# How to Sell Your Annuity or **Structured Settlement Payments in Five Simple Steps**

## **Annuities vs. Structured Settlements**

Before you can start the process of selling your payments, you must first determine if your payments are from an annuity or a structured settlement. The process varies slightly depending on the type of payment stream.

#### **Annuities**



Annuities are insurance products for which you pay a premium to an insurance company in exchange for a guaranteed stream of income.

#### Structured Settlements



A structured settlement is a stream of payments to a person who won or settled a personal injury or wrongful death lawsuit.

## **Do Your Homework and Research** Buyers





Do your homework to find a buyer that can provide you with the best service and the best deal.



Look for a company with positive online reviews and a high rating from the Better Business Bureau.



Take the time to ask for advice from an accountant or financial planner.

## Consult a Representative and Get a Free Quote



After you've identified a few trustworthy factoring companies, start making phone calls.



Talk to at least two

factoring companies

and compare quotes.

Verify whatever they

tell you with your own

research.

Don't let anyone pressure you. Take your time, explore your options and make the best decision for you and your family.

# **Consider** and Accept an Offer

Evaluate your offer, compare it to others and accept the best one.

#### **THINGS TO CONSIDER:**

## **Discount Rate**

It's important to understand that you'll be selling your payment rights at a discounted rate to whichever company you select.

The average discount rate ranges between 9 and 18 percent.

## Is Withdrawing Money an Option?

You can't withdraw money from an annuity that was created to fund a structured settlement, but you can withdraw money from annuities purchased from an insurance company.

However, withdrawing money from an annuity could cost you surrender charges and tax penalties.





**Lower Discount** Rate

**Higher Cash Value For You** 









Documents You'll Need to Sell Your Structured Settlement:

- Completed application
- Copy of the original structured settlement contract
- **Release agreement**



Once you accept your cash offer, the factoring company will send you the transfer documents to sign and have notarized.



The sooner you return these documents, the sooner you can receive your money.

#### **IF YOU ARE SELLING A Commercial Annuity**



The buyer and your insurance company will process the paperwork for the sale of a commercial annuity.



Once you've completed the documentation, the rest of the process takes roughly four weeks.



# **Receive Your Money**

#### **IF YOU ARE SELLING A**

#### **Structured Settlement**

The average amount of time it takes to sell structured settlement payments is

45-90 Days



Check with your lawyer or financial advisor about the unique laws in your state before finalizing the sale.

#### **IF YOU ARE SELLING A Commercial Annuity**



The insurance company that issued the annuity contract must approve the sale of a commercial annuity.

As long as the sale is legitimate and the buyer is reputable, the insurer will approve your sale.

You will receive your money as quickly as the law allows.

## **Court Approval:** The Extra Step for Selling Structured **Settlement** Payments

Structured settlement sales require an additional step. A judge must review your sale and speak to you to determine whether the sale is in your best interest.





Waiting for a court date could take up to 60 days after filing all signed documents.



When you receive a court date, be prepared to explain to the judge the need for your money.



Once you return signed

documents, a local attorney

files paperwork with the

court to schedule a hearing.

If the court approves, your structured settlement purchaser will then send you a lump-sum payment.



The judge will take your reasoning into account when evaluating the case, as well as other factors.

#### Sources

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