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Safeguarding your family
Binding death benefit nominations

Having a valid binding death benefit nomination on your account will give you greater certainty about where your superannuation and any death insurance benefit will be paid. Under a valid binding death benefit nomination the Sunsuper Trustee must pay your benefit to your nominated beneficiary. This is different to a preferred beneficiary nomination, where the Sunsuper Trustee will consider your nomination, but ultimately has discretion in relation to whom your benefit is to be paid.

What is a binding death benefit nomination?

A binding death benefit nomination is a legal tool that 'binds' the Trustee of Sunsuper to pay your death benefit to your nominated beneficiary, provided the nomination form is valid and less than three years old.

In the event of your death, if the nomination is found to be invalid, the Sunsuper Trustee will use its discretion to determine how your benefit will be paid. An invalid nomination may still be an important consideration for the Trustee when determining the payment of your death benefit; however it does not bind the Trustee to pay the benefit as nominated.

How do I ensure my binding death benefit nomination form is valid and completed correctly?

It's simple. When you fill in a Binding death nomination form you must:

- complete all sections on the form,
- ensure the beneficiaries are dependants, or your legal personal representative,
- ensure the benefit allocation between your beneficiaries adds up to 100%,
- ensure all alterations are crossed out and initialed as we are unable to accept forms that contain white out, and
- ensure you sign and date the form in front of two witnesses, who must be over 18 years of age and not nominated as beneficiaries.

Your nomination may become invalid if:

- your nomination form was signed more than three years ago (you need to renew every three years),
- one of your beneficiaries dies before you do,
- one of your nominated dependants is not a dependant at the time of your death, or
- you are no longer a member of Sunsuper at the time of your death.

Who can I nominate as a beneficiary?

You can nominate a dependant for superannuation purposes, or your legal personal representative (that is the executor or administrator of your estate). Dependants include:

- your spouse, includes married couples, defacto couples and same sex couples,
- your child. This includes an adopted child, step child, ex-nuptial child or child of your spouse,
- any person in an 'interdependent relationship' with you,
- any other person who the Trustee considers was dependant on you for maintenance or support, at the date of your death.

You may be defined as being in an interdependent relationship with someone if you share a close personal relationship, live together, one or both of you provides the other with financial support, and one or both of you provides the other with domestic support and care.

Two people, whether or not related, may also have an interdependent relationship if they have a close personal relationship, but none of the other requirements for interdependency, like living together, are met because either or both of them suffer from a physical, intellectual or psychiatric disability.

If you nominate your legal personal representative, it's important that you have a Will and keep it up-to-date, as the Trustee must pay your benefit to your estate.

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Can I leave my super and life insurance benefits to my parents?

Generally, your parents are not considered to be dependants. If you want your death benefit to go to your parents, you should seek professional advice about arranging for your Will to cater for this.

Can I change my nomination?

Yes. To make changes just download the Binding death benefit nomination form from our website at sunsuper.com.au, or call us on 13 11 84 and we'll send one to you. Sunsuper will write to you and confirm any new, amended or cancelled nomination. We'll also confirm your current binding death benefit nomination details each year with your annual statement.

It's important to keep your death benefit nomination up-to-date because a change in circumstances may invalidate your nomination. In some cases, a nomination can even bind the Trustee to pay your death benefit to someone you no longer wish to receive your money.

Are there a maximum number of beneficiaries?

There is no maximum number of beneficiaries, so you need not be limited by the space shown on the form. If you do exceed the number of rows provided, please provide the same information on a sheet of paper for any additional beneficiaries and sign this page to verify the request.

What percentages can be allocated?

You may nominate a percentage allocation to each beneficiary up to two decimal places. It is important that if you nominate more than one beneficiary, the total benefit allocated must equal 100 per cent, or the nomination will be invalid.

Where can I get more information?

Sunsuper can provide you with help and advice, whether you have a simple question or would like to consider your total financial situation. Our qualified financial planners can answer most of your questions about your Sunsuper account simply and quickly over the phone on 13 11 84. If it's something more complex, you can arrange a meeting with a financial planner who can give you advice on many aspects of your finances – not just your Sunsuper account.

1Our phone based qualified financial planners provide simple advice about your Sunsuper account at no additional cost. More comprehensive advice may incur a fee. Sunsuper employees provide advice as representatives of Sunsuper Financial Services Pty Ltd (ABN 50 087 154 818 AFSL No. 227867) (SFS), wholly owned by the Sunsuper Superannuation Fund.