... MassMutual Ascend Life Insurance Company

SPECIAL TAX NOTICE ABOUT YOUR ROLLOVER OPTIONS

FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FROM A
ROTH SECTION 403(b) TAX SHELTERED ANNUITY,
ROTH SECTION 401(k) PLAN, OR ROTH GOVERNMENTAL 457(b) PLAN

You are receiving this notice because all or a portion of a payment you are receiving from the annuity contract (the "Contract") is eligible to be rolled over to a Roth IRA or designated Roth account in another employer plan. This notice is intended to help you decide whether to do a rollover.

<u>This notice describes the rollover rules that apply to payments from a designated Roth account</u>. If your Contract is not from a designated Roth account, or if you also receive a payment from an account that is not a designated Roth account, you need a different notice about your rollover options (*Form ADM2306 TRADITIONAL*).

Rules that apply to most payments are described in the *GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ROLLOVERS* section. Special rules that only apply in certain circumstances are described in the SPECIAL RULES AND OPTIONS section.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT ROLLOVERS

How can a rollover affect my taxes? After-tax contributions included in a payment from a designated Roth account are not taxed, but earnings might be taxed. The tax treatment of earnings included in the payment depends on whether the payment is a qualified distribution. If a payment is only part of your designated Roth account, the payment will include an allocable portion of the earnings in your designated Roth account. If the payment from the Contract is not a qualified distribution and you do not do a rollover to a Roth IRA or a designated Roth account in another employer plan, you will be taxed on the portion of the payment that is earnings. If you are under age 59½, a 10% additional income tax on early distributions (generally, distributions made before age 59½) will also apply to the earnings (unless an exception applies). However, if you do a rollover, you will not have to pay taxes currently on the earnings and you will not have to pay taxes later on payments that are qualified distributions.

If the payment from the Contract is a qualified distribution, you will not be taxed on any part of the payment even if you do not do a rollover. If you do a rollover, you will not be taxed on the amount you roll over and any earnings on the amount you roll over will not be taxed if paid later in a qualified distribution.

A qualified distribution from a designated Roth account is a payment made after you are age 59½ (or after your death or disability) and after you have had a designated Roth account under this employer plan for at least 5 years. In applying the 5-year rule, you count from January 1 of the year your first contribution was made to the designated Roth account under this employer plan. However, if you did a direct rollover to a designated Roth account from a designated Roth account in another employer plan, your participation will count from January 1 of the year your first contribution was made to the designated Roth account in this employer plan or, if earlier, to the designated Roth account in the other employer plan.

What types of retirement accounts may accept my rollover? You may roll over the payment to either a Roth IRA (a Roth individual retirement account or Roth individual retirement annuity) or a designated Roth account in another employer plan (a 401(a) tax-qualified plan, a section 403(b) plan or a governmental section 457(b) plan) that will accept the rollover. The rules of the Roth IRA or employer plan that holds the rollover will determine your investment options, fees, and rights to payment from the Roth IRA or employer plan (for example, Roth IRAs are not subject to spousal consent rules, and Roth IRAs cannot make loans). Further, the amount rolled over will become subject to the tax rules that apply to the Roth IRA or the designated Roth account in the employer plan. In general, these tax rules are similar to those described elsewhere in this notice, but differences include:

- If you do a rollover to a Roth IRA, all of your Roth IRAs will be considered for purposes of determining whether you have satisfied the 5-year rule (counting from January 1 of the year for which your first contribution was made to any of your Roth IRAs).
- If you do a rollover to a Roth IRA, you will not be required to take a distribution from the Roth IRA during
 your lifetime and you must keep track of the aggregate amount of the after-tax contributions in all of your
 Roth IRAs (in order to determine your taxable income for later Roth IRA payments that are not qualified
 distributions).
- Eligible rollover distributions from a Roth IRA can only be rolled over to another Roth IRA.

How do I do a rollover? There are two ways to do a rollover. You can either do a direct rollover or a 60-day rollover.

If you do a direct rollover, we will make the payment directly to your Roth IRA or designated Roth account in another employer plan. You should contact the Roth IRA sponsor or the administrator of the employer plan for information on how to do a direct rollover.

If you do not do a direct rollover, you may still do a rollover by making a deposit (generally within 60 days) into a Roth IRA, whether the payment is a qualified or nonqualified distribution. In addition, you can do a rollover by making a deposit within 60 days into a designated Roth account in another employer plan if the payment is a nonqualified distribution and the rollover does not exceed the amount of the earnings in the payment. You cannot do a 60-day rollover to an employer plan of any part of a qualified distribution. If you receive a distribution that is a nonqualified distribution and you do not roll over an amount at least equal to the earnings allocable to the distribution, you will be taxed on the amount of those earnings not rolled over, including the 10% additional income tax on early distributions if you are under age 59½ (unless an exception applies).

If you do a direct rollover of only a portion of the amount paid from the Contract and a portion is paid to you at the same time, the portion directly rolled over consists first of earnings.

If you do not do a direct rollover and the payment is not a qualified distribution, we are required to withhold 20% of the earnings for federal income taxes. This means that, in order to roll over the entire payment in a 60-day rollover to a Roth IRA, you must use other funds to make up for the 20% withheld.

How much may I roll over? If you wish to do a rollover, you may roll over all or part of the amount eligible for rollover. Any payment from the Contract is eligible for rollover, except:

- Certain payments spread over a period of at least 10 years or over your life or life expectancy (or the joint lives or joint life expectancies of you and your beneficiary)
- Required minimum distributions after age 72 (age 70½ if you were born before July 1, 1949) or after death
- Hardship distributions
- Corrective distributions of contributions that exceed tax law limitations
- Loans treated as deemed distributions (for example, loans in default due to missed payments before your employment ends)
- Payments of certain automatic enrollment contributions that you request to withdraw within 90 days of your first contribution

We can tell you what portion of a payment is eligible for rollover.

If I don't do a rollover, will I have to pay the 10% additional income tax on early distributions? If a payment is not a qualified distribution and you are under age 59½, you will have to pay the 10% additional income tax on early distributions with respect to the earnings allocated to the payment that you do not roll over (including amounts withheld for income tax), unless one of the exceptions listed below applies. This tax is in addition to the regular income tax on the earnings not rolled over. The 10% additional income tax does not apply to the following payments from the Contract:

- Payments made after you separate from service if you will be at least age 55 in the year of the separation
- Payments that start after you separate from service if paid at least annually in equal or close to equal
 amounts over your life or life expectancy (or the joint lives or joint life expectancies of you and your
 beneficiary)
- Payments from a governmental plan made after you separate from service if you are a qualified public safety employee and you will be at least age 50 in the year of the separation
- Payments made due to disability
- Payments after your death
- Corrective distributions of contributions that exceed tax law limitations
- Payments made directly to the government to satisfy a federal tax levy
- Payments made under a qualified domestic relations order (QDRO)
- Payments of up to \$5,000 made to you from a defined contribution plan if the payment is a qualified birth or adoption distribution

- Payments up to the amount of your deductible medical expenses (without regard to whether you itemize deductions for the taxable year)
- Certain payments made while you are on active duty if you were a member of a reserve component called to duty after September 11, 2001 for more than 179 days
- Payments of certain automatic enrollment contributions that you request to withdraw within 90 days of your first contribution; and
- Payments excepted from the additional income tax by federal legislation relating to certain emergencies and disasters.

If I do a rollover to a Roth IRA, will the 10% additional income tax apply to early distributions from the IRA? If you receive a payment from a Roth IRA when you are under age 59½, you will have to pay the 10% additional income tax on early distributions on the earnings paid from the Roth IRA, unless an exception applies or the payment is a qualified distribution. In general, the exceptions to the 10% additional income tax for early distributions from a Roth IRA listed above are the same as the exceptions for early distributions from a plan. However, there are a few differences for payments from a Roth IRA, including:

- There is no exception for payments made after you separate from service when you will be at least age 55 in the year of the separation
- There is no exception for payments made after you separate from service as a public safety employees when you will be at least age 50 in the year of separation
- The exception for qualified domestic relations orders (QDROs) does not apply (although a special rule applies under which, as part of a divorce or separation agreement, a tax-free transfer may be made directly to a Roth IRA of a spouse or former spouse)
- The exception for payments made at least annually in equal or close to equal amounts over a specified period applies without regard to whether you have had a separation from service.
- There are additional exceptions for payments from an IRA, including (1) payments for qualified higher education expenses, (2) payments up to \$10,000 used in a qualified first-time home purchase, and (3) payments for health insurance premiums after you have received unemployment compensation for 12 consecutive weeks (or would have been eligible to receive unemployment compensation but for selfemployed status).

Will I owe State income taxes? This notice does not address any State or local income tax or withholding rules.

SPECIAL RULES AND OPTIONS

If you miss the 60-day rollover deadline: Generally, the 60-day rollover deadline cannot be extended. However, the IRS has the limited authority to waive the deadline under certain extraordinary circumstances, such as when external events prevented you from completing the rollover by the 60-day rollover deadline. Under certain circumstances, you may claim eligibility for a waiver of the 60-day rollover deadline by making a written self-certification. Otherwise, to apply for a waiver from the IRS, you must file a private letter ruling request with the IRS. Private letter ruling requests require the payment of a nonrefundable user fee. For more information, see IRS Publication 590-A, Contributions to Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs).

If you have an outstanding loan that is being offset: If you have an outstanding loan under the Contract, your Contract values may be offset by the outstanding amount of the loan, typically when your employment ends. The offset amount is treated as a distribution to you at the time of the offset. Generally, you may roll over all or any portion of the offset amount. If the distribution attributable to the offset is not a qualified distribution and you do not roll over the offset amount, you will be taxed on any earnings included in the distribution (including the 10% additional income tax on early distributions, unless an exception applies). You may roll over the earnings included in the loan offset to a Roth IRA or designated Roth account in an employer plan (if the terms of the employer plan permit the plan to receive plan loan offset rollovers). You may also roll over the full amount of the offset to a Roth IRA.

How long you have to complete the rollover depends on what kind of plan loan offset you have. If you have a qualified plan loan offset, you will have until your tax return due date (including extensions) for the tax year during which the offset occurs to complete your rollover. A qualified plan loan offset occurs when a plan loan in good standing is offset because your employer plan terminates, or because you sever from employment. If your plan loan offset occurs for any other reason (such as a failure to make level repayments that results in a deemed distribution), then you have 60 days from the date the offset occurs to complete your rollover.

If you receive a nonqualified distribution and you were born on or before January 1, 1936: If you were born on or before January 1, 1936, and receive a lump sum distribution that is not a qualified distribution and that you do not roll over, special rules for calculating the amount of the tax on the earnings in the payment might apply to you. For more information, see IRS Publication 575, *Pension and Annuity Income*.

If your payment is from a governmental section 457(b) plan: If the Contract is under a governmental section 457(b) plan, the same rules described elsewhere in this notice generally apply, allowing you to roll over the payment to an IRA or an employer plan that accepts rollovers. One difference is that, if you receive a payment that is not a qualified distribution and you do not roll it over, you will not have to pay the 10% additional income tax on early distributions with respect to the earnings allocated to the payment that you do not roll over, even if you are under age 59½ (unless the payment is from a separate account holding rollover contributions that were made to the Contract from a section 401(a) tax-qualified plan, a section 403(b) plan, or an IRA). However, if you do a rollover to an IRA or to an employer plan that is not a governmental section 457(b) plan, a later distribution that is not a qualified distribution made before age 59½ will be subject to the 10% additional income tax on earnings allocated to the payment (unless an exception applies). Other differences include that you cannot do a rollover if the payment is due to an "unforeseeable emergency" and the special rules under "If you were born on or before January 1, 1936" do not apply.

If you receive a nonqualified distribution, are an eligible retired public safety officer, and your payment is used to pay for health coverage or qualified long-term care insurance: If the Contract is under a governmental plan, you retired as a public safety officer, and your retirement was by reason of disability or was after normal retirement age, you can exclude from your taxable income nonqualified distributions paid directly as premiums to an accident or health plan (or a qualified long-term care insurance contract) that your employer maintains for you, your spouse, or your dependents, up to a maximum of \$3,000 annually. For this purpose, a public safety officer is a law enforcement officer, firefighter, chaplain, or member of a rescue squad or ambulance crew

If you are not a plan participant

Payments after death of the participant. If you receive a distribution after the participant's death that you do not roll over, the distribution generally will be taxed in the same manner described elsewhere in this notice. However, whether the payment is a qualified distribution generally depends on when the participant first made a contribution to the designated Roth account in the Plan. Also, the 10% additional income tax on early distributions and the special rules for public safety officers do not apply, and the special rule described under the section "If you receive a nonqualified distribution and you were born on or before January 1, 1936" applies only if the deceased participant was born on or before January 1, 1936.

• If you are a surviving spouse. If you receive a payment from the Contract as the surviving spouse of a deceased participant, you have the same rollover options that the participant would have had, as described elsewhere in this notice. In addition, if you choose to do a rollover to a Roth IRA, you may treat the Roth IRA as your own or as an inherited Roth IRA.

A Roth IRA you treat as your own is treated like any other Roth IRA of yours, so that you will not have to receive any required minimum distributions during your lifetime and earnings paid to you in a nonqualified distribution before you are age 59½ will be subject to the 10% additional income tax on early distributions (unless an exception applies).

If you treat the Roth IRA as an inherited Roth IRA, payments from the Roth IRA will not be subject to the 10% additional income tax on early distributions. An inherited Roth IRA is subject to required minimum distributions. If the participant had started taking required minimum distributions from the Contract, you will have to receive required minimum distributions from the inherited Roth IRA. If the participant had not started taking required minimum distributions, you will not have to start receiving required minimum distributions from the inherited Roth IRA until the year the participant would have been age 72 (age 70½ if the participant was born before July 1, 1949).

• If you are a surviving beneficiary other than a spouse: If you receive a payment from the Contract because of the participant's death and you are a designated beneficiary other than a surviving spouse, the only rollover option you have is to do a direct rollover to an inherited Roth IRA. Payments from the inherited Roth IRA, even if made in a nonqualified distribution, will not be subject to the 10% additional income tax on early distributions. You will have to receive required minimum distributions from the inherited Roth IRA.

Payments under a qualified domestic relations order (QDRO). If you are the spouse or a former spouse of the participant who receives a payment from the Contract under a QDRO, you generally have the same options and the same tax treatment that the participant would have (for example, you may roll over the payment to your own Roth IRA or to a designated Roth account in an eligible employer plan that will accept it).

If you are a nonresident alien: If you are a nonresident alien and you do not do a direct rollover to a U.S. IRA or U.S. employer plan, and the payment is not a qualified distribution, instead of withholding 20%, we are generally required to withhold 30% of the earnings for federal income taxes. If the amount withheld exceeds the amount of tax you owe (as may happen if you do a 60-day rollover), you may request an income tax refund by filing Form 1040NR and attaching your Form 1042-S. See Form W-8BEN for claiming that you are entitled to a reduced rate of withholding under an income tax treaty. For more information, see also IRS Publication 519, *U.S. Tax Guide for Aliens*, and IRS Publication 515, *Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities*.

Other special rules: If a payment is one in a series of payments for less than 10 years, your choice whether to do a direct rollover will apply to all later payments in the series (unless you make a different choice for later payments).

If your payments for the year (only including payments from the designated Roth account in the Plan) are less than \$200, we are not required to allow you to do a direct rollover and we are not required to withhold for federal income taxes. However, you can do a 60-day rollover.

Unless you elect otherwise, a mandatory cashout from the designated Roth account in the plan of more than \$1,000 will be directly rolled over to a Roth IRA chosen by the plan administrator or by us. A mandatory cashout is a payment from a plan to a participant made before age 62 (or normal retirement age, if later) and without consent, where the participant's benefit does not exceed \$5,000 (not including any amounts held under the plan as a result of a prior rollover made to the plan).

You may have special rollover rights if you recently served in the U.S. Armed Forces. For more information on special rollover rights related to the U.S. Armed Forces, see IRS Publication 3, *Armed Forces' Tax Guide*. You also may have special rollover rights if you were affected by a federally declared disaster (or similar event), or if you received a distribution on account of a disaster. For more information on special rollover rights related to disaster relief, see the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You may wish to consult with the plan administrator or a professional tax advisor, before taking a payment from the Contract. Also, you can find more detailed information on the federal tax treatment of payments from employer plans in: IRS Publication 575, *Pension and Annuity Income*; IRS Publication 590-A, Contributions to Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs); IRS Publication 590-B, *Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)*; and IRS Publication 571, *Tax-Sheltered Annuity Plans (403(b) Plans)*. These publications are available from a local IRS office, on the web at www.irs.gov, or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM.