## Owner-Based Contract Reference Guide



Party to the Contract	Roles and Rights of the Party
Owner	<ul> <li>Chooses parties to the contract.</li> <li>Can change beneficiaries before death.</li> <li>Has rights to withdrawals and may receive annuity payments. Also has the responsibility to pay taxes on such payments.</li> <li>Responsible for tax penalties on distributions taken before age 59½.</li> <li>Responsible for taking required minimum distributions on qualified contracts such as IRA.</li> </ul>
Joint Owner (optional)	<ul> <li>Shares in ownership rights with owner (see above).</li> <li>Co-payee on all withdrawals and annuity payments with the owner.</li> <li>Both joint owners must execute all choices and changes to the contract.</li> <li>Owner and joint owner are automatically each others' first beneficiary.</li> <li>If either owner dies, the death benefit is paid to the surviving owner.</li> </ul>
Beneficiary	<ul> <li>Must be designated by owner.</li> <li>Receives death benefit at owner's death if no surviving joint owner.</li> <li>Responsible for taxes on distribution of death benefit.</li> <li>If no beneficiary is alive at owner's death, the death benefit is payable to owner's estate.</li> </ul>
Annuitant	<ul> <li>Must be a natural person.</li> <li>The measuring life for the annuity benefit and contract maturity date.</li> <li>If owner is not a human being (such as a trust), the death of the annuitant will be considered death of the owner.</li> <li>Has no rights in the contract.</li> </ul>

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Except for Acclaim and Horizon that use the owner as the measuring life.
 Except for MultiRate that pays at the death of beneficial owner. If there is no beneficial owner, the death benefit is paid on the death of the annuitant.

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## To ensure spousal continuation:

- If a joint owner is named, the owner's spouse must be the joint owner or
- If no joint owner is named, the owner's spouse must be named as the sole primary beneficiary.

Sample Owner Objectives	Owner(s)	Annuitant	Primary Beneficiary
Wife wants to maintain control of contract with the death benefit payable to husband.	Wife	Wife	Husband
Wife wants to maintain control of contract with the death benefit payable to child.	Wife	Wife	Child
Husband and wife want a trust as owner with the death benefit payable to the trust at husband's death.	Trust	Husband	Trust
Husband and wife want to jointly control the contract with the death benefit payable to the survivor	Husband, Wife <sup>1</sup>	Husband <sup>2</sup>	Child <sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In the case of joint owners, the distribution requirements are applied at the first death.

<sup>2</sup> Either party can be the annuitant (see reverse for annuitant description).

<sup>3</sup> Primary beneficiary will only receive the death benefit upon death of both owners.