



# Protect. Participate. Pay No Annual Fees.

## A Case Study

Brighthouse Shield Level Select<sup>SM</sup> Advisory Annuity can help protect a portion of retirement assets and participate in potential growth opportunities with no annual fees.

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### **What is an annuity?**

An annuity, like Shield Level Select Access, is a long-term financial product designed to help accumulate assets on a tax-deferred<sup>1</sup> basis. What makes a Shield annuity from Brighthouse Financial different is that it can help use a portion of retirement assets to take advantage of market growth with the assurance of a level of downside protection other investment options may not provide.

# Meet Alex and Maura Brown



HYPOTHETICAL EXAMPLE. FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY.

## Maintaining a Level of Exposure to Equities

Alex and Maura are looking forward to starting their retirement in 10 years. Their plans include traveling, spending time with their children and pursuing their hobbies. They know that reaching their financial goals requires portfolio exposure to the equity markets but realize that market volatility can impact their savings.

## Diversifying with an Allocation that Tracks Multiple Indices

Alex and Maura's financial professional recommended placing a portion of their retirement assets – \$100,000 – into a Shield Level Select Advisory Annuity. The purchase payment was allocated to three Shield Options. Here's the breakdown:

- Shield Option 1: 6-year Term, Index 1, Shield 10 Shield Rate; Allocation: 60%
- Shield Option 2: 6-year Term, Index 2, Shield 10 Shield Rate; Allocation: 30%
- Shield Option 3: 6-year Term, Index 3, Shield 15 Shield Rate; Allocation: 10%

### Shield Option 1

At the end of the 6-year term:

- Index performance: 55%
- Cap Rate: 80%
- Realized gain: 55%
- Account value: \$93,000

### Shield Option 2

At the end of the 6-year term:

- Index performance: -8%
- Level of protection: 10%
- Realized loss: 0%
- Account value: \$30,000



## Good to know

A Shield Annuity does not invest directly in any index. Performance is measured against the index or indices chosen, subject to the applicable Shield Rate if the performance is negative or the applicable Cap Rate or Step Rate if the performance is positive. Negative index performance beyond the Shield Rate (level of protection) could result in substantial loss.

### Shield Option 3

At the end of the 6-year term:

- Index performance: -17%
- Level of Protection: 15%
- Realized loss: -2%
- Account value: \$9,800

These examples are not a representation of past or future performance for any Shield Option (Term, Index, Shield Rate and Cap Rate, or Step Rate) and are not a guarantee of any kind. Actual performance may be greater or less than that shown. This illustration assumes no withdrawals are taken, and account values are rounded for illustrative purposes only. The rate illustrated for the Cap Rate is hypothetical and for illustrative purposes only, and may not reflect actual declared rates. The Cap Rate will vary depending on the level of protection, index and term selected. The Cap Rate or Step Rate and Shield Rate are fully accrued at the end of the term. Cap Rates and Step Rates are not annual rates. After the initial 1, 3, or 6 year term, renewal rates apply on the corresponding contract anniversary for the new term.

# The Shield Level Select Advisory Difference

Based on three Shield Options with 6-Year terms shown below, Alex and Maura's Shield account value increased from their single purchase payment of \$100,000 to \$132,800. If they had invested in a mutual fund constructed to match the same market index instead of a Shield annuity, Alex and Maura's account value would have been \$128,900 – a difference of \$3,900.<sup>2</sup>

Shield Option	Starting Value	Term Length	Index Performance	Shield Rate	Cap Rate	Shield Performance	Account Value
1	\$60,000	6 years	55.00%	10.00%	80.00%	55.00%	\$93,000
2	\$30,000	6 years	-8.00%	10.00%	87.00%	0.00%	\$30,000
3	\$10,000	6 years	-17.00%	15.00%	62.00%	-2.00%	\$9,800

**Ending Account Value: \$132,800**

## Account Value With Protection

At the end of the 6-year terms

→ \$132,800



## Account Value Without Protection

At the end of the 6-year terms

→ \$128,900

**A difference of \$3,900**



Visit [brighthousefinancial.com](https://brighthousefinancial.com) for interactive tools and resources. Or speak to your financial professional about how Shield Level Select Advisory Annuity can complement your overall retirement planning strategy.

<sup>1</sup> Tax deferral is not available to corporations. If you are buying an annuity to fund a qualified retirement plan or IRA, you should do so for the annuity's features and benefits other than tax deferral. In such cases, tax deferral is not an additional benefit of the annuity. References throughout this material to tax advantages, such as tax deferral and tax-free transfers, are subject to this consideration.

<sup>2</sup> Taxes, mutual fund fees and expenses have not been accounted for in this hypothetical example.

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***This material must be preceded or accompanied by a Brighthouse Shield Level Select<sup>SM</sup> Advisory Annuity prospectus, 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 reserves the right to substitute any index at any time. Product availability and features may vary by state.***

**Brighthouse Shield Level Select<sup>SM</sup> Advisory Annuity is a long-term investment designed for retirement purposes. It has limitations, exclusions, charges, termination provisions and terms for keeping it in force and is not guaranteed by the broker/dealer, the insurance agency, the underwriter, or any affiliates of those entities from which it was 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 and if made before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Some broker/dealers and financial professionals may refer to the 10% federal income tax penalty as an "additional tax" or "additional income tax," or use the terms interchangeably when discussing withdrawals taken prior to age 59½. Distributions of taxable amounts from a non-qualified annuity may also be subject to the 3.8% Unearned Income Medicare Contribution tax that is generally imposed on interest, dividends, and annuity income if your modified adjusted gross income exceeds the applicable threshold amount. Withdrawals will reduce the death benefits and account value.

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