

# BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION GUIDE

## EMPLOYER-SPONSORED BASIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL LIFE INSURANCE PROGRAMS

You have chosen to participate in the basic term life insurance and/or supplemental life insurance program sponsored by your employer.

An important part of the benefit programs is designation of a beneficiary. By designating a beneficiary, you control the distribution of your life insurance benefits upon your death. To be sure your intentions are clear, fill out the beneficiary designation form: write clearly, sign and date the form, then submit it to HR Benefits Services. Once accepted by HR Benefits Services, the designation will be valid. These same steps apply if you choose to change your beneficiary designation.

## PRIMARY AND CONTINGENT BENEFICIARIES

Please be sure to designate both primary and contingent beneficiaries. Upon your death, the primary beneficiary (or beneficiaries, if you choose more than one) will receive any payable death benefits. The contingent beneficiary (or beneficiaries) will receive death benefits **ONLY** if all primary beneficiaries have predeceased you.

You may choose to have your beneficiaries share the benefits equally or you may apply different percentages to each. If no primary or contingent beneficiaries survive you, or if you have not named a beneficiary, death benefits are paid to:

- ▲ Your spouse or certified domestic partner, if living
- ▲ Your children, if living, in equal portions
- ▲ Your parents, if living, in equal portions
- ▲ Your brothers and/or sisters, if living, in equal portions
- ▲ If none of the above applies, to your estate



You may designate any of the following as your **primary or contingent beneficiary**:

- ▲ A person or persons
- ▲ An institution, charity or corporation (You may not name your employer or policyholder, Syngenta, or any affiliated subsidiary of Syngenta)
- ▲ Your estate (upon your death, Letters Testamentary or Letters of Administration appointing a personal representative of your estate will be required)

If you want to name a **minor** as beneficiary, use a **trust agreement** to make a beneficiary designation, or are acting as a **power of attorney** on behalf of an employee making a beneficiary designation, please refer to the attached FAQ.

Employees may obtain a copy of their beneficiary designation by contacting HR Benefits Services at 866-727-4772.

*This document has been prepared for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide legal advice. Always consult an attorney if you have questions or concerns about the subject matter in this document. If there is a conflict between the terms and conditions of the insurance policy and certificate and the statements in this document, the policy and certificate will control.*

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DESIGNATING BENEFICIARIES

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## 1. Q. HOW MANY TIMES MAY I CHANGE MY BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION?

- A. You may change the beneficiary designation for group life insurance as often as you wish and at any time. A change should be considered any time you experience a significant life event such as a birth, marriage, divorce or death. This change is not valid until it is accepted by HR Benefits Services.

## 2. Q. I AM NOT COMFORTABLE GIVING MY BENEFICIARY'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER. IS IT REQUIRED?

- A. The social security number is not required; however, it will help positively identify your beneficiary. Also, the beneficiary will have to provide it at time of claim.

## 3. Q. CAN MY POWER OF ATTORNEY COMPLETE MY BENEFICIARY FORM, AND CAN HE OR SHE NAME HIMSELF OR HERSELF AS BENEFICIARY?

- A. Yes, if the Power of Attorney documents *specifically* state that you have delegated this right. If you wish the Power of Attorney to be able to name him or herself as beneficiary, the Power of Attorney document must also *specifically* state that you have delegated this right. Most standard Power of Attorney documents do not include a designation of these rights. Please carefully review your Power of Attorney documents. You may wish to consult with your attorney for further advice.

## DOS AND DON'TS OF BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION

**Do use proper names.** Nicknames can be confusing. When naming a married female as beneficiary, be certain the proper name is given, e.g. Angela J. Harmon, not Mrs. John R. Harmon.

**Do use specific names.** The phrase "my children" can be vague and ambiguous: Does it mean "my children living at the time I completed this form," or "my children living at the time of my death"?

**Do secure your spouse's consent if you are not naming your spouse as beneficiary and you reside in a community property state.** Community property states currently are: Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

**Do make a copy of your completed Designation of Beneficiary form before submitting it to HR Benefits Services and periodically review it to make sure all beneficiary information is correct.** It is especially important to update this information after a life event such as a birth, marriage, divorce or death.

**Do complete this form with an ink pen.** HR Benefits Services will not accept a form completed in pencil.

**Don't use "white out" or cross out names** to make changes in designation; doing so could invalidate the form.

HR Benefits Services asks that you read the beneficiary designation form document carefully to ensure that your wishes are properly and validly carried out.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DESIGNATING BENEFICIARIES *CONTINUED*

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## 4. Q. I AM IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING DIVORCED. HOW SHOULD I WORD MY FORM?

- A. Since each divorce case (or dissolution of a civil union) is different and can be complex, we suggest discussing your beneficiary designation with your attorney at the time the divorce/dissolution paperwork is filed and again after the final decree has been issued.

## 5. Q. I AM CONSIDERING SETTING UP A TRUST; MAY I NAME A TRUST AS BENEFICIARY?

- A. You may choose to designate an established trust to receive your group life insurance benefit. If you elect to do so, you **MUST** provide the name and date of the trust and the name and address of the trustee to contact upon your death. You need not provide a copy of the trust documents with your Designation of Beneficiary form, but the trustee will have to present them at the time of the claim.

## 6. Q. I WOULD LIKE TO NAME A MINOR CHILD AS BENEFICIARY. WHAT HAPPENS IF I DIE AND THE CHILD IS STILL A MINOR AT THE TIME OF MY DEATH?

- A. If you name a minor as beneficiary:
1. The benefits can be held on behalf of the minor at a nominal interest rate until the minor becomes of legal age; or
  2. Depending on the law in the minor's state of residence, you may be able to put the funds in a Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA) account that you set up; or
  3. A guardian of the minor's estate may submit appropriate documentation to direct distribution of the benefits.

State law varies widely on this matter and should be consulted before making any decision.

## 7. Q. I NAMED MY THREE GRANDCHILDREN TO BE SOLE HEIRS IN MY WILL. WILL THIS ENSURE THAT ANY LIFE PROCEEDS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THEM?

- A. A will is a separate document. Life insurance benefits will be paid according to the most current beneficiary designation form on file with HR Benefit Services.