

# Qualified Charitable Distribution FAQ



To help you better understand Qualified Charitable Distributions, we've answered the following frequently asked questions.

## What is a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a distribution from an IRA directly to an eligible charitable organization.

## Does a Qualified Charitable Distribution satisfy my Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)?

Any QCD will be applied toward your annual RMD amount. It will only satisfy your RMD obligation if the total QCD equals or exceeds your total RMD amount. For the QCD to count towards your current year's RMD, it must be made by the RMD deadline which is generally December 31.

## What types of charitable organizations qualify?

A QCD can only be made to a charitable organization eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions under IRS rules. The QCD rules are not available for gifts made to grant-making foundations, donor advised funds or charitable gift annuities. The contribution to the charity would have had to be entirely deductible if it were not made from an IRA. A taxpayer does not have to itemize deductions, but the gift to the charity still must meet all the deductibility rules.

## How old must I be to make a QCD?

You must be at least age 70½.

## Is there a limit on the amount I can make as a QCD?

The maximum annual amount per calendar year is \$108,000 in 2025 (index adjusted annually). If you and your spouse file taxes jointly, both you and your spouse can make a QCD of \$108,000 in the same year.

## If I take my RMD and pay the charitable organization directly, will it qualify as a QCD?

No. For it to qualify as a QCD, the funds must be paid directly to the charitable organization from Athene.

## Can I fund a charitable gift annuity (CGA) or charitable remainder trust (CRT) with a QCD?

Upon the passing of SECURE Act 2.0, individuals can fund a CGA and CRT with a QCD. We recommend you speak with your personal tax professional regarding specific requirements.

## Can I still withhold taxes when requesting a QCD?

You can withhold taxes as the distribution will be reported on behalf of the contract owner to the IRS. However, if the distribution qualifies as a QCD, tax will not be due on the amount withdrawn.

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### Will the QCD be reported to the IRS?

The QCD will be reported as a normal distribution to the contract owner on IRS Form 1099-R. When making a QCD, you should receive the same type of acknowledgment from the qualified charitable organization to claim the deduction for a charitable donation. The taxpayer must make an active election on their tax return to indicate the distribution is a QCD.

### How do I request a QCD?

You must submit Athene's [Qualified Charitable Distribution \(QCD\) Form 22097](#) or a Letter of Instruction (LOI) with the following information:

- Charitable organization name
- Charitable organization address
- Distribution amount
- Contract owner name and annuity contract number
- Tax withholding election (yes or no)

### Can I make a QCD to multiple charities?

Yes. A QCD may go to multiple charities but are limited to no more than 20 per year, and a form or LOI is required for each.

### Is my QCD subject to surrender charges?

A QCD is applied toward your annual RMD amount. Any amount over your annual RMD amount may be subject to surrender charges.

### Can I have my systematic withdrawal sent directly to the charity?

A QCD is a one-time distribution and can be requested using Athene [Form 22097](#). A single systematic payment cannot be redirected to a charity.

### Can I contribute a QCD from my Roth IRA?

Roth IRAs are not subject to RMDs during your lifetime. Please consult your personal tax professional to determine if making a QCD from your Roth IRA is appropriate.

### Can I contribute a QCD from my 401(k)?

Charitable contributions can only be made from an IRA.

Please speak with your personal tax professional to determine if your IRA and charity qualify for a QCD.

Withdrawals and surrender of taxable amounts are subject to ordinary income tax, and except under certain circumstances, will be subject to an IRS penalty if taken prior to age 59½.

Any information regarding taxation contained herein is based on our understanding of current tax law, which is subject to change and differing interpretations. This information should not be relied on as tax, legal or financial advice and cannot be used by any taxpayer for the purposes of avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code. We recommend that taxpayers consult with their tax or legal professionals for applicability to their personal circumstances.

The IRS requires individuals owning IRAs to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) each year once you reach a certain age, which varies by birthdate. The annual deadline for taking an RMD is December 31. You may delay your first RMD until April 1 of the year after you attain the required beginning age. If you delay your first RMD, you'll have to take your first and second RMD in the same tax year. If you fail to take your RMD, you may be subject to an excise tax. Please consult with your tax professional for guidelines specific to your situation. Visit [IRS.gov](#) for details.

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