

AGENT ADVISORY

Advisory #: 2008-89
Date: July 18, 2008
Effective: August 1, 2008

TO: Symetra Life Appointed Agencies in West Virginia

RE: Suitability in Annuity Transactions – West Virginia Rule 114-11B-1

West Virginia has adopted a rule based on the NAIC Suitability in Annuity Transactions model regulation. The purpose of this ruling is to establish standards and procedures surrounding annuity-related recommendations to consumers. The rule ensures that any annuity product being recommended fits the needs and financial objectives of consumers at the time of the transaction are appropriately addressed. A copy of the rule may be found under “Forms” on our [Advisories and Regulatory Training web page](#). We encourage you to read it carefully.

For your convenience, we have provided definitions and a summary of the ruling below:

Definitions

- Annuity – A fixed or variable, individual or group annuity that is individually solicited, whether the product is classified as an individual or group annuity.
- Recommendation – Advice provided by an insurance producer or insurer, if no insurance agent is involved, to an individual consumer that directly results in a purchase or exchange of an annuity in accordance with that advice.

Duties of the Insurance Agent and Agency

- An insurance agent shall have reasonable grounds for believing that any recommendation to a consumer is suitable on the basis of the facts disclosed by the consumer as to their investments, other insurance products and their financial needs.
- Before executing a purchase of an annuity to a consumer, an insurance agent must make reasonable efforts to obtain information concerning the consumer’s financial status, tax status and investment objectives.
- A system to comply with this regulation must be established that includes:
 - Maintaining written procedures
 - Conducting periodic reviews of records designed to detect and prevent violations of this regulation
- An agent or agency must take appropriate corrective action for any consumer harmed by a violation of this ruling.
- An agent or agency must keep records of information collected in making recommendations to consumers for a minimum of **10 years** after the transaction is completed by the insurer.

Exemptions

- Direct-response solicitations
- Contracts used to fund:
 - Employee pension or welfare benefit plan covered by ERISA
 - Plans described by Sections 401(a), 401(k), 403(b), 408(k) or 408(p) of the IRS code of 1986, if established or maintained by an employer
 - Government or church plans defined in Section 414 of the IRS Code of 1986; or a deferred compensation plan of a state or local government or tax-exempt organization under Section 457 of the IRS Code of 1986
 - A nonqualified deferred compensation arrangement established or maintained by an employer
 - Structured Settlements
 - Prepaid funeral contracts
 - Variable annuities – NASD Conduct Rules pertaining to suitability will satisfy the requirements under this ruling

Duties of an Insurer

- The insurer must maintain written procedures
- The insurer must conduct periodic reviews of records designed to assist in detecting and preventing violations of this ruling

As part of our procedure to comply with suitability laws, rules and regulations, we require the disclosure, LP-1514, be completed and signed with each application for a fixed annuity subject to this ruling. A copy of this form may be found under "Forms" on our [Advisories and Regulatory Training web page](#).

If you have questions, please contact our Sales Center at 1-800-706-0700 or invest@symetra.com.

Sincerely,

Michael Murphy
Assistant Vice President
Compliance Department
Symetra Life Insurance Company