



DEATH BENEFITS & BENEFICIARY NOMINATIONS



FACT SHEET

It may not be the most pleasant topic to discuss, but it is important to understand what happens to your super benefits in the event of your death - who may be entitled to receive a death benefit, how they can make a claim and how you can nominate who receives a benefit.

What happens to your super benefits upon your death

In the event of your death, the Trustee of Nationwide Super has a responsibility to pay your death benefit to your:

- **Dependant beneficiaries; and/or**
- **Legal personal representative (i.e. your Estate); or**
- **Where a dependant or legal personal representative can't be found, another person (such as a non-dependant).**

The total death benefit payable to your potential beneficiaries will include the withdrawal value of your Nationwide Super account plus any death insurance benefits approved and paid by Nationwide Super's insurer less any taxes, fees or costs applicable at the time of the payment. An anti-detriment payment, representing a refund of contributions tax paid throughout your life may also be payable to eligible beneficiaries, including your spouse, former spouse or child (of any age), for members that pass away prior to 1 July 2017.

Nominating beneficiaries

Nationwide Super offers two different types of death benefit nominations:

- **Non-binding (your preferred) nomination**
- **Binding nomination**

Non-binding nomination

What does it mean?

A non-binding or preferred beneficiary nomination will guide the Trustee of Nationwide Super as to your wishes; however, the Trustee makes the final decision as to whom the benefit will be paid. The Trustee is guided by superannuation legislation and must ensure the benefit is paid to your dependants.

The Trustee will take into consideration your circumstances and those of your potential beneficiaries at the time of your death.

Who can I nominate as a beneficiary?

When nominating your non-binding beneficiaries, please ensure that you nominate a dependant beneficiary.* The Trustee of Nationwide Super can only consider a non-dependant where there is no dependant(s) or estate.

You can nominate as many beneficiaries as you wish, as long as the percentages you nominate total 100%.

How do I make or change a nomination?

You can make and change non-binding beneficiary nominations at any time by logging into MemberAccess at nationwidesuper.com.au/login or by completing a *Member Change of Details* form.

Binding nomination

What does it mean?

A binding death benefit nomination is legally binding on the Trustee of Nationwide Super. This means that on your death, your Nationwide Super benefit would be paid as you instructed, as long as your nomination is valid and any named beneficiaries are dependent upon you at the time of your death.

Who can I nominate as a beneficiary?

You can nominate your legal personal representative (i.e. Estate) and/or any dependants*.

How do I make a nomination?

You must complete and submit a valid *Binding Death Benefit Nomination* form to make a binding nomination.

How do I change my nomination?

Any binding nomination you make will remain in place for a period of three years from the date you made the nomination (unless you cancel it or submit a new binding nomination) and would need to be renewed prior to expiry to remain valid. It's important to regularly review a binding death benefit nomination and keep it up to date as your circumstances change, as a valid nomination cannot be overridden by the Trustee or your dependants.

A third beneficiary option called Reversionary Beneficiary is available for members joining the Nationwide Super Pension Division only. See the *Pension Division Product Disclosure Statement* for more information.

Definition of 'dependant'

*A 'dependant' includes:

- **Your spouse (including de facto);**
- **Any child of yours (including step, adopted or ex-nuptial);**
- **Any person who was financially dependent on you at the time of your death; and**
- **Any person who was in an interdependency relationship with you at the time of your death.**

To qualify for interdependency, the relationship must generally involve living together and providing financial and domestic support.

If you don't nominate a beneficiary

If you have not nominated a valid preferred beneficiary at the time of your death we will attempt to locate potential beneficiaries in line with Nationwide Super's normal death claim process. We also have the option of paying your benefit to your Estate.

Determining who can receive your benefit

In the first instance, the Trustee will review your beneficiary nomination (if any exists) and be guided by your wishes; however the Trustee has absolute discretion in making their final decision in how the benefit will be paid.

The Trustee will consider all relevant circumstances when making their decision, and are bound by the rules and regulations that govern the super industry regarding who is eligible to receive a death benefit.

If you don't have any dependants

If you do not have any dependants, you should consider seeking the advice of a solicitor to draw up a Will, as your death benefit can potentially be paid to your Estate. In this instance your benefit would be paid in accordance with the instructions noted in your Will.

If you do not have any dependants and you do not leave a Will, as a last resort, the Trustee may consider paying your death benefit to a non-dependant beneficiary.



When a death claim is made

Nationwide Super should be notified of a member's death by a family member or the executor as soon as possible, so we can provide them with detailed information in relation to making a claim. The payment of a claim is conditional upon receipt of certain information, including, but not limited to:

- **A certified copy of the death certificate;**
- **Proof of age of the deceased member (this may be a certified copy of a drivers licence, passport or birth certificate); and**
- **A certified copy of the deceased member's Will (if there is one).**

Tax payable on death benefit payments

The tax payable on death benefit payments depends on individual circumstances. We recommend that you seek licensed financial advice about how tax would apply to you and your beneficiaries.

Death benefits paid to financial dependants are tax-free. If paid to a financial non-dependant, the taxable component of the lump sum benefit is taxed at 15% plus Medicare Levy.

If there is disagreement with the final payment decision

If any potential beneficiaries disagree with the Trustee's proposed decision for payment of a death claim, they will be given the opportunity to provide the reason for their objection in writing to Nationwide Super.

The objection will be investigated and, if the potential beneficiary is not satisfied with our response they can contact the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal on 1300 884 114 to see if they are eligible to submit a complaint.

Getting advice

Planning for your affairs in the event of your death is a potentially complex and sometimes emotional topic. Seeking advice from a legal professional can help ensure that your wishes are met, and reduce the burden on your family or dependants.

For more information...

 **1800 025 241**  **enquiries@nationwidesuper.com.au**  **nationwidesuper.com.au**

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