

Annuity Types Checklist

Know what you are looking at | Reviewed October 2026

Which type is this?

Type	Regulated by	Who carries market risk
Fixed	State insurance dept	Insurer
Fixed indexed	State insurance dept	Insurer (floor); upside limited
RILA	State + SEC	You, beyond a buffer or floor
Variable	State + SEC	You
Immediate income	State insurance dept	Insurer
Deferred income / QLAC	State insurance dept	Insurer

My contract

Type of annuity: _____

Company: _____

Money used (after-tax or IRA / plan): _____

- ☐ I know who carries the risk if markets fall.
- ☐ I know what happens if the company cannot pay (guaranty limit for my state).

Sorting the choices

- ☐ Income starting soon, with no access to the money: immediate income.
- ☐ Income later for a long life: deferred income / longevity.
- ☐ Known rate for set years: fixed.
- ☐ Some upside with a 0% floor: fixed indexed.
- ☐ Market loss accepted for more upside: variable or RILA.

QLAC rules (2026)

- ☐ Premium limit **\$210,000**. Payments must start by age 85.
- ☐ A QLAC cannot be a variable, indexed, or similar contract.

What simpler choice did I compare?

Sources: General education only. Figures from IRS, Social Security and Medicare sources, reviewed October 2026. Sources: SEC Investor.gov, FINRA, NAIC, SEC OIAD RILA report, IRS Notice 2025-67, Form 1098-Q instructions.