

Checklist For Selling Your Structured Settlement Payments

Thinking about selling your structured settlement payments? This is an important decision. After all, you may have thought long and hard about accepting the settlement. Or perhaps your settlement represents the final step after years of litigation or legal negotiation. For either of these reasons, selling some or all of your settlement payments may provoke concern and anxiety.

One thing you can do to gain comfort and ensure that you make the best possible decision is to get prepared before you start the process of selling some or all of your settlement payments. To help, we developed the following checklist consisting of pointers as well as “big picture” strategies.

✓ **Learn a little bit more about your payment stream.** Structured settlements often have more features than their recipients realize. Your settlement may contain cost of living adjustments, lump sum payments on special anniversary dates or birthdays, or offer non guaranteed payments after a certain date. By reviewing your settlement and understanding its unique features, you will be in a better position to explore options and more readily accept some of the limitations your settlement may impose.

✓ **Assess your needs.** Remember, your structured settlement is a valuable asset. Like any important asset, care needs to be taken when considering selling some or all of it. The most important step you can take in this regard is to determine as accurately as possible how much cash you currently need. By doing this ahead of time, you establish an important goal which will help you sort through the several options you may be presented.

✓ **Understand the role your settlement payments play in your monthly budget.** It’s important that you sell only the portion of your regular payment that you can afford to part with. If you are selling more than you can afford each month, make sure you have a plan for funding the difference either temporarily from the proceeds or from some other source.



✓ **Develop a plan for spending the proceeds.** Selling your structured settlement payments is a legal transaction. As a result, your plan for spending the money will be reviewed in court to ensure the sale of payments is in the best interest of you and your dependents. Having a good plan for spending the funds will make the process easier and quicker.

✓ **Get your documentation together.** You can start the process of selling some or all of your settlement payments with just the name of the insurance company. However, to complete your transaction, you will need to produce documentation about your settlement including the settlement agreement and insurance company annuity. Having these documents handy will speed your transaction.

When thinking about your structured settlement payments it's important to keep in mind that they are *your* asset. This means they should benefit you and serve your interests. Therefore if the current stream of payments you are receiving is not adequate, then a lump sum payment option should be considered. However, like all assets, care and prudence must always be exercised when considering a change that will impact its future and current value.

Company Bio

J.G. Wentworth, Inc., based in Bryn Mawr, PA, is the nation's oldest, largest and most respected buyer of deferred payments for illiquid financial assets like structured settlements, annuities and, through its dedicated subsidiary, life insurance policies. Since 1992, J.G. Wentworth has purchased over \$3 billion of future payment obligations from consumers.