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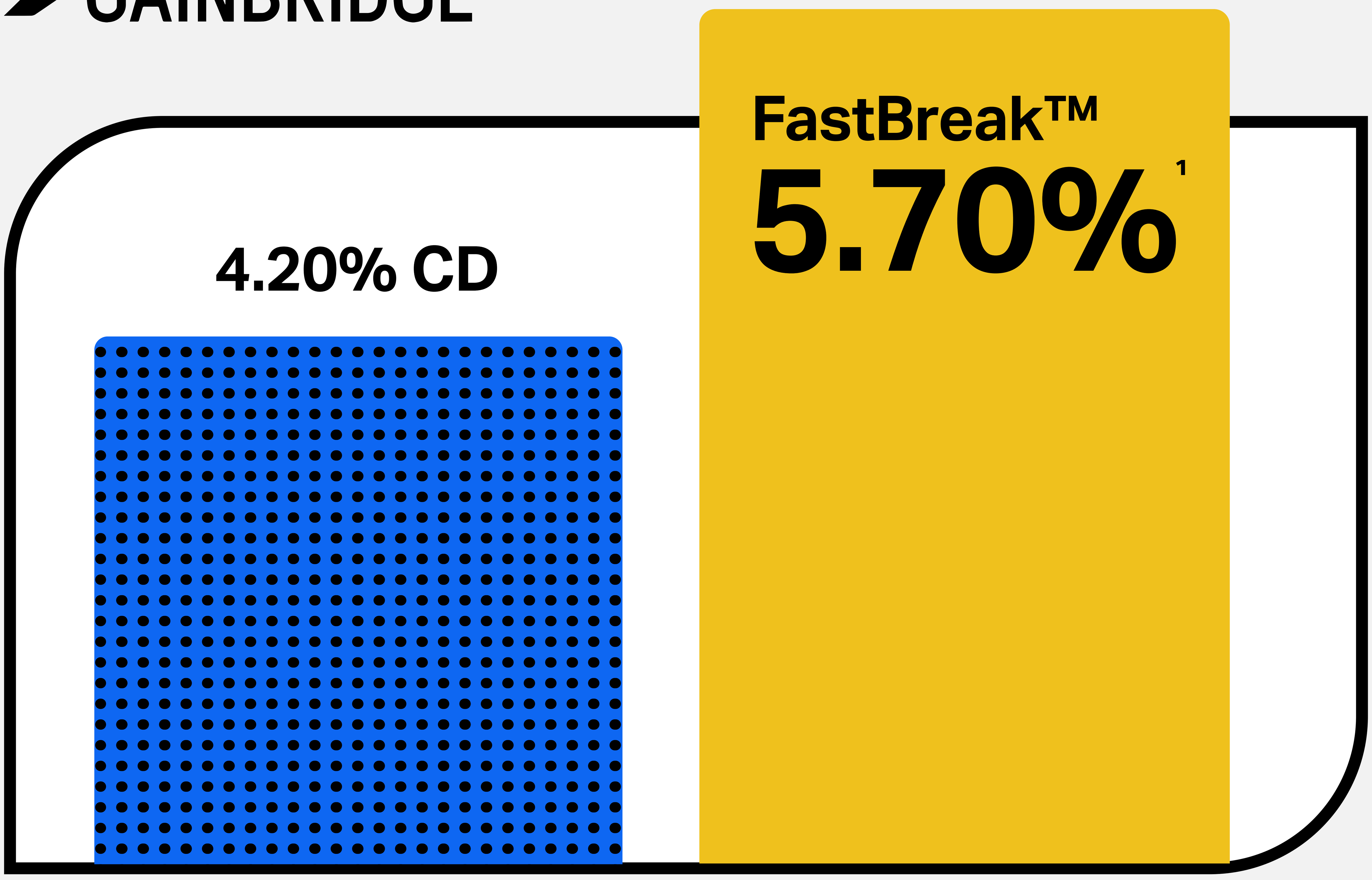


FastBreak™ vs. CDs: A Better Way to Grow Your Money

FastBreak™ by Gainbridge® is a multi-year guaranteed annuity (MYGA) designed as a superior alternative to traditional Certificates of Deposit (CDs), offering higher guaranteed yields with similar tax treatment and maturity flexibility. While CDs can be great for short term needs, FastBreak™ can provide significantly higher returns—**5.70% APY[1] compared to leading CD rates of 4.20% APY.** Like CDs, interest is taxed annually as ordinary income, and funds can be withdrawn penalty-free at maturity, without the early withdrawal restrictions of traditional annuities[2].

For those seeking a low-risk, high-return fixed-income option, FastBreak™ presents an attractive opportunity to potentially maximize earnings without sacrificing liquidity at maturity – all of this with added flexibility of being able to withdraw 10% of earned interest each year.

Don't believe us? Keep reading to see how FastBreak™ stacks up against CDs and decide for yourself.

Higher Yields

CDs

Leading rates for CDs range from 4.00%–4.20%.

Vs.

FastBreak™

Offers rates up to 5.70%[1], a powerful 1.50% premium over CDs.

Impact

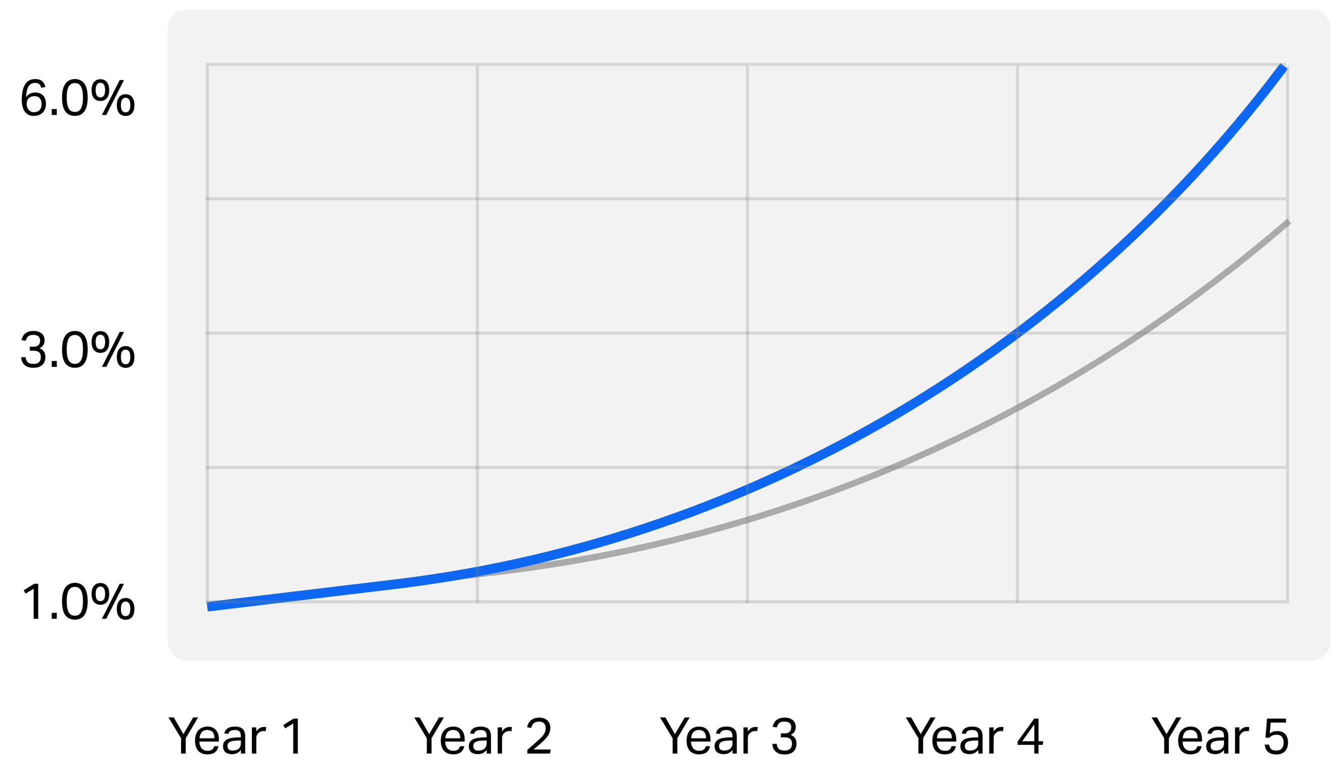
For an investor prioritizing safe returns, the higher yield of FastBreak™ can significantly increase total interest earned, making it a compelling choice.

Hypothetical example for a $100,000 contribution:

5-Year CD at 4.20%:
Earns $22,839.66 interest over 5 years.

5-Year FastBreak™ at 5.70%[1]:
Earns $31,939.53 interest over 5 years.

Difference: FastBreak™ **earns an extra $9,099.87.**



Withdrawal Flexibility

CDs

Funds can be withdrawn penalty-free only at maturity. Early withdrawals incur penalties, often 3–12 months' worth of interest.

Vs.

FastBreak™

Similarly, funds can be withdrawn penalty-free at maturity. Additionally, policyholders can access up to 10% of contract value on an annual basis without penalty. Early withdrawals above the annual 10% allowed may face surrender charges but no IRS early withdrawal penalties (unlike tax-deferred annuities).

Key Benefit Over CDs

The withdrawal terms are functionally the same at maturity. However, FastBreak™ also allows for annual withdrawals up to 10% of the contract value, making FastBreak™ the more flexible option.

Terms Available

CDs

Longer terms do not equal higher rates. In fact, CD rates are typically lower at longer durations

Vs.

FastBreak™

Offers higher rates for longer terms (3–10 years), making it better suited for those comfortable with longer time horizons.

Comparison

A 3-year CD might yield up to 4.20%, whereas FastBreak™ offers 5.65%[1] for the same term.

Guaranteed Interest Rate Period	Leading CD Rates	FastBreak™ Rates[1]
3	4.20%	5.65%
4	4.00%	5.65%
5	4.15%	5.70%

Safety and Guarantees

CDs

Fully insured by the FDIC up to $250,000 per depositor per institution. This government-backed guarantee could be an advantage for risk-averse investors.

FastBreak™

Backed by Gainbridge Life Insurance Company's ("Gainbridge Life") financial strength as an insurance company, not FDIC-insured. Gainbridge Life is rated A-(Excellent) by AM Best.[3]

Impact

Risk-averse people may prefer CDs for their government guarantee, while those comfortable with insurer-backed guarantees could benefit from FastBreak's higher yields. However, it is worth noting that Gainbridge Life is a highly trusted insurance carrier and is rated A-(Excellent) by AM Best4. Gainbridge® is a branded subsidiary of Group 1001, an insurance collective with a combined AUM of approx. $66.8 billion as of September 30, 2024, and provides over 496,000 active annuity contracts and life insurance policies. Group 1001 includes brands such as Gainbridge®, Delaware Life, Clear Spring Life and Annuity Company, Clear Spring Property and Casualty Group, Clear Spring Health, and the RVI Group, among others.

Tax Treatment

CDs

Interest is taxed as ordinary income in the year it is earned, regardless of whether the person withdraws it or renews it.

FastBreak™

—interest is reported annually as ordinary income.

No Tax Advantage

FastBreak™ does not offer the tax-deferral benefits of traditional annuities. However, this similarity to CDs makes it simpler for those familiar with CD taxation.

[3]A.M. Best Company assigns ratings from A++ to S based on a company's financial strength and ability to meet obligations to contract holders. A- (Excellent) is the 4th highest of 16 ratings. visit www.ambest.com

Inflation Protection

CDs

Low returns relative to inflation can erode purchasing power, especially for longer-term CDs.

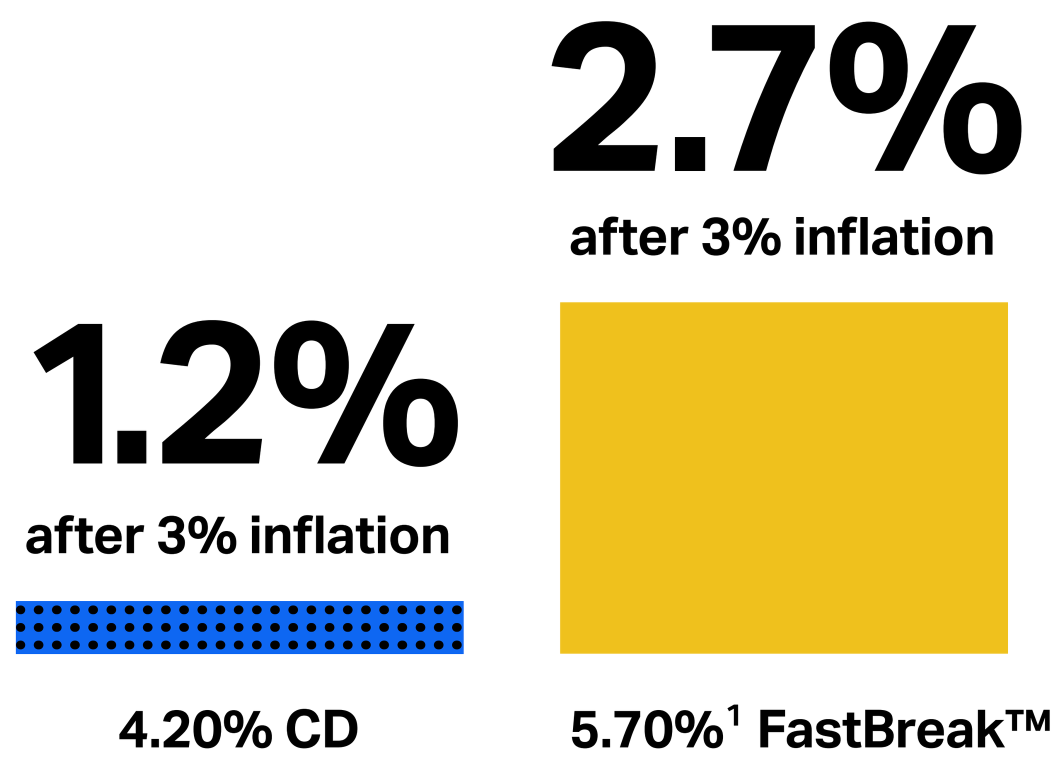
FastBreak™

Can offer higher yields, which provide a better hedge against moderate inflation (e.g., 3%–4%).

Comparison

A 4.20% CD provides a real return of only 1.20% after 3% inflation.

A 5.70%[1] FastBreak™ annuity provides a real return of 2.70%, preserving purchasing power.



Liquidity and Laddering

CDs

Frequently used in laddering strategies, where a person staggers maturities to ensure regular access to funds and combat interest rate risk.

For example: A 3-year CD, 4-year CD, and 5-year CD create liquidity at regular intervals.

Vs.

FastBreak™

Works well for laddering due to its similar structure:

- Higher yields at each rung make FastBreak™ a more lucrative alternative.
- **Example:** A ladder with FastBreak™ (up to 5.70%[1] yield) replaces CDs (~4.00-4.20%) for greater total returns over time.

FastBreak™ ladders can also complement CD laddering strategies for greater yields and extended time horizons

			Year 1 Age 57	Year 2 Age 58	Year 3 Age 59	Year 4 Age 60	Year 5 Age 61	Year 6 Age 62	Year 7 Age 63	Year 8 Age 64	Year 9 Age 65	Year 10 Age 66	
1-yr CD	4.00%	$20,000	$20,800										
2-yr CD	4.50%	$20,000		$21,800									
3-yr FB	5.65%	$20,000			$23,585.14								
4-yr FB	5.65%	$20,000				$24,917.70							
5-yr FB	5.70%	$20,000					$26,387.91						
		5-yr FB	5.70%	$20,800				$27,443.42					
			5-yr FB	5.70%	$2 1,800				$28,726.82				
				5-yr FB	5.70%	$23,585.14				$31,118.12			
					5-yr FB	5.70%	$24,917.70				$32,876.30		
						5-yr FB	5.70%	$26,387.91				$34,816.08	
Initial Investment		$100,000						$117,490.75					$155,016.74
								Average Annual Return 5.40%*					Average Annual Return 5.55%*

Notice the average annual return increases. This is due to the fact that FB rates increase with duration (without additional risk). This creates a strong tailwind for traditional ladder strategies. The effect is exponential due to the addition of compounding interest.

Example: A ladder utilizing both CDs and FastBreak™, leveraging CDs for years 1 and 2 while providing higher yields with FastBreak™ from year 3-10

Accessibility for Pre-Retirees

CDs

Accessible to all age groups, including those under 59½, without any special restrictions or penalties.

FastBreak™

Matches CDs in accessibility and adds a unique advantage for pre-retirees:

- Unlike tax-deferred annuities, there are no IRS penalties for early withdrawals before age 59 ½.

Impact

This makes FastBreak™ especially appealing to younger persons or pre-retirees seeking medium-term growth.

Costs and Fees

CDs

Have no fees or maintenance costs, and the interest rate is fixed and straightforward.

FastBreak™

Similar to CDs in that it has no ongoing fees. Early withdrawals may incur surrender charges, but this is comparable to CD penalties for early withdrawal.

Estate Planning Considerations

CDs

Upon the depositor's death, the CD balance (principal + accrued interest) is passed to heirs without penalties but is included in the estate for tax purposes.

FastBreak™

Similarly, allows full access to heirs. The higher yield means more wealth transfer compared to CDs, assuming all else is equal.

Key Comparison Table

Feature	CDs	FastBreak™
Yield (3–10 Years)	**~4.00%–4.20%**	**5.70%[1]**
Protections	FDIC insured up to $250,000	Principal protection backed by Gainbridge Life
Tax Treatment	Taxable annually via 1099	Taxable annually via 1099
Penalty-Free Access	At maturity	Can withdraw 10% annually, unrestricted access at maturity
Early Withdrawal Penalty	Typically 3–12 months' interest	Surrender charges may apply
Terms Available	Up to 5 years (usually)	3–10 years
Inflation Protection	Moderate	Better (higher yields)
Death Benefit	Simple, principal + interest	Simple, principal + interest

Is FastBreak™ a Better Choice Than CDs?

Whether or not FastBreak™ or CDs are right for your client depends on their needs and concerns. Both Fastbreak™ and CDs can be complementary solutions that meet client's needs for different periods and use cases. CDs can be a useful yield generating cash alternative, particularly if your client wants short term access to their funds. However, Fastbreak™ offers unique advantages over CDs as a protected product with generally higher yields.

Choose FastBreak™ if:

- Your client wants a higher yield (5.70%[1] vs. ~4.20%).
- Your client is comfortable waiting for 3–10 years and don't need early access.
- Your client is using a laddering strategy and wants better returns.

Overall, FastBreak™ beats CDs in yield and flexibility while maintaining nearly the same tax treatment and liquidity at maturity, making it a generally superior choice for most fixed-income clients.

[1] Annual Percentage Yield (APY) rate subject to change.

[2] Because they are meant for long-term accumulation, most annuities have withdrawal charges that are assessed during the early years of the contract if the contract owner surrenders the annuity. In addition, withdrawals prior to age 59 ½ may be subject to a 10% Federal Tax Penalty. All withdrawals made from annuities with pre-tax contributions are taxed as ordinary income. All withdrawals from an annuity purchased with non-qualified monies are taxable as ordinary income only to the extent there is a gain in the policy. Guarantees are dependent on the claims paying ability of the issuing company.

[3] A.M. Best Company assigns ratings from A++ to S based on a company's financial strength and ability to meet obligations to contract holders. A- (Excellent) is the 4th highest of 16 ratings. visit www.ambest.com