









**Irish Life**



**Complete**  
■ ■ ■ ■ Solutions

*Approved Retirement Fund 1 and Approved Minimum Retirement Fund 1*

# Complete Solutions Approved Retirement Fund 1 and Approved Minimum Retirement Fund 1

Aim		To allow you to control your retirement fund.
Risk		Low to very high depending on the option or mix of options you have chosen.
Capital protected		No.
Funds available		Your Complete Solutions Approved Retirement Fund 1 (ARF 1) and Approved Minimum Retirement Fund 1 (AMRF 1) plan offers you a wide range of funds to choose from. Please see your separate Fund Guide for a full list of funds.
Time period		You can invest for as long as you like - we recommend five years or more.
Jargon-free		Yes.

All information including the Terms and Conditions of your plan will be provided in English. The paper in this booklet came from a managed forest.

The information in this booklet is correct on April 2012 but may change.

**Warning: If you invest in this AMRF you will not have access to your initial investment amount until age 75.**

**Committed  
to  
Plain English**



There is no financial jargon in this booklet and everything you need to know is written in an upfront and honest way.

We are delighted to have received the 'Best in Plain English' Award from the Plain English Campaign. This award recognises our contribution to communicating clearly. For this award, we were chosen ahead of 12,000 other organisations from 80 countries.

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# 1

## Introduction

Retirement is your time. It is the start of a new and exciting part of your life and you have the chance to enjoy the freedom it presents. You can control what you want to do and when you want to do it.

Until now, your investment goal was probably to save the biggest possible nest egg for your retirement by using a pension plan. When you retire, you will need to make sure that you use this retirement fund wisely. You want to give yourself financial security, so that you can get on with enjoying a very fulfilling retirement.

The most important decision you will have to make is what to do with your retirement fund.

When you retire, you can usually take a part of your pension fund as a retirement lump sum. You may be able to take some or all of this retirement lump sum tax-free. Then, if you meet certain conditions, you may be able to choose what you want to do with the rest of your fund.

You can:

- a) use it to buy a pension for life (also known as an annuity, a regular income for the rest of your life);
- b) re-invest it in an approved minimum retirement fund or approved retirement fund; or
- c) take the rest of the fund as taxable cash.

This booklet will give you more information on approved minimum retirement funds (AMRF) and approved retirement funds (ARF) and will show you how they are different to buying an annuity.

You should talk to your financial adviser about the taxable cash option.

You should consider all options carefully as there are advantages and disadvantages to these options, depending on your investment approach and where your priorities lie in terms of goals and investment risk during your retirement.

You can find a full list of the funds available on your Complete Solutions ARF 1 and AMRF 1 plan in your separate Fund Guide which you should read before you decide to invest.



## Our service to you

### Putting you first

We are committed to providing excellent customer service to you at all times from the moment you apply right throughout the life of your plan. When you ring us, you will get straight through to our award-winning service team, based in Ireland, who will be on hand to listen to your queries and help you when you are looking for answers. Below is just a sample of the services we offer.

### You can change your mind

We want to make sure that you are happy with your decision to take out your plan. If after taking out this plan you feel it is not suitable, you can cancel it within 30 days from the day we send you your welcome pack. We will return any contributions you have made in line with Revenue rules, less any reduction in investment values during the period.

### Keeping it simple – clear communication

Because financial products can be complicated and difficult to understand, we are committed to using clear and straightforward language on all our communications to you. As a result, we work with Plain English Campaign to make sure all our customer communications meet the highest standards of clarity, openness and honesty.

### Keeping you up to date

We are committed to keeping you informed about your plan. Because of this, every year we will send you a statement to keep you up to date with your plan details.

### Online services

We have a range of online services available for you. You can check the details of your plan online by visiting [www.irishlife.ie](http://www.irishlife.ie) and clicking on My Online Services. You will need a PIN, which you would have received when you started your plan. If you have lost your PIN or need a new one, contact our customer service team on 01 704 1010.

Our online services help you keep up to date, at any time, with how your plan is performing. You can:

- View the current value of your plan;
- Change your choice of fund;
- View your annual benefit statements; and
- Use our information service - weekly investment market updates, fund information and fund prices.

You can also phone our automated Customer Information Line on 01 704 1111, to obtain a current value, access our weekly market update and to change your PIN.



### How to contact us

If you want to talk to us, just phone our customer service team on 01 704 10 10.

### Our lines are open:

8am to 8pm Monday to Thursday  
10am to 6pm Friday  
9am to 1pm Saturday.

In the interest of customer service, we will record and monitor calls.

You can also contact us in the following ways:

**Email:** [customerservice@irishlife.ie](mailto:customerservice@irishlife.ie)

**Fax:** 01 704 19 00

**Write to:** Customer service team, Irish Life,  
Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.

**Website:** [www.irishlife.ie](http://www.irishlife.ie)



### Any problems?

If you experience any problems, please call your financial adviser or contact our customer service team.

We monitor our complaint process to make sure it is of the highest standard. We hope you never have to complain. However, if for any reason you do, we want to hear from you.

If, having contacted the customer service team, you feel we have not dealt fairly with your query, you can contact:

The Financial Services Ombudsman  
3rd Floor Lincoln House  
Lincoln Place  
Dublin 2.

**Lo-call:** 1890 88 20 90

**Fax:** 01 6620890

**Email:** [enquiries@financialombudsman.ie](mailto:enquiries@financialombudsman.ie)

**Website:** [www.financialombudsman.ie](http://www.financialombudsman.ie)

# 2

## Approved retirement funds and approved minimum retirement funds

### What is an approved retirement fund (ARF)?

An approved retirement fund is a special investment fund which can give you flexibility in terms of how you use your retirement fund. With an ARF you manage and control your retirement fund and can invest it in a wide range of different investment funds. You can also make withdrawals as you need them. And because you own your fund, you can leave it to your dependants when you die.

Before you invest in an ARF, you must meet one of the following conditions (unless you have inherited an ARF or AMRF from your spouse or registered civil partner).

- You must set aside €119,800 in an approved minimum retirement fund until you reach 75.
- Or, you must buy a pension for life (annuity) with this money (€119,800).
- Or, you must have a guaranteed pension income for life of €18,000 a year.

The guaranteed pension income for life and AMRF limits are linked to the State Pension (Contributory) rate available at the time you first invest in an ARF, AMRF or vested PRSA. Currently these limits are €18,000 guaranteed pension income for life and €119,800 for an AMRF as at April 2012. If the State Pension (Contributory) rate changes then these limits will also change.

## What is an approved minimum retirement fund (AMRF)?

You must take out an AMRF if you have chosen the ARF route but do not have a guaranteed pension income for life of at least €18,000 a year already in place or have not used €119,800 to buy a pension for life. See the ARF section on page 6.

The main difference between an AMRF and an ARF is that, until you are 75 years old or you become in receipt of the required guaranteed pension income from other sources, you may only withdraw any gain you make within the AMRF over and above the original amount you invested but cannot make withdrawals from the original amount invested.

## Example of how an AMRF and ARF work together

Your retirement fund	€500,000
Retirement lump sum (for example, 25%)	€125,000
Rest of investment	€375,000
Invest in an AMRF (if you do not have a guaranteed pension income for life of €18,000 a year)	€119,800
Invest the rest in an ARF	€255,200

You can buy a pension for life (annuity) with the fund at any stage during the term of your ARF or AMRF plan.

There are more details on ARFs and AMRFs in the Withdrawals and Your questions answered sections.

**Warning: The income you get from this investment may go down as well as up.**

# Suitability snapshot



This Complete Solutions ARF 1 plan might suit you if you:

- ✓ are happy with the charges on this plan and accept that the value of your fund could fall as well as rise;
- ✓ are happy with the choice of funds available on this plan;
- ✓ would like to take a regular withdrawal up to certain limits;
- ✓ want to pass on the money in your ARF/AMRF to your family when you die;
- ✓ have a guaranteed pension income for life of €18,000 or have €119,800 to set aside for an AMRF or annuity;

This Complete Solutions ARF 1 plan might not suit you if you:

- ✗ are not happy with the charges on this plan and do not accept that the value of your fund could fall as well as rise;
- ✗ are not happy with the choice of funds available on this plan;
- ✗ want a regular income guaranteed to last you for life;
- ✗ want to take out an annuity when you retire;
- ✗ don't have a guaranteed pension income for life of €18,000 or have €119,800 to set aside for an AMRF or annuity;

# 3

## Your Complete Solutions ARF 1 / AMRF 1

### Summary

There is a wide range of funds available for you to choose from, the fund that is right for you depends on:

- the amount of risk you are willing to take; and
- the amount of control you want on where your pension invests.



For a full list of the funds available, please see your separate Fund Guide.

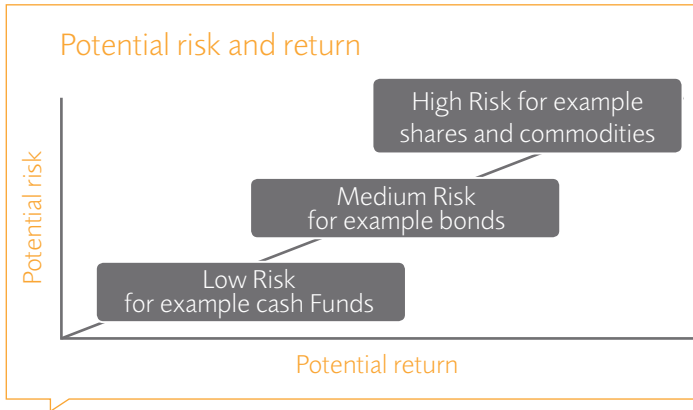
Your financial adviser will help you decide what is best for you.

Complete Solutions ARF 1 and AMRF 1 offers a wide range of investment options, because everyone has different needs and views on how they would like to invest.

Where, and how, you invest will depend on the following:

## 1. The amount of risk you are willing to take

Depending on which fund or asset you invest in, its value can fall as well as rise over the investment period. By choosing lower-risk investments, you are aiming to protect your initial investment from large falls. However, the potential for large gains is lower than if you choose a higher-risk investment.



Higher-risk investments such as company shares do not aim to protect your initial investment from large falls, but you do have the potential to gain much more, especially over the long term. If you invest in these

types of investments, or share-based funds, you should realise that, in wanting a higher return, you need to accept that the value of these funds can move up and down, sometimes by large amounts.

## 2. Choice of investments

We have brought together a number of different types of funds which invest in property, shares, commodities (such as oil and gas) or fixed-interest stocks. You can choose to invest in funds run by some of the most successful fund managers in the world such as Irish Life Investment Managers, Fidelity International and Bloxham. Or you can choose to invest in our 'indexed' managed funds which aim to track the performance of particular stock markets. These funds are likely to suit most people investing in an ARF or AMRF.

Think about how much investment experience you have and to what extent you want to be involved in the detailed investment decisions of your fund. Are you comfortable choosing the individual assets your fund invests in or are you happy to leave this to a fund manager?

## Comparing the options

Once your financial adviser has helped you decide where you stand on all these questions, they can help you build your personalised investment plan using any combination of the funds outlined in your separate Fund Guide.

If your ARF grows at a lower rate than the level of withdrawals you are taking, your original investment will be reduced



**Warning: If you invest in this product you may lose some or all of the money you invest.**

**Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up.**

**Warning: This product may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates.**

# 4

## Withdrawal options

Before investing in an ARF so that you can take regular withdrawals you should consider the main points about annuities and ARFs.

### Annuity option (pension for life)

If you choose to buy an annuity with your pension fund you are **changing your retirement fund into a regular income guaranteed to last you for life**. It does not matter if returns from investment markets are poor or if you live for a long time because you will be paid an income for as long as you live. You can't withdraw your money and there is no cash-in value once you have bought the annuity.

### ARF option

If you invest in Complete Solutions ARF 1 with your pension fund, you have the option of taking regular withdrawals from that fund. You can withdraw between 5% and 15% of your value of your fund every year. This withdrawal may not be paid for life because, as your fund can fall as well as rise, the withdrawals you take could reduce your fund quicker

than expected if market conditions are poor. **It is possible that your fund could run out before you die.**

The withdrawal or income from an ARF or an annuity is subject to any taxes and levies due at the time.

### Regular withdrawal option

You can choose to take a regular withdrawal of between 5% and 15% of the fund you have built up each year. We can pay this to you every month, every three months, every six months or every year. We won't apply any early withdrawal charge to these payments. You can decide whether you want your withdrawal to be paid by cheque through the post or to your bank account direct.

### Minimum withdrawal amounts

The Finance Act 2006 introduced an obligation on all qualifying fund managers to take from ARF funds every year as if you had taken a minimum withdrawal. Each December, we will review any regular withdrawals you have taken during the year. If you haven't taken any regular withdrawals, or if the withdrawals you have taken are lower than the minimum withdrawal amount, we will pay you the minimum

withdrawal amount less any income tax, PRSI (if applicable), the Universal Social Charge (USC) and any other charges or levies (tax) due at that time. We will only take the minimum withdrawal amount from your ARF from the year you turn 61.

The current minimum withdrawal amount is 5% of the value of your fund at the end of each year. If the total value of your ARFs and Vested PRSAs are more than €2,000,000 then you must withdraw at least 6% of the value of your ARFs every year (April 2012). **It is your responsibility to let us know if you have other ARF and Vested PRSAs with a total value of more than €2,000,000. This could change in the future.**

We will pay this amount to you less any tax due by cheque in December of each year. Or, if you ask, we will pay it into your bank account. You can choose to take a higher withdrawal than this amount, as explained in the 'Regular withdrawal option' section on page 12.

AMRFs are not covered by this rule. However, when you meet the guaranteed pension income for life requirement or reach age 75, your Complete Solutions AMRF 1 becomes an ARF and your fund will be treated in the same way as explained under 'Minimum withdrawal amounts'.

### Lump-sum withdrawals

You can also take one-off lump sums out of your ARF. The smallest amount you can take is €350 and the value of the investment after the withdrawal must be €1,000. You will have to pay tax on any withdrawals you make.

With your Complete Solutions AMRF 1, you can only withdraw any growth over and above the original amount of your investment. The smallest amount you can take is €350 and the value of the investment

after the withdrawal must be €1,000. Tax and levies will be due on any withdrawals you make.

We will apply the early exit charge to any lump-sum withdrawals from your Complete Solutions ARF 1 or AMRF 1 plan.

## Taking withdrawals if you have a Self-Invested Fund

A Self-Invested Fund gives you ultimate control over where your pension fund is invested. If you choose this fund, you can decide what investments you want in your fund. For more details on this fund, please read your separate Fund Guide booklet. If you have a Self-Invested Fund, there are extra rules on taking cash out of your Complete Solutions ARF 1 which you should remember. These are because we can only take funds out of your Self-Invested Fund if there is cash available.

Depending on the assets held in your fund, it can take time to sell these assets to make cash available.

### Regular withdrawals

If you have a Self-Invested Fund, we will take the regular withdrawal payments from the rest of your funds but not the Self-Invested Fund. If you are fully invested in the Self-Invested Fund, we will pay your regular withdrawals from the cash part of your Self-Invested Fund.

### Lump-sum withdrawals

You can take a lump-sum withdrawal from your Self-Invested Fund. However, there is likely to be a delay between when you ask us for the withdrawal and when you will receive it. This is because we must first sell

assets in your fund to get the cash we need to give you your withdrawal. The length of this delay will depend on the type of asset your fund is holding. If your Self-Invested Fund falls below €1,000, your policy will end. We will apply any early exit charge to these payments. Tax will be due on any withdrawals you make.

**Warning: The income you get from this investment may go down as well as up.**

## Conclusions

The annuity option pays a known income for life, no matter how long you live. This is especially important if your pension fund is your only form of income when you retire. Investing in an ARF means that you have control of your money, but there is more risk with this option.

In making withdrawals, you should remember the following points.

- Making regular withdrawals may reduce the value of your ARF, especially if investment returns are poor or you choose a high rate of withdrawal (or both). **It is possible that your fund could run out before you die.**
- Regular withdrawals over a long period may use up all of your ARF.
- The higher the level of regular withdrawal you make, the higher the chances are that you will use up your ARF in your lifetime.
- If your pension fund will provide your only or main source of income after you retire, you should consider investing some or all of it in an annuity so you have an income for life.

# 5

## Charges

This section shows the charges applying to your Complete Solutions ARF1 / AMRF1 plan. The charges are the same for both plans.

### Charges on your contributions

We will use your investment (your retirement fund) to buy units in one or more funds. The amount of your investment used to buy units depends on the size of your retirement fund.

The percentage of your investment used to buy units in your fund choice can range from 96% to 100% depending on the amount you have to invest. This charge will be shown on your plan schedule which you will receive in your Welcome Pack after you start your plan. Please talk to your financial adviser or us if you need more details.

### Yearly fund charge

We take this charge as a percentage of your fund value at a given time. It can be different for each fund you are investing in. The charge for each fund is shown in your separate Fund Guide which you should read before you invest. The charge is reflected in the price of the units you have bought.

### Yearly plan charge

This charge, if it applies, will be shown on your plan schedule. We take it as a percentage of your fund value and it could be up to 0.5% a year. We cancel units every month to pay this charge. If it appears on your schedule, it applies as well as the yearly fund charge.

## Single contribution exit charge

If you take your money out more than five years after you put it in, we will pay you your fund value (after tax).

However, if you want to take any money from your plan in the first five years, you will have to pay the following exit charge on the fund value.

Years 1 to 3	5%
Year 4	3%
Year 5	1%

The exit charge applies for five years from the start date of your investment. You can make more than one investment into the same plan at different times. The charge applies to each separate investment. For example, if you make an extra investment during year three and you cash in all your investment during year four, we will take a 5% charge from your extra investment. However, we will take a 3% charge from your initial investment amount.

You can take a regular withdrawal from this plan without the exit charge applying of up to 15% of your original investment every year. This exit charge does not apply on death.

# 6

## Your questions answered

### Am I eligible to invest in an approved retirement fund?

Whether you can invest in an ARF or an AMRF depends on what type of pension plan you already have. The option to invest in an ARF or an AMRF will apply if you are using the funds from one or more of the following contracts.

#### Personal pension plan

The option to invest in an ARF or AMRF is available if you have a personal pension. If you took out your pension plan when you were self-employed, a sole trader, a partner, or you worked for a company that did not have a pension scheme, you most likely have a personal pension plan.

#### Company pension plan

If you have a defined contribution company pension plan you may be able to invest in an ARF or AMRF at retirement. If you have a defined benefit company pension plan you will only be able to invest the

Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs) portion of your plan in an ARF or AMRF unless you are a director who controls more than 5% of the voting rights of the company.

#### Additional voluntary contribution (AVC) plan

If you contributed extra amounts to top up your company pension plan, you can invest the money built up in your pension fund from your additional voluntary contributions, in an ARF or AMRF.

#### Personal Retirement Savings Account (PRSA)

ARF and AMRF options are available using the fund built up in a PRSA. However, there is the option to leave your fund under your PRSA and apply similar rules as if it were an ARF or an AMRF. **You may not have to move your funds from a PRSA to take advantage of ARF-type benefits.**

Whether you decide to move your fund from a PRSA to an ARF or AMRF depends on whether the ARF or AMRF offers different options. For example, what investment choices do you have in that new product.

You should also consider the charges under the new product versus the existing charges under your PRSA. There may be more considerations and you should discuss this choice with your financial adviser.

## Are there any restrictions to investing in an approved retirement fund ?

To invest in an ARF, you must be able to show that you have a guaranteed pension income for life from other sources of at least €18,000 a year.

Examples of the types of guaranteed pension income for life acceptable under this legislation include:

- your State Pension benefits;
- any pensions paid from occupational pension schemes;
- an annuity guaranteed for life which you have bought with the proceeds of another pension fund.

If you do not have a guaranteed pension income for life of €18,000 a year, you must invest the first €119,800 (or the balance of the fund if less) in an approved minimum retirement fund or buy an annuity for the same amount.

The guaranteed pension income for life and AMRF limits are linked to the State Pension (Contributory) rate available at the time you first invest in an ARF, AMRF or vested PRSA. Currently these limits are €18,000 guaranteed pension income for life and €119,800 for an AMRF as at April 2012. If the State Pension (Contributory) rate changes then these limits will also change.

An AMRF is similar to an ARF, except that there are restrictions on what you can take from the fund. You can withdraw any gain you make within the AMRF over and above the original amount you invested. You also can buy an annuity with the fund at any stage during the term of your AMRF plan.

However, until one of the following happens (whichever is first) you cannot make withdrawals from the original amount you invested.

- You start receiving a guaranteed pension income for life from other sources, (currently €18,000 a year), or
- You reach age 75.

At this stage your AMRF will become an ARF and you can make withdrawals from your plan. You will have to pay tax on all withdrawals from your ARF or AMRF.

## How much of my investment is invested?

The percentage of your fund invested will be on your plan schedule. Please speak to your Financial Adviser for more details.

## Will I have access to my money?

Yes. You can make withdrawals from your Complete Solutions ARF 1 as often as you need to. Restrictions apply to withdrawals from your Complete Solutions AMRF 1. If you move your money less than five years from the start of your investment, we will take an exit charge. See page 16 for more details.

## Will I have to pay tax on my Complete Solutions ARF 1 / AMRF 1?

Yes, you will have to pay tax on any withdrawals from your ARF or AMRF.

## What happens to my fund if I die?

One of the main differences between an ARF / AMRF, and an annuity is that with an ARF or AMRF you own your retirement fund.

This means that when you die, you can leave the funds in your ARF or AMRF to your spouse or beneficiaries.

When you die, we will pay 100.1% of the value of your Complete Solutions ARF 1 or AMRF 1 plan. If you leave the funds to your spouse or registered civil partner, they can transfer the funds to an ARF in their name. In all other cases, we pass the funds to your estate.

## What about tax if I die?

If your funds are transferred to an ARF in your spouse or registered civil partner's name, there is no income tax or capital acquisitions tax (CAT) due.

If you leave your funds to anyone else, they may have to pay income tax or CAT depending on who they are and their circumstances.

If your estate has to pay income tax, we will deduct this before paying the proceeds of your fund to your estate.

Table A - summary of the tax rules after you die if the ARF or AMRF was set up from the proceeds of your pension fund (based on rates at April 2012)

ARF or AMRF inherited by	Income tax due	Capital Acquisitions Tax due?
Surviving spouse or registered civil partner	None if transferred into an ARF in the spouse or registered civil partner's name. PAYE is due on any future withdrawals.	No
Your children if 21 or over	Yes, at a rate of 30%	No
Your children if under 21	None	Yes. Can inherit up to €250,000 each without paying CAT. Then they must pay CAT at 30% on any inheritance over this.
Anyone else (including surviving spouse or registered civil partner if benefit paid out as a lump sum)	Yes, at deceased's tax rate at the time of death (either 20% or 41%)	Yes. Can inherit up to a certain amount depending on their relationship to you. Then they must pay CAT at 30% on any inheritance over this.

**Table B - Summary of tax rules that apply:**

- after your death, if you inherited the proceeds of an ARF from your spouse or registered civil partner; or
  - if your spouse or registered civil partner dies after inheriting the ARF from you.
- (Based on rates at April 2012)

ARF inherited by	Income tax due	Capital Acquisitions Tax due?
Your children if 21 or over	Yes, at a rate of 30%	No
Your children if under 21	None	Yes. Can inherit up to €250,000 each without paying CAT. Then they can pay CAT at 30% on any inheritances over this.
Anyone else	Yes, at a rate of 30%	Yes. Can inherit up to a certain amount depending on their relationship to you. Then they must pay CAT at 30% on any inheritance over this.

## What level of potential returns can I expect to receive?

It is important to realise that the value of ARF or AMRF investments may go down as well as up and that there is the possibility that, at any time, the value of your Complete Solutions ARF 1 or AMRF 1 can be lower than your initial investment. Any returns shown are examples only and are not a guide to future performance. Any returns will depend on investment and economic conditions at the relevant time in the future.

## Who is my plan provided by?

Your plan is provided by Irish Life Assurance plc. Your terms and conditions will set out the details of your contract with us. This booklet tells you about our approved retirement fund and approved minimum retirement fund and answers the questions that you may have. It is only meant to be a guide to help you understand your investment and does not give all the details of your plan. These details will be in your plan schedule.

We will include more specific details and rules in your plan terms and conditions, which you should also read carefully.

## Can I cancel my plan?

You have 30 days after we send your Welcome Pack to cancel your plan. If you decide to do this, we will return any contributions you have made in line with Revenue rules, less any reduction in investment values during the period. The information in this booklet is based on our understanding of current law, tax and Revenue practice in April 2012. Your application form, terms and conditions and schedule will be your legal contract with us. The contract will be governed by Irish law. The Irish courts are the only courts that are entitled to hear disputes.

## Family law and pensions

If you go through a separation or divorce a court application for an order for the benefits paid under this plan may be made. You can get more information on how a pension adjustment order works from your solicitor or the Pensions Board. If a pension adjustment order has been granted on your plan you must let us know.

Write to: The Pensions Board, Verschoyle House,

28-30 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2

Lo-call: 1890 656565

Email: [info@pensionsboard.ie](mailto:info@pensionsboard.ie)

# 7

## Glossary

### **Annuity/pension for life**

When you retire, you can use your retirement fund to buy an annuity. This is a guaranteed income from your pension fund after you retire. This income is paid on a regular basis for the rest of your life

### **Approved retirement fund (ARF)**

When you retire, you can invest your retirement fund in a personal investment account called an approved retirement fund. You can withdraw money from the account when you need it.

### **Approved minimum retirement fund (AMRF)**

When you retire, if you do not have a guaranteed pension income for life of €18,000 a year, and you are not buying an annuity, you can invest €119,800 from your pension fund into a personal investment account called an AMRF.

### **Additional voluntary contributions (AVCs)**

These are extra contributions you can pay into your PRSA or company pension to add to the pension benefits already available from your company pension scheme.

### **Bonds**

A bond is a type of loan given to a company or a government. For example, if a government wants to raise money, they can issue a bond. If you loan money to a government, you get your money back after a set time and you will also receive a fixed interest rate.

### **Commodities**

Raw materials or basic agricultural products that can be bought and sold in recognised markets. Examples of commodities include oil, gas, gold, wheat and cattle.

### **Equities/shares**

Investing in shares means investing in companies on the stock market. You then become a shareholder. For the purpose of the funds that invest in shares, as described in this booklet, we are the investor, so we are the shareholder. How those companies perform affects whether the price of units in the fund rises or falls.

## Vested PRSA

A vested PRSA is

- a PRSA where the PRSA customer has taken their retirement lump sum and left the rest of their fund invested in the PRSA; or
- a PRSA where benefits have been paid from the main scheme (in the case of a PRSA where additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) have been paid)

## Notes





# Irish Life

## Contact us

Phone: 01 704 10 10  
8am to 8pm Monday to Thursday  
10am to 6pm on Fridays  
9am to 1pm on Saturdays

Fax: 01 704 19 00

e-mail: [customerservice@irishlife.ie](mailto:customerservice@irishlife.ie)  
Website: [www.irishlife.ie](http://www.irishlife.ie)  
Write to: Irish Life Assurance plc, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.



From sustainably managed forests -  
For more info: [www.pefc.org](http://www.pefc.org)

Irish Life Assurance plc is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

In the interest of customer service we will record and monitor calls. Irish Life Assurance plc, Registered in Ireland number 152576, Vat number 9F55923G.

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