $^{\mathsf{C}}$  • Nasdaq-100 $^{\circ}$  Index $^{\mathsf{D}}$ 

A Shield Level Annuity is an index-linked annuity that doesn't invest directly in the chosen index or indices, but rather tracks their performance. Index choices are diversified among large-cap, small-cap, and international stocks (see page 12 for a description of each index).



#### Participate in up markets with a level of protection in down markets.

At the end of each term, the account value will be reduced only by the amount that exceeds the level of protection.<sup>12</sup> For example, if 10% of the account value was protected and the index selected dropped by 15%, the account would experience only a 5% loss. At the end of the term, choose one or more Shield Options or keep the same selections for the next term.<sup>13</sup> Available term lengths are listed on the fact card.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> The Shield Options available may vary by state or firm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> You could see a substantial loss if the index declines more than your level of protection.

<sup>13</sup> Visit www.brighthousefinancial.com/products/rates for current rates, which generally update on the 1st and 15th of every month.

## **Shield Level Annuity** in Action

This hypothetical example is for illustrative purposes only and does not take taxes, fees, and any other expenses into account.

#### Term 1

#### The Shield Rate goes to work

Jack and Kristin, who are 10 years from retiring, are exploring ways to diversify and grow their savings. After meeting with their financial professional, they decide to move \$100,000 – a portion of their retirement assets – into a Shield Level Annuity with 100% allocation to their selected Shield Option that includes a 1-year term, their chosen index, and Shield 10 level of protection. At the end of the term:

- Their chosen index declined by 14%
- Because of the Shield Rate, Brighthouse Financial absorbed 10% of their loss
- Jack and Kristin avoided \$10,000 in losses

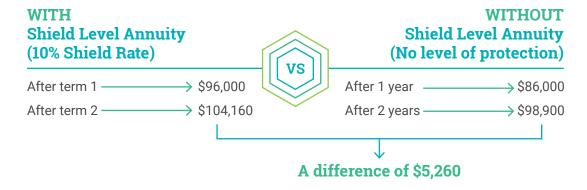
#### Term 2

#### Enjoying the growth

A Shield Level Annuity protected a portion of Jack and Kristin's assets by limiting their loss. Their Shield Option then renews for another 1-year term. At the end of the term:

- Their chosen index grew by 15%
- In exchange for 10% protection against loss, their Cap Rate was 8.5%
- Jack and Kristin's account grew by 8.5%

A Shield Level Annuity worked for Jack and Kristin. But what if instead of purchasing a Shield Level Annuity, they had directly invested in an investment that tracks the same market index but does not provide a level of protection?





## Discover a **Brighter Future**

A Brighthouse Shield Level Annuity is designed to provide the one thing that is toughest to achieve – diversified growth opportunities with a level of protection in a volatile market.

Ready for more? Refer to the Customization Guide to see how a Shield Level Annuity can help use a portion of retirement assets to participate in market growth with a level of downside protection.

Talk to your financial professional or visit **brighthousefinancial.com** to see if a Brighthouse Financial Shield Level Annuity can help you get where you want to go.

# We're Brighthouse Financial

We are on a mission to help people achieve financial security.

As one of the largest providers of annuities and life insurance in the U.S., <sup>14</sup> we specialize in products designed to help people protect what they've earned and ensure it lasts. We are built on a foundation of experience and knowledge, which allows us to keep our promises and provide the value they deserve.

### **Important Information**

#### **Annual Fees**

No annual fees. Withdrawal charges, premium tax, and other taxes may apply.

#### Death Benefit<sup>15</sup>

For contract owners ages 80 and younger, the death benefit will pay the greater of the account value or the purchase payment, reduced proportionally for withdrawals, including applicable withdrawal charges.

For contract owners ages 81 and older at issue, the death benefit will be equal to the account value.

#### **Interim Value**

The value of each Shield Option calculated on any business day prior to the end of the term. The Interim Value is the amount available for:

- · Partial withdrawals or full surrenders (reduced by withdrawal charge, if applicable)
- · Death benefit15
- Annuitization

For each Shield Option, the Interim Value is calculated based on the performance of the associated index on a given day, up to the accrued Shield Rate and accrued rate crediting type. For example, halfway through the term, the Shield Rate and rate crediting type would be half-accrued.

#### **Lifetime Income**

Available through:

- · Fixed Life Annuity, with and without guarantee periods
- Fixed Joint and Last Survivor Annuity, with and without guarantee periods

#### Market Indices<sup>11</sup>

#### S&P 500 Index

Represents 500 large-cap stocks from leading companies in leading industries of the U.S. economy, capturing approximately 80% coverage of U.S. equities. The S&P 500 Index does not include dividends declared by any of the companies in this index.

#### Russell 2000 Index

Captures the performance of the small-cap segment of U.S. equities and includes approximately 2,000 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market cap and current index membership. The Russell 2000 Index does not include dividends declared by any of the companies in this index.

#### **MSCI EAFE Index**

Includes over 1,000 international stocks intended to measure major developed international equity markets in Europe, Australasia, and the Far East (EAFE). As of the date of the prospectus, the index consists of the following 21 developed market country indices: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. The MSCI EAFE Index does not include dividends declared by any of the companies in this index. Index value and index performance will be calculated without any exchange rate adjustment.

#### Nasdaq-100 Index

Measures the performance of 100 of the largest Nasdaq-listed non-financial companies. The Nasdaq-100 Index does not include dividends declared by any of the companies in this index.

<sup>15</sup> For contracts issued with a Return of Premium Death Benefit, the Interim Value may be lower than the death benefit.

#### Nursing Home Waiver

If applicable, after the first contract year, a withdrawal charge will be waived if the owner or the joint owner becomes confined to a hospital or nursing home for at least 90 days. This waiver is available to people ages 80 and younger when they purchase the annuity. See the prospectus for details and restrictions.

#### **Performance Lock**

For Shield Options with a Cap Rate, the Performance Lock feature allows you to lock in positive index performance by locking in the closing index value on any business day during a term. The Locked Index Value will be used for the remainder of the term to calculate index performance for the Shield Option. Once a Locked Index Value takes effect, it is irrevocable for the remainder of that term.

#### Purchase Payment (single premium)

Minimum: \$25,000

Maximum: \$1 million (without issuing insurance company approval)

#### Rate Crediting Type<sup>9,11</sup>

**Cap Rate** is the maximum rate that can be earned at the end of the term based on index performance.

**Step Rate** credits a predetermined percentage of growth, called the Edge Rate, if index performance is either flat or up at the end of the term.

**Step Rate Edge** credits a predetermined percentage of growth, called the Edge Rate, if index performance is greater than or equal to the Shield Rate at the end of the term.

#### Terminal Illness Waiver

If applicable, after the first contract year, a withdrawal charge will be waived if the owner or the joint owner becomes terminally ill and is not expected to live more than 12 months. This waiver is available to people ages 80 and younger when they purchase the annuity. See the prospectus for details and restrictions.

#### **Transfers**

Transfers between the Shield Options or Fixed Account are permitted within 5 calendar days after the end of each term. For Shield Options with a Locked Index Value that have not reached the end of a term, transfers between available Shield Options and the Fixed Account are permitted on any contract anniversary prior to the end of the term.

#### Withdrawals<sup>16,17</sup>

Upon request for a withdrawal, you will receive a net withdrawal amount adjusted for any applicable withdrawal charge and/or taxable amount as described below:

- Free Withdrawals: After your first contract year, the Free Withdrawal Amount, if applicable, is equal to 10% of the account value as of the prior contract anniversary
- Withdrawal Charge: If applicable, a percentage charge is applied to a withdrawal amount in excess of the Free Withdrawal Amount in a contract year

<sup>16</sup> Each business day, we assign a value to each Shield Option, which is known as Interim Value. This value also represents the amount the contract owner can withdraw from each of the Shield Options on any day before the term end date. The Shield Rate and rate crediting type (depending on the chosen Shield Option) accrue daily throughout the term and will not fully accrue until the term end date, which will affect the Interim Value. Additionally, Interim Value is used to measure the impact of a partial withdrawal on the remaining investment amount in a Shield Option. The amount of a partial withdrawal, will reduce the investment amount for each Shield Option proportionally and may adversely impact the investment amount in the Shield Option and any future amounts available for withdrawal. If a Locked Index Value has taken effect, the contract owner may receive less than they would have received had they not exercised a Locked Index Value due to the Performance Lock Factor.

Withdrawals of taxable amounts are subject to ordinary income tax. Withdrawals made before age 59½ may also be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Distributions of taxable amounts from a non-qualified annuity may also be subject to the 3.8% Net Investment Income Tax that is generally imposed on interest, dividends, and annuity income if the modified adjusted gross income exceeds the applicable threshold amount. Withdrawals will reduce the death benefit and account value. Withdrawals may be subject to withdrawal charges.

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This material must be preceded or accompanied by a prospectus for Brighthouse Shield Level Select 6-Year Annuity, Brighthouse Shield Level Select 3-Year Annuity, or Brighthouse Shield Level Select Advisory Annuity, issued by Brighthouse Life Insurance Company, which contains information about the contract's features, risks, charges, and expenses. Clients should read the prospectus, which is available from their financial professional, and consider its information carefully before investing. Brighthouse Financial has the right to substitute an index prior to the end of a term if an index is discontinued or we determine that our use of such index should be discontinued.

Brighthouse Shield Level Annuities are long-term investments designed for retirement purposes. They have limitations, exclusions, charges, termination provisions, and terms for keeping them in force and are not guaranteed by the broker/dealer, insurance agency, underwriter, or any affiliates of those entities from which they were purchased. All representations and contract guarantees, including the death benefit and annuity payout rates, are subject to the claims-paying ability and financial strength of the issuing insurance company. Because the client agrees to absorb all losses beyond their chosen Shield Rate, there is a risk of substantial loss of principal. Please refer to "Risk Factors" in the contract prospectus for more details.

Withdrawals of taxable amounts are subject to ordinary income tax. Withdrawals made before age 59½ may also be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Distributions of taxable amounts from a non-qualified annuity may also be subject to the 3.8% Net Investment Income Tax that is generally imposed on interest, dividends, and annuity income if the modified adjusted gross income exceeds the applicable threshold amount. Withdrawals will reduce the death benefit and account value. Withdrawals may be subject to withdrawal charges.

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