

Secretary of the State File Number

6344

Regulation of the

Insurance Department

Concerning

Suitability in Annuity Transactions

Regulations adopted after July 1, 2013, become effective upon posting to the Connecticut eRegulations System, or at a later date if specified within the regulation.

Posted to the Connecticut eRegulations System on **August 13, 2021**

EFFECTIVE DATE

March 1, 2022

Approved by the Attorney General on

May 28, 2021

Approved by the Legislation Regulation Review Committee on

July 27, 2021

Electronic copy with agency head certification statement electronically submitted to and received by the Office of the Secretary of the State on

August 4, 2021

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES
This form should be used only for regulations first noticed *on and after March 23, 2015*.

Electronic Copy Certification Statement

(Submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 4-172 of the Connecticut General Statutes)

Regulation of the
Insurance Department
Concerning
Suitability in Annuity Transactions


Approved by the Legislative Regulation Review Committee: **July 27, 2021**

eRegulations System Tracking Number: **PR-2020-025**

I hereby certify that the electronic copy of the above-referenced regulation submitted herewith to the Secretary of the State is a true and accurate copy of the regulation approved in accordance with sections 4-169 and 4-170 of the *Connecticut General Statutes*.

And I further certify that in accordance with the approval of Legislative Regulation Review Committee, all required technical corrections, page substitutions and deletions, if any, have been incorporated into said regulation.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto
set my hand on **August 4, 2021**.



Andrew N. Mais
Commissioner
Insurance Department

**State of Connecticut
Regulation of
Insurance Department
Concerning
Suitability in Annuity Transactions**

Sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 38a-432a-1. Purpose

(a) The purpose of sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is to require producers to act in the best interest of the consumer when making a recommendation of an annuity and to require insurers to establish and maintain a system to supervise recommendations [and to set forth standards and procedures for recommendations to consumers that result in transactions involving annuity products] so that the insurance needs and financial objectives of consumers known at the time of the transaction are [appropriately] effectively addressed.

(b) Nothing herein shall be construed to create or imply a private cause of action for a violation of [section] sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, or to subject a producer to civil liability under the best interest standard of care set forth in section 38a-432a-5 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies or under standards governing the conduct of a fiduciary or a fiduciary relationship.

Sec. 38a-432a-2. Scope

Sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall apply to any sale or recommendation [to purchase, exchange or replace] of an annuity [made to a consumer by an insurance producer, or an insurer where no producer is involved, that results in the purchase, exchange or replacement recommended].

Sec. 38a-432a-3. Exemptions

Unless otherwise specifically included, sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall not apply to transactions involving:

(1) [d]Direct response solicitations where there is no recommendation based on information collected from the consumer pursuant to [section] sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; [,or]

(2) [c]Contracts used to fund:

(A) [a]An employee pension or welfare benefit plan that is covered by the federal Employee Retirement and Income Security Act (ERISA), Public Law 93-406;

(B) [a]A plan described by the following sections of the federal Internal Revenue Code: 26 USC 401(a), 26 USC 401(k), 26 USC 403(b), 26 USC 408(k), or 26 USC 408(p), if established or maintained by an employer;

- (C) [a] A governmental or church plan defined in 26 USC 414, a government or church welfare benefit plan, or a deferred compensation plan of a state or local government or tax exempt organization under 26 USC 457; or
- (D) [a] A nonqualified deferred compensation arrangement established or maintained by an employer or plan sponsor;
- [(E)] (3) [s]Settlements of or assumptions of liabilities associated with personal injury litigation or any dispute or claim resolution process; or
- [(F)] (4) [f]Formal prepaid funeral contracts.

Sec. 38a-432a-4. Definitions

As used in sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies: [.]

- (1) “Agency” means a person that employs one (1) or more [insurance] producers;
- (2) “Annuity” means “annuities” as defined in section 38a-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, that is or are individually solicited, whether the product is classified as an individual or group annuity;
- (3) “Cash compensation” means any discount, concession, fee, service fee, commission, sales charge, loan, override, or cash benefit received by a producer in connection with the recommendation or sale of an annuity from an insurer, intermediary, or directly from the consumer;
- (4) “Consumer profile information” means information that is reasonably appropriate to determine whether a recommendation addresses the consumer’s financial situation, insurance needs and financial objectives, including, at a minimum, the following:
 - (A) Age;
 - (B) Annual income;
 - (C) Financial situation and needs, including debts and other obligations;
 - (D) Financial experience;
 - (E) Insurance needs;
 - (F) Financial objectives;
 - (G) Intended use of the annuity;
 - (H) Financial time horizon;
 - (I) Existing assets or financial products, including investment, annuity and insurance holdings;
 - (J) Liquidity needs;
 - (K) Liquid net worth;
 - (L) Risk tolerance, including, but not limited to, willingness to accept non-guaranteed elements in the annuity;
 - (M) Financial resources used to fund the annuity; and
 - (N) Tax status;
- [(3)] (5) “Commissioner” means the Insurance Commissioner; [.]
- [(4)] (6) “Continuing education credit” or “CE credit” means a “credit hour” as defined in section 38a-782a-1 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies;
- [(5)] (7) “Continuing education provider” or “CE provider” means a person that is approved to sponsor continuing education courses pursuant to section 38a-782a-4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies;

[(6)] (8) “FINRA” means the federal Financial Industry Regulatory Authority or a succeeding agency;

[(7)] “Insurance producer” means “Insurance producer” as defined in section 38a-702a of the Connecticut General Statutes;]

[(8)] (9) “Insurer” means “insurer” as defined in section 38a-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes;

(10) “Intermediary” means an entity contracted directly with an insurer or with another entity contracted with an insurer to facilitate the sale of the insurer’s annuities by producers;

(11) “Material conflict of interest” means a financial interest of the producer in the sale of an annuity that a reasonable person would expect to influence the impartiality of a recommendation excluding cash compensation or non-cash compensation;

(12) “Non-cash compensation” means any form of compensation that is not cash compensation, including, but not limited to, health insurance, office rent, office support and retirement benefits;

(13) “Non-guaranteed elements” means the premiums, credited interest rates (including any bonus), benefits, values, dividends, non-interest based credits, charges or elements of formulas used to determine any such premiums, rates, benefits, values, dividends, credits or charges, that are subject to company discretion and are not guaranteed at issue. An element is considered non-guaranteed if any other non-guaranteed element is used in its calculation;

[(9)] (14) “Person” means “person” as defined in section 38a-702a of the Connecticut General Statutes;

(15) “Producer” means a person required to be licensed under the laws of this state to sell, solicit or negotiate insurance, including annuities, or, where no such person is involved, and insurer;

[(10)] (16) “Recommendation” means advice provided by [an insurance] a producer [or an insurer where no producer is involved,] to an individual consumer that [results] is intended to result or does result in a purchase, an exchange or a replacement of an annuity in accordance with that advice[.] , excluding any general communication to the public, generalized customer services assistance and administrative support, general educational information and tools, prospectuses, and other product and sales material;

[(11)] (17) “Replacement” means a transaction in which a new annuity [policy or contract] is to be purchased, and it is known or should be known to the proposing producer, or to the proposing insurer [if there is no] whether or not a producer is involved, that by reason of the transaction, an existing annuity or other insurance policy [or contract] has been or is to be:

(A) Lapsed, forfeited, surrendered or partially surrendered, assigned to the replacing insurer or otherwise terminated;

(B) Converted to reduced paid-up insurance, continued as extended term insurance, or otherwise reduced in value by the use of nonforfeiture benefits or other policy values;

(C) Amended so as to effect either a reduction in benefits or in the term for which coverage would otherwise remain in force or for which benefits would be paid;

(D) Reissued with any reduction in cash value; or

(E) Used in a financed purchase; and

[(12)] “Suitability information” means information that is reasonably appropriate in determining the suitability of a recommendation, including the following:

(A) Age;

(B) Annual income;

(C) Financial situation and needs, including the financial resources used for the funding of the annuity;

- (D) Financial experience;
 - (E) Financial objectives;
 - (F) Intended use of the annuity;
 - (G) Financial time horizon;
 - (H) Existing assets, including investment and life insurance holdings;
 - (I) Liquidity needs;
 - (J) Risk tolerance; and
 - (K) Tax status.]
- (18) “SEC” means the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

Sec. 38a-432a-5. Duties of insurers, agencies and [insurance] producers

[(a) In recommending to a consumer the purchase, exchange or replacement of an annuity that results in another insurance transaction or series of insurance transactions, the insurance producer, or the insurer where no insurance producer is involved, shall have reasonable grounds for believing that the recommendation is suitable for the consumer on the basis of the facts disclosed by the consumer as to his or her investments and other insurance products and as to his or her financial situation and needs, including the consumer’s suitability information, and that there is a reasonable basis for the insurance producer or the insurer to believe all of the following:]

(a) Best Interest Obligations. A producer, when recommending an annuity, shall act in the best interest of the consumer under the circumstances known at the time the recommendation is made, without placing the producer’s or the insurer’s financial interest ahead of the consumer’s interest. A producer has acted in the best interest of the consumer if the producer has satisfied the requirements established in this subsection regarding care, disclosure, conflict of interest and documentation.

(1) Care Obligation.

(A) The producer, in making a recommendation, shall exercise reasonable diligence, care and skill to:

- (i) Know the consumer’s financial situation, insurance needs and financial objectives;
- (ii) Understand the available recommendation options after making a reasonable inquiry into options available to the producer;
- (iii) Have a reasonable basis to believe the recommended option effectively addresses the consumer’s financial situation, insurance needs and financial objectives over the life of the product, as evaluated in light of the consumer profile information; and
- (iv) Communicate the basis or bases of the recommendation.

(B) The requirements under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision include making reasonable efforts to obtain consumer profile information from the consumer prior to recommending an annuity.

(C) The requirements under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision require the producer to consider the types of products the producer is authorized and licensed to recommend or sell that address the consumer’s financial situation, insurance needs and financial objectives, and such requirements do not require analysis or consideration of any products outside the producer’s authority and license or other possible alternative products or strategies available in the market at the time of the recommendation. The producer shall be held to standards applicable to producers with similar authority and licensure.

(D) The requirements under this subsection do not create a fiduciary obligation or relationship and only create a regulatory obligation as established in sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

(E) The consumer profile information, characteristics of the insurer, and product costs, rates, benefits and features are the factors that are generally relevant in determining whether an annuity effectively addresses the consumer's financial situation, insurance needs and financial objectives, but the level of importance of each factor under the care obligation established in this subdivision may vary depending on the facts and circumstances of a particular case, provided no such factor may be considered in isolation.

(F) The requirements under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision include having a reasonable basis to believe the consumer would benefit from certain features of the annuity such as annuitization, death or living benefit or other insurance-related features.

(G) The requirements under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision apply to the particular annuity as a whole and the underlying subaccounts to which funds are allocated at the time of purchase or exchange of an annuity, and riders and similar producer enhancements, if any.

(H) The requirements under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision do not require the producer to recommend the annuity with the lowest one-time or multiple occurrence compensation structure.

(I) The requirements under subparagraph (A) of this subdivision do not impose on the producer ongoing monitoring obligations under the care obligation established in this subdivision, although such an obligation may be separately owed under the terms of a fiduciary, consulting, investment advising or financial planning agreement between the consumer and the producer.

(J) In the case of an exchange or replacement of an annuity, the producer shall consider the whole transaction, which includes taking into consideration whether:

(i) The consumer will incur a surrender charge, be subject to the commencement of a new surrender period, lose existing benefits, such as death, living or other contractual benefits, or be subject to increased fees, investment advisory fees or charges for riders and similar product enhancements;

(ii) The replacing product would substantially benefit the consumer in comparison to the replaced product over the life of the product; and

(iii) The consumer has had another annuity exchange or replacement and, in particular, an exchange or replacement within the preceding sixty (60) months.

(K) Nothing in sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies shall be construed to require a producer to obtain any license other than a producer license with the appropriate line of authority to sell, solicit or negotiate insurance in this state, including, but not limited to, any securities license, in order to fulfill the duties and obligations contained in sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies; provided the producer shall not give advice or provide services that are otherwise subject to securities laws or engage in any other activity requiring other professional licenses.

(2) Disclosure obligation.

(A) Prior to recommending or selling an annuity, the producer shall prominently disclose to the consumer on a form substantially similar to Appendix A:

(i) A description of the scope and terms of the relationship with the consumer and the role of the producer in the transaction;

(ii) An affirmative statement disclosing whether the producer is licensed and authorized to sell the following products:

- (I) Fixed annuities;
- (II) Fixed indexed annuities;
- (III) Variable annuities;
- (IV) Life insurance;
- (V) Mutual funds;
- (VI) Stocks and bonds; and
- (VII) Certificates of deposit;
- (iii) An affirmative statement disclosing whether the producer is authorized, contracted (or appointed), or otherwise able to sell insurance products, using the following descriptions:
 - (I) From one insurer;
 - (II) From two (2) or more insurers; or
 - (III) From two (2) or more insurers although primarily contracted with one (1) insurer;
 - (iv) A description of the sources and types of cash compensation and non-cash compensation to be received by the producer, including whether the producer is to be compensated for the sale of a recommended annuity by commission as part of premium or other remuneration received from the insurer, intermediary or other producer or by fee as a result of a contract for advice or consulting services; and
 - (v) A notice disclosing the consumer's right to request additional information regarding cash compensation described in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision;
- (B) Upon request by the consumer or the consumer's designated representative, the producer shall disclose:
 - (i) A reasonable estimate of the amount of cash compensation to be received by the producer, which may be stated as a range of amounts or percentages; and
 - (ii) Whether the cash compensation is a one-time or multiple occurrence amount, and if a multiple occurrence amount, the frequency and amount of the occurrence, which may be stated as a range of amounts or percentages; and
- [(1)] (C) [The] Prior to or at the time that the producer recommends or sells an annuity, the producer shall have a reasonable basis to believe the consumer has been [reasonably] informed of various features of the annuity, such as the potential surrender period and surrender charge, potential tax penalty if the consumer sells, exchanges, replaces, surrenders or annuitizes the annuity, mortality and expense fees, investment advisory fees, any annual fees, potential charges for and features of riders or other options of the annuity, limitations on investment returns, potential changes in non-guaranteed elements of the annuity, insurance and investment components and market risk. [;]
- [(2) The consumer would benefit from certain features of the annuity, such as tax-deferred growth, annuitization or death or living benefit;
- (3) The particular annuity as a whole, the underlying subaccounts to which funds are allocated at the time of purchase or exchange of the annuity, and riders and similar product enhancements, if any, are suitable (and in the case of an exchange or replacement, the transaction as a whole is suitable) for the particular consumer based on his or her suitability information; and
- (4) In the case of an exchange or replacement of an annuity, the exchange or replacement is suitable including taking into consideration whether:
 - (A) The consumer will incur a surrender charge, be subject to the commencement of a new surrender period, lose existing benefits (such as death, living or other contractual benefits), or be subject to increased fees, investment advisory fees or charges for riders and similar product enhancements;

(B) The consumer would benefit from product enhancements and improvements; and
(C) The consumer has had another annuity exchange or replacement and, in particular, an exchange or replacement within the preceding thirty-six (36) months.]

(3) Conflict of interest obligation. A producer shall identify and avoid or reasonably manage and disclose material conflicts of interest, including material conflicts of interest related to an ownership interest.

(4) Documentation obligation. A producer shall, at the time that the producer recommends or sells an annuity to a consumer:

(A) Make a written record of any recommendation and the basis for the recommendation subject to this regulation;

(B) Obtain a consumer-signed statement on a form substantially similar to Appendix B documenting:

(i) The consumer's refusal to provide the consumer's consumer profile information, if any; and

(ii) The consumer's understanding of the ramifications of not providing the consumer's consumer profile information or providing insufficient consumer profile information; and

(C) Obtain a consumer-signed statement on a form substantially similar to Appendix C acknowledging the annuity transaction is not recommended if the consumer decides to enter into an annuity transaction that is not based on the producer's recommendation.

[(b) Prior to the execution of a purchase, exchange or replacement of an annuity resulting from a recommendation, an insurance producer, or an insurer where no producer is involved, shall make reasonable efforts to obtain the consumer's suitability information.

(c) Except as permitted under subsection (d) of this section, an insurer shall not issue an annuity recommended to a consumer unless there is a reasonable basis to believe the annuity is suitable based on the consumer's suitability information.]

(5) Application of the best interest obligation. Any requirement applicable to a producer under this subsection shall apply to every producer who exercises material control or influence in making a recommendation or sale and receives direct compensation as a result of the recommendation or sale, regardless of whether the producer has any direct contact with the consumer. Activities such as providing or delivering marketing or educational materials, product wholesaling or other back office product support, and general supervision of a producer do not, in and of themselves, constitute material control or influence.

(b) Transactions not based on a recommendation.

[(d)] (1) Except as provided under subdivision (2) of this subsection, [neither an insurance] a producer [nor an insurer] shall have [any] no obligation to a consumer under subdivision (1) of subsection (a) [or (c)] of this section related to any annuity transaction if:

(A) No recommendation is made;

(B) A recommendation was made and was later found to have been prepared based on materially inaccurate information provided by the consumer;

(C) A consumer refuses to provide relevant [suitability] consumer profile information and the annuity transaction is not recommended; or[;]

(D) A consumer decides to enter into an insurance transaction that is not based on a recommendation of the [insurer or insurance] producer.

(2) An insurer's issuance of an annuity subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be reasonable under all the circumstances actually known to the insurer [or insurance producer] at the time the annuity is issued.

[(e) An insurance producer or, where no insurance producer is involved, the responsible insurer representative, shall at the time of sale:

- (1) Make a record of any recommendation described in subsection (a) of this section;
- (2) Obtain a customer signed statement documenting a customer's refusal to provide suitability information, if applicable; and
- (3) Obtain a customer signed statement acknowledging that an annuity transaction is not recommended if a customer decides to enter into an annuity transaction that is not based on the insurance producer's or insurer's recommendation.]

(c) Supervision system.

(1) Except as permitted under subsection (b) of this section, an insurer may not issue an annuity recommended to a consumer unless there is a reasonable basis to believe the annuity would effectively address the particular consumer's financial situation, insurance needs and financial objectives based on the consumer's consumer profile information.

[(f)] [(1)] (2) An insurer shall establish and maintain a system of supervision that is reasonably designed to achieve the insurer's and its [insurance] producers' compliance with sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, including, but not limited to the following:

(A) The insurer shall establish and maintain reasonable procedures to inform its [insurance] producers of the requirements of sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and shall incorporate the requirements of this regulation into relevant [insurance] producer training manuals;

(B) The insurer shall establish and maintain standards for [insurance] producer product training and shall establish and maintain reasonable procedures to require its [insurance] producers to comply with the requirements of section 38a-432a-8 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies;

(C) The insurer shall provide product-specific training and training materials which explain all material features of its annuity products to its [insurance] producers;

(D) The insurer shall establish and maintain procedures for the review of each recommendation prior to issuance of an annuity that are designed to ensure [that] there is a reasonable basis to determine that [a recommendation is suitable] the recommended annuity would effectively address the particular consumer's financial situation, insurance needs and financial objectives.

Such review procedures may apply a screening system for the purpose of identifying selected transactions for additional review and may be accomplished electronically or through other means including, but not limited to, physical review. Such an electronic or other system may be designed to require additional review only of those transactions [identified] identified for additional review by the selection criteria;

(E) The insurer shall establish and maintain reasonable procedures to detect recommendations that are not [suitable] in compliance with subsections (a), (b), (d) and (e) of this section. This may include, but is not limited to, confirmation of the [consumer] consumer's [suitability] consumer profile information, systematic customer surveys, producer and consumer interviews, confirmation letters, producer statements or attestations and programs of internal monitoring. Nothing in this subparagraph prevents an insurer from complying with this subparagraph by applying sampling procedures, or by confirming the [suitability] consumer profile information or other required information under this section after issuance or delivery of the annuity; [and]

(F) The insurer shall establish and maintain reasonable procedures to assess, prior to or upon issuance or delivery of an annuity, whether a producer has provided to the consumer the information required to be provided under this section;

(G) The insurer shall establish and maintain reasonable procedures to identify and address suspicious consumer refusals to provide consumer profile information;

(H) The insurer shall establish and maintain reasonable procedures to identify and eliminate any sales contests, sales quotas, bonuses, and non-cash compensation that are based on the sales of specific annuities within a limited period of time. The requirements of this subparagraph are not intended to prohibit the receipt of health insurance, office rent, office support, retirement benefits or other employee benefits by employees as long as those benefits are not based upon the volume of sales of a specific annuity within a limited period of time; and

[(F)] (I) The insurer shall annually provide a written report to senior management, including to the senior manager responsible for audit functions, which details an analysis, with appropriate testing, reasonably designed to determine the effectiveness of the supervision system, the exceptions found, and corrective action taken or recommended, if any.

[(G)] (3) (A) Nothing in this subsection restricts an insurer from contracting for performance of a function (including maintenance of procedures) required under this [subdivision] subsection. An insurer is responsible for taking appropriate corrective action and may be subject to sanctions and penalties pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes regardless of whether the insurer contracts for performance of a function, and regardless of the insurer's compliance with subparagraph [(H)] (B) of this subdivision.

[(H)] (B) An insurer's system of supervision under this [subdivision] subsection shall include supervision of the contractual performance under this subsection. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(i) Monitoring and, as appropriate, conducting audits to ensure that the contracted function is properly performed; and

(ii) Annually obtaining a certification from a senior manager who has responsibility for the contracted function that the manager has a reasonable basis to represent, and does represent, that the function is properly performed.

[(2)] (4) An insurer is not required to include in its system of supervision:

(A) [an insurance] A producer's recommendations to consumers of products other than the annuities offered by the insurer; or

(B) Consideration of or comparison to options available to the producer or compensation relating to those options other than annuities or other products offered by the insurer.

[(g)] (d) [An insurance producer shall not] Prohibited practices. Neither a producer nor an insurer shall dissuade, or attempt to dissuade, a consumer from:

(1) Truthfully responding to an insurer's request for confirmation of the [suitability] consumer's consumer profile information;

(2) Filing a complaint; or

(3) Cooperating with the investigation of a complaint.

[(h)] (e) Safe harbor.

(1) [Sales] Recommendations and sales of annuities made in compliance with [FINRA requirements pertaining to suitability and supervision of annuity transactions] comparable standards and the provisions of subdivision [(2)] (3) of this subsection shall satisfy the requirements under sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. This subsection applies to [FINRA broker-dealer] all

recommendations and sales of variable annuities and fixed annuities [if the suitability and supervision is similar to those applied to variable annuity sales] made by financial professionals in compliance with business rules, controls and procedures that satisfy a comparable standard even if such standard would not otherwise apply to the product or recommendation at issue. However, nothing in this subsection shall limit the commissioner’s ability to investigate and enforce the provisions of sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies[, including the conducting of investigations].

(2) Nothing in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall limit the insurer’s obligation to comply with subdivision (1) of subsection (c) of this section, although the insurer may base its analysis on information received from either the financial professional or the entity supervising the financial professional.

[(2)] (3) For subdivision (1) of this subsection to apply, an insurer shall:

(A) Monitor the [FINRA member broker-dealer] relevant conduct of the financial professional seeking to rely on subdivision (1) of this subsection or the entity responsible for supervising the financial professional, such as the financial professional’s broker-dealer or an investment adviser registered under federal or state securities laws, using information collected in the normal course of an insurer’s business; and

(B) Provide to the [FINRA member broker-dealer] entity responsible for supervising the financial professional seeking to rely on subdivision (1) of this subsection, such as the financial professional’s broker-dealer or investment adviser registered under federal or state securities laws, information and reports that are reasonably appropriate to assist [the FINRA member broker-dealer] such entity to maintain its supervision system.

(4) For purposes of this subsection, “financial professional” means a producer that is regulated and acting as:

(A) A broker-dealer registered under federal or state securities laws or a registered representative of a broker-dealer;

(B) An investment adviser registered under federal or state securities laws or an investment adviser representative associated with the federal or state registered investment adviser; or

(C) A plan fiduciary under Section 3(21) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or fiduciary under Section 4975(e)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code or any amendments or successor statutes thereto.

(5) For purposes of this subsection, “comparable standards” means:

(A) With respect to broker-dealers and registered representatives of broker-dealers, applicable SEC and FINRA rules pertaining to best interest obligations and supervision of annuity recommendations and sales, including, but not limited to, Regulation Best Interest and any amendments or successor regulations thereto;

(B) With respect to investment advisers registered under federal or state securities laws or investment adviser representatives, the fiduciary duties and all other requirements imposed on such investment advisers or investment adviser representatives by contract or under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or applicable state securities law, including, but not limited to, the Form ADV and interpretations; and

(C) With respect to plan fiduciaries or fiduciaries, the duties, obligations, prohibitions and all other requirements attendant to such status under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or the federal Internal Revenue Code and any amendments or successor statutes thereto.

Sec. 38a-432a-6. [Mitigation of responsibility] Compliance mitigation, penalties, enforcement

(a) An insurer is responsible for compliance with sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. If a violation occurs, either because of the action or inaction of the insurer or its [insurance] producer, the commissioner may order:

(1) [a] An insurer to take reasonably appropriate corrective action for any consumer harmed by a failure to comply with sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies by the [insurer's] insurer, an entity contracted to perform the insurer's supervisory duties or by [its insurance producer's, violation of sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies] the producer; [and]

(2) [a] A general agency, independent agency or [an insurance] a producer to take reasonably appropriate corrective action for any consumer harmed by the [insurance] producer's violation of sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies[.]; and

(3) Appropriate penalties and sanctions.

(b) Any applicable penalty of the Connecticut General Statutes for a violation of sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies may be reduced or eliminated at the discretion of the commissioner, if corrective action for the consumer was taken promptly after a violation was discovered or the violation was not part of a pattern or practice. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to limit the commissioner's authority to terminate or suspend a producer or insurer's license or to pursue other legal or regulatory action pursuant to the insurance laws of the state of Connecticut.

(c) The authority to enforce compliance with sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies is vested exclusively with the commissioner.

Sec. 38a-432a-7. Record keeping

(a) Insurers, agencies and [insurance] producers shall maintain or be able to make available to the commissioner records of the information collected from the consumer, disclosures made to the consumer including summaries of oral disclosures, and other information used in making the recommendations that were the basis for insurance transactions for seven (7) years after the insurance transaction is completed by the insurer. An insurer is permitted, but shall not be required, to maintain documentation on behalf of [an insurance] a producer.

(b) Records required to be maintained by sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies may be maintained in paper, photographic, microprocess, magnetic, mechanical or electronic media or by any process that accurately reproduces the actual document.

Sec. 38a-432a-8. [Insurance producer] Producer training

(a) [An insurance] A producer shall not solicit the sale of an annuity product unless the [insurance] producer has adequate knowledge of the product to recommend the annuity and the [insurance] producer is in compliance with the insurer's standards for product training. [An insurance] A producer may rely on insurer-provided product-specific training standards and materials to comply with this subsection.

- (b) (1) (A) [An insurance] A producer who engages in the sale of annuity products shall complete a one-time four (4) CE credit training course approved by the commissioner and provided by the continuing education provider.
- (B) [Insurance producers] Producers who hold a life insurance line of authority on the effective date of this regulation and who desire to sell annuities shall complete the requirements of this subsection within six (6) months after the effective date of this regulation. Individuals who obtain a life insurance line of authority on or after the effective date of this regulation may not engage in the sale of annuities until the annuity training course required under this subsection has been completed.
- (2) The minimum length of the training required under this subsection shall be sufficient to qualify for at least four (4) CE credits, but may be longer.
- (3) The training required under this subsection shall include information on the following topics:
- (A) The types of annuities and various classifications of annuities;
 - (B) Identification of the parties to an annuity;
 - (C) How fixed, variable and indexed annuity contract provisions affect consumers;
 - (D) The application of income taxation of qualified and non-qualified annuities;
 - (E) The primary uses of annuities; and
 - (F) Appropriate standard of conduct, sales practices, replacement and disclosure requirements.
- (4) Providers of courses intended to comply with this subsection shall cover all topics listed in subdivision (3) of this subsection and shall not present any marketing information or provide training on sales techniques or provide specific information about a particular insurer's products. Additional topics may be offered in conjunction with and in addition to the required topics.
- (5) A provider of an annuity training course intended to comply with this subsection shall register as a CE provider in this state and comply with the rules and guidelines applicable to [insurance] producer continuing education courses as set forth in sections 38a-782a-1 to section 38a-782a-17, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- (6) A producer who completes an annuity training course approved by the commissioner prior to the effective date of this regulation shall, within six (6) months after such date, complete either:
- (A) A new four (4) CE credit training course approved by the commissioner after the effective date of this regulation; or
 - (B) An additional one-time one (1) CE credit training course approved by the commissioner and provided by the continuing education provider on appropriate sales practices, replacement and disclosure requirements under sections 38a-432a-1 to 38a-432a-8, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- [(6)] (7) Annuity training courses may be conducted and completed by classroom method or by self-study method in accordance with section 38a-782a-7 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- [(7)] (8) Providers of annuity training shall comply with the reporting requirements and shall issue certificates of completion in accordance with section 38a-782a-4 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.
- [(8)] (9) The satisfaction of the training requirements of another state that are substantially similar to the provisions of this subsection shall be deemed to satisfy the training requirements of this subsection in this state.
- (10) The satisfaction of the components of the training requirements of any course or courses with components substantially similar to the provisions of this subsection shall be deemed to satisfy the training requirements of this subsection in this state.

~~[(9)]~~ (11) An insurer shall verify that ~~[an insurance]~~ a producer has completed the annuity training course required under this subsection before allowing the producer to sell an annuity product for that insurer. An insurer may satisfy its responsibility under this subsection by obtaining certificates of completion of the training course or obtaining reports provided by commissioner-sponsored database systems or vendors or from a reasonably reliable commercial database vendor that has a reporting arrangement with approved insurance education providers.

APPENDIX A

INSURANCE AGENT (PRODUCER) DISCLOSURE FOR ANNUITIES
Do Not Sign Unless You Have Read and Understand the Information in this Form

Date: _____

INSURANCE AGENT (PRODUCER) INFORMATION (“Me”, “I”, “My”)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Business\Agency Name: _____ Website: _____

Business Mailing Address: _____

Business Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

National Producer Number in [state]: _____

CUSTOMER INFORMATION (“You”, “Your”)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

What Types of Products Can I Sell You?

I am licensed to sell annuities to You in accordance with state law. If I recommend that You buy an annuity, it means I believe that it effectively meets Your financial situation, insurance needs, and financial objectives. Other financial products, such as life insurance or stocks, bonds and mutual funds, also may meet Your needs.

I offer the following products:

- Fixed or Fixed Indexed Annuities
- Variable Annuities
- Life Insurance

I need a separate license to provide advice about or to sell non-insurance financial products. I have checked below any non-insurance financial products that I am licensed to provide advice about or to sell.

- Mutual Funds
- Stocks/Bonds
- Certificates of Deposits

Whose Annuities Can I Sell to You?

I am authorized to sell:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Annuities from Only One (1) Insurer</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Annuities from Two (2) or More Insurers</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Annuities from Two (2) or More Insurers although I primarily sell annuities from:</u> 	

How I’m Paid for My Work:

It’s important for You to understand how I’m paid for my work. Depending on the particular annuity You purchase, I may be paid a commission or a fee. Commissions are generally paid to Me by the insurance company while fees are generally paid to Me by the consumer. If You have questions about how I’m paid ask Me.

Depending on the particular annuity You buy, I will or may be paid cash compensation as follows:

- Commission which is usually paid by the insurance company or other sources. If other sources, describe: _____.
- Fees (such as a fixed amount, an hourly rate, or a percentage of your payment), which are usually paid directly by the customer.
- Other (Describe): _____.

If You have questions about the above compensation I will be paid for this transaction, please ask Me.

I may also receive other indirect compensation resulting from this transaction (sometimes called “non-cash” compensation), such as health or retirement benefits, office rent and support, or other incentives from the insurance company or other sources.

By signing below, You acknowledge that You have read and understand the information provided to You in this document.

Customer Signature

Date

Agent (Producer) Signature

Date

APPENDIX B

CONSUMER REFUSAL TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

Do Not Sign Unless You Have Read and Understand the Information in this Form

Why are You being given this form?

You're buying a financial product – an annuity.

To recommend a product that effectively meets Your needs, objectives and situation, the agent, broker, or company needs information about You, Your financial situation, insurance needs and financial objectives.

If You sign this form, it means You have not given the agent, broker, or company some or all the information needed to decide if the annuity effectively meets Your needs, objectives and situation. You may lose protections under the Insurance Code of [this state] if You sign this form or provide inaccurate information.

Statement of Purchaser:

- I REFUSE to provide this information at this time.
- I have chosen to provide LIMITED information at this time.

Customer Signature

Date

APPENDIX C

Consumer Decision to Purchase an Annuity NOT Based on a Recommendation

Do Not Sign This Form Unless You Have Read and Understand It.

Why are You being given this form? You are buying a financial product – an annuity.

To recommend a product that effectively meets your needs, objectives and situation, the agent, broker, or company has the responsibility to learn about You, your financial situation, insurance needs and financial objectives.

If You sign this form, it means You know that you're buying an annuity that was not recommended.

Statement of Purchaser:

I understand that I am buying an annuity, but the agent, broker or company did not recommend that I buy it. If I buy it **without a recommendation**, I understand I may lose protections under the Insurance Code of Connecticut.

Customer Signature

Date

Agent/Producer Signature

Date

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this proposed regulation is to adopt the most recent version the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) model regulation. Such version, and these proposed changes require producers, as defined in this regulation, to act in the best interest of the consumer when making a recommendation of an annuity and to require insurers to establish and maintain a system to supervise recommendations so that the insurance needs and financial objectives of consumers at the time of the transaction are effectively addressed.

Revise using guidance from NAIC.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR CONNECTICUT STATE AGENCIES

This form is to be used for proposed permanent and technical amendment regulations only and must be completed in full.

AGENCY CERTIFICATION**Connecticut Insurance Department**

Proposed Regulation Concerning

Suitability in Annuity TransactionseRegulations System Tracking Number **PR2020-025****I hereby certify the following:**

(1) The above-referenced **regulation** is proposed pursuant to the following statutory authority or authorities: **Conn. Gen. Stat. section 38a-432a.**

For technical amendment regulations proposed without a comment period, complete #2 below, then skip to #8.

(2) As permitted by Section 4-168(h) of the *Connecticut General Statutes*, the agency elected to proceed without prior notice or hearing and posted the text of the proposed technical amendment regulation on eRegulations System website on **N/A.**

For all other non-emergency proposed regulations, complete #3 - #7 below, then complete #8)

(3) The agency posted notice of intent with a specified comment period of not less than 30 days to the eRegulations System website on **March 30, 2021.**

(4) *(Complete one)* No public hearing held or was required to be held. **OR** One or more public hearings were held on: **N/A.**

(5) The agency posted notice of decision to move forward with the proposed regulation to the eRegulations System website on **May 11, 2021.**

(6) *(Complete one)* No comments were received. **OR** Comments were received and the agency posted the statements specified in subdivisions (1) and (2) of CGS Section 4-168(e) to the eRegulations System website on **May 11, 2021.**

(7) The final wording of the proposed regulation was posted to the eRegulations System website on **May 11, 2021.**

(8) Subsequent to approval for legal sufficiency by the Attorney General and approval by the Legislative Regulation Review Committee, **the final regulation shall be effective**

(Check one and complete as applicable)

When posted to the eRegulations System website by the Secretary of the State.

OR On **March 1, 2022**

(Date must be a specific calendar date not less than 11 days after submission to the Secretary of the State)


SIGNED

*(Head of Board, Agency or Commission,
or duly authorized deputy)*

General Counsel

OFFICIAL TITLE

May 12, 2021

DATE


OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REGULATION CERTIFICATION

Agency: Connecticut Insurance Department

REGULATION NUMBER PR2020-025

This Regulation is hereby APPROVED by the Attorney General as to legal sufficiency in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 4-169.

DATE: May 28, 2021

Signed: Joseph Rubin, Asst. Dep. A.G.  Digitally signed by Joseph Rubin,
Asst. Dep. A.G.
Date: 2021.05.28 09:04:22 -04'00'

Joseph Rubin
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Duly Authorized

The Connecticut General Assembly

Legislative Regulation Review Committee

Senator James Maroney
Senate Chair



Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditria
House Chair

Official Record of Committee Action

July 27, 2021

Agency: Insurance Department
Description: Suitability in Annuity Transactions
LRRC Regulation Number: 2021-011
eRegulation Tracking Number: PR2020-025

The above-referenced regulation has been

Approved with Technical Corrections

by the Legislative Regulation Review Committee in accordance
with CGS Section 4-170.

Kirstin L. Breiner
Committee Administrator



State of Connecticut
Office of the Secretary of the State

Confirmation of Electronic Submission

Re: Regulation of the Insurance Department concerning Suitability in Annuity Transactions
eRegulations System Tracking Number PR2020-025
Legislative Regulation Review Committee Docket Number 2021-011

The above-referenced regulation was electronically submitted to the Office of the Secretary of the State in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-172 on August 4, 2021.

Said regulation is assigned Secretary of the State File Number 6344.

The effective date of this regulation is March 1, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise W. Merrill".

Denise W. Merrill
Secretary of the State
August 13, 2021

By:

/s/ Kristin M. Karr

Kristin M. Karr
Administrative Law
Information Systems Manager