## **LIFE 101**

# Variable Universal Life Insurance



### **Upside potential and downside risk**

Variable universal life (VUL) products are designed for death benefit protection as well as cash value growth potential/risk through a range of underlying investment options, called subaccounts.

#### How does it work?

Other universal life (UL) products will take a portion of the premium payments and invest them in the insurance company's general account. This is not necessarily the case with VULs. The premiums, after various charges, loads, and fees are deducted, can be directly invested into subaccounts. Subaccount options usually range from fixed income and money market funds to equity-based funds (such as large-cap, small-cap, growth, value, etc.). The performance of the product is tied to the investment choices, which means VUL owners bear more risk in this insurance product than in others but can also enjoy greater rewards if the subaccounts perform positively



than in others but can also enjoy greater rewards if the subaccounts perform positively. If the subaccounts decline, cash value can be lost and could result in the need for additional premiums to keep the policy in force. If the subaccounts grow, cash values will grow on a tax-deferred basis which can allow for future flexibility.

There are different types of VULs to meet different objectives, such as those with lifetime death benefit guarantees or those designed for supplemental retirement income.

#### Who is it for?

VULs are generally well-suited for those wanting unlimited upside potential and who can handle the downside of investment risks. Those interested in VULs should be willing to accept the responsibility for managing their policy values and making investment decisions. Also, most VULs will perform best when the policies are funded with the maximum allowable premiums. Keep in mind that all guarantees are subject to the claims-paying ability of the issuing carrier.

#### **Contact your Crump representative to learn more!**

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