

# Brighthouse Shield® Level Select 6-Year Annuity

## A Case Study

A Brighthouse Shield Level Select 6-Year Annuity can add a level of protection for a portion of retirement assets while offering participation in potential growth opportunities with no annual fees.<sup>1</sup>

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### What is an index-linked annuity?

An index-linked annuity is a long-term financial product designed to help you save for retirement. A Brighthouse Shield® Level Annuity offers growth opportunities by linking to well-known market indices. And with a level of downside protection,<sup>2</sup> it can help limit the impact of market volatility. Plus, a Shield annuity features no annual fees.



# Meet Lou Johnson



Hypothetical example for illustrative purposes only.

## Maintaining a Level of Exposure to Equities

Lou is looking forward to starting his retirement in 10 years. His plans include traveling, working part time, and volunteering in his community. He knows that reaching his financial goals requires portfolio exposure to the equity markets, but realizes that market volatility can impact his savings.

Lou's financial professional recommended placing a portion of his retirement assets – \$100,000 – into a Brighthouse Shield Level Select 6-Year Annuity with six consecutive 1-year terms and the 10% level of protection (meaning the first 10% of losses will be absorbed by Brighthouse Financial<sup>®</sup>).<sup>3</sup> His selection includes three well-known equity indices to track.



### Good to know

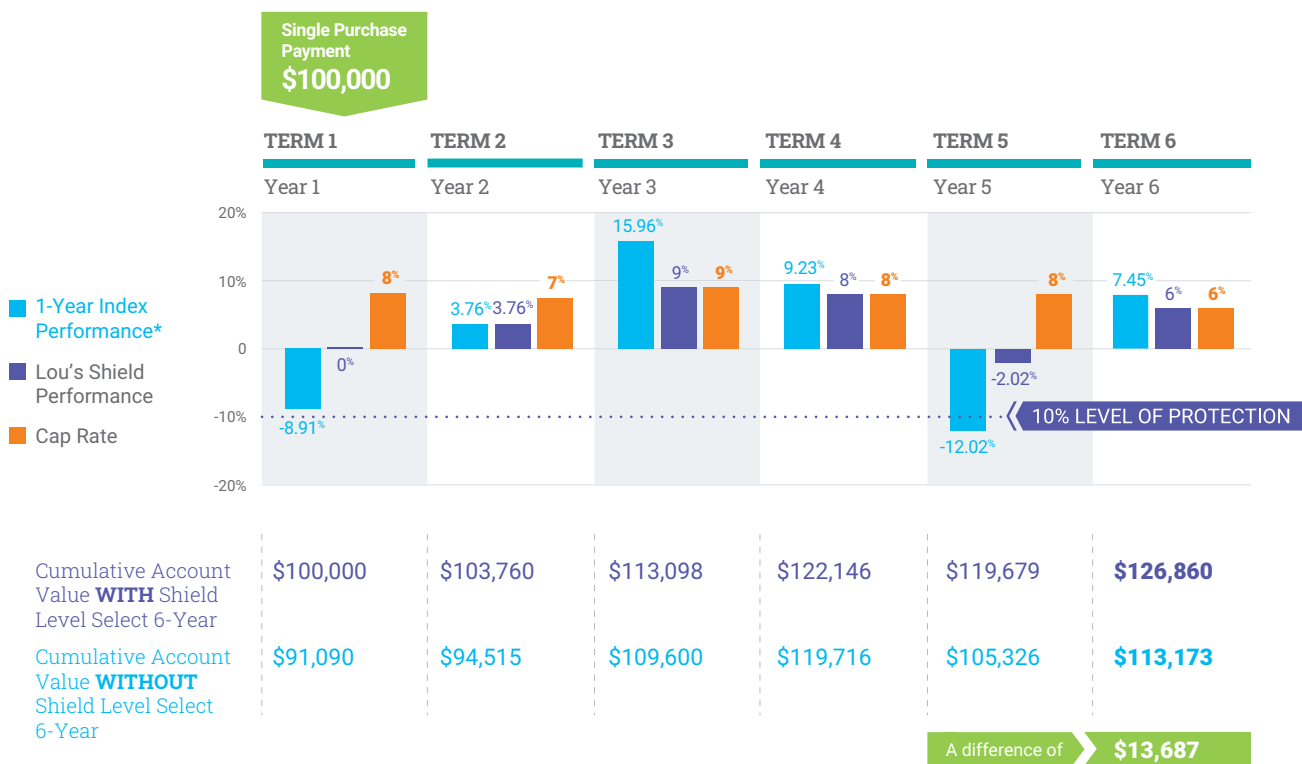
**A Shield annuity does not invest directly in any index.**

Performance is measured against the index or indices chosen, subject to the applicable Shield Rate (level of protection) if the performance is negative or the applicable rate crediting type if positive. Negative index performance beyond the Shield Rate could result in a substantial loss.

These examples are not a representation of past or future performance for any Shield Option (term, index, Shield Rate, and rate crediting type) and are not a guarantee of any kind. Actual performance may be greater or less than what is shown. This illustration assumes no withdrawals are taken, and account values are rounded for illustrative purposes only. A withdrawal charge (see product fact card) is applied on amounts withdrawn in excess of the Free Withdrawal Amount after the first contract year. The Cap Rates are hypothetical for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect actual declared rates. The Cap Rate will vary depending on the selected term, index, and level of protection (Shield Rate). The rate crediting type and Shield Rate fully accrue at the end of the term. Rate crediting types are not annual rates. After the initial term, renewal rates apply on the corresponding contract anniversary for the new term.

# The Shield Level Select 6-Year Difference

Over the course of the six consecutive 1-year terms shown below, Lou's Shield annuity account value increased from his single purchase payment of \$100,000 to \$126,860. If he had invested in a mutual fund constructed to match the same market index instead of a Shield annuity, Lou's account value would have been \$113,173 – a difference of \$13,687.<sup>4</sup>



**Please note:** Shield Level Select 6-Year does not invest directly in any index.

\* Performance is measured from the index price return at the beginning of the year to the index price return at the end of the year. Performance does not include dividends.



Visit [brighthousefinancial.com](http://brighthousefinancial.com) for interactive tools and resources, or speak to your financial professional about how a Brighthouse Shield Level Select 6-Year Annuity can complement your overall retirement planning strategy.

- <sup>1</sup> Withdrawals may be subject to withdrawal charges.
- <sup>2</sup> Participate in rising markets up to your rate crediting type. Growth opportunities are based on the elected rate crediting type. The issuing insurance company will absorb losses up to your level of protection in falling markets. Your account value will be reduced by any negative index performance beyond your elected level of protection. If you do not elect the Fixed Account, you could see a substantial loss if the market declines more than your level of protection.
- <sup>3</sup> The Shield Options available may vary by state or firm.
- <sup>4</sup> Taxes, fees, and expenses have not been accounted for in this hypothetical example.

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**This material must be preceded or accompanied by a prospectus for Brighthouse Shield Level Select 6-Year Annuity, issued by Brighthouse Life Insurance Company, which contains information about the contract's features, risks, charges, and expenses. Clients should read the prospectus, which is available from their financial professional, and consider its information carefully before investing. Brighthouse Financial reserves the right to substitute any index at any time.**

**Brighthouse Shield Level Select 6-Year Annuity is a long-term investment designed for retirement purposes. It has limitations, exclusions, charges, termination provisions, and terms for keeping it in force, and is not guaranteed by the broker/dealer, the insurance agency, the underwriter, or any affiliates of those entities from which it was purchased. All representations and contract guarantees, including the death benefit and annuity payout rates, are subject to the claims-paying ability and financial strength of the issuing insurance company. Because the client agrees to absorb all losses beyond their chosen Shield Rate, there is a risk of substantial loss of principal. Please refer to "Risk Factors" in the contract prospectus for more details.**

Withdrawals of taxable amounts are subject to ordinary income tax. Withdrawals made before age 59½ may also be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty. Distributions of taxable amounts from a non-qualified annuity may also be subject to the 3.8% Net Investment Income Tax that is generally imposed on interest, dividends, and annuity income if the modified adjusted gross income exceeds the applicable threshold amount. Withdrawals will reduce the death benefit and account value. Withdrawals may be subject to withdrawal charges.

Any discussion of taxes is for general informational purposes only, does not purport to be complete or cover every situation, and should not be construed as legal, tax, or accounting advice. Clients should confer with their qualified legal, tax, and accounting professionals as appropriate.

Brighthouse Shield® Level Select 6-Year Annuity is an index-linked annuity issued by, and product guarantees are solely the responsibility of, Brighthouse Life Insurance Company, Charlotte, NC 28277, on Policy Form L-22494 (09/12)-AV ("Brighthouse Financial"). This product is distributed by Brighthouse Securities, LLC (member FINRA). All are Brighthouse Financial affiliated companies. Product availability and features may vary by state or firm.

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Brighthouse Life Insurance Company  
11225 North Community House Road  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
brighthousefinancial.com