

# Glossary of Common Terms

- **POD (Payable on Death):** A designation you can add to a bank account so that, when you pass, the money goes directly to the named beneficiary without going through probate.
- **Auto-Pay:** A system where bills are automatically deducted from your bank account or charged to your card. Convenient, but can be risky if income changes or accounts close.
- **Hardship Plan:** An arrangement with a creditor (like a credit card company, utility, or lender) that lowers or pauses payments for a period of time due to financial hardship, illness, or death in the family.
- **Beneficiary:** The person(s) you designate to receive the funds or benefits from an account, policy, or trust after your death.
- **Probate:** The legal process of settling a person's estate after death, including validating the will and distributing assets.
- **Executor/Personal Representative:** The person legally appointed to manage your estate, pay debts, and distribute assets after death.
- **Trust:** A legal arrangement that holds assets on behalf of beneficiaries, often used to avoid probate and provide clearer distribution of assets.
- **Power of Attorney (POA):** A legal document giving someone the authority to act on your behalf for financial or medical decisions, either immediately or if you become incapacitated.
- **Estate:** Everything you own (property, money, belongings) that gets managed or distributed after death.