

PROTECTION FOR YOU AND YOUR INSURANCE POLICY
THE WASHINGTON LIFE AND DISABILITY INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION

PREFACE

This brochure briefly describes the coverage provided through the Washington Life & Disability Insurance Guaranty Association (“Association”).

The Association is a nonprofit unincorporated legal entity created by the Washington Life and Disability Insurance Guaranty Association Act, Chapter 48.32A RCW (“Act”). Every life and disability insurance company authorized to do business in Washington is a member of the Association. A Board of Directors (“Board”), composed of representatives from member insurers, and the Insurance Commissioner, ex officio, oversee the operation of the Association.

The expenses of the Association are paid by assessments made against each member insurer. Persons covered by the Act are not charged for the expenses of the Association or the protection provided under the Act.

Coverage is provided for certain life and disability insurance. However, the Association does not cover all such insurance. Coverage that is provided is subject to the limitations and exclusions provided by the Act.

The purpose of this brochure is to help you understand the general nature and the conditions of the protection provided under the Act. It is only a summary, however, and if you have specific questions that are not discussed here you may contact either the Association or the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Washington Life and Disability Insurance
Guaranty Association
P.O. Box 2292
Shelton, WA 98584
360-426-6744

Company Supervision Division
Office of the Insurance Commissioner
P.O. Box 40259
Olympia, WA 98504-0259
360-725-7214

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. WHAT INSURANCE POLICIES ARE COVERED UNDER THE ACT?

The Act applies to life insurance policies, disability insurance policies, and annuity contracts issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in Washington. The term “disability insurance,” as used in the Act, includes not only disability income insurance, but also policies commonly referred to as “health insurance” (which includes long term care policies). Together, all of these policies and contracts are sometimes referred to as “covered policies,” a term used in this brochure.

2. ARE THERE POLICIES OR INSURERS NOT COVERED BY THE ACT?

The Act specifically excludes certain types of policies or portions of policies, including, but not limited to: The portion of a policy not guaranteed by the insurer; the portion of a policy to the extent the interest rate or crediting rate exceeds the limits in the Act; policies of reinsurance, unless assumption certificates have been issued; policies issued in Washington by an insurer at a time when the insurer was not licensed or did not have a certificate of authority; policies issued to a self-insured plan or program; certain unallocated employee benefit plan annuities protected by federal law; and unallocated annuity contracts not issued to or in connection with a benefit plan or a government lottery.

The Act also does not apply to policies or contracts issued by health care service contractors, health maintenance organizations, fraternal benefit societies, self-funded multiple employer welfare arrangements, mandatory state pooling plans, mutual assessment companies, insurance exchanges, or an organization that has a certificate or license limited to issuance of certain charitable gift annuities.

3. WHO IS PROTECTED UNDER THE ACT?

You are covered by the Act if you are an owner of or certificate holder under a policy or contract (other than an unallocated annuity contract or structured settlement annuity), and:

- You are a Washington resident; or
- You are not a Washington resident, but only if: the insurer is domiciled in Washington; there is an association similar to the Washington Association in your state of residency; and you are not covered in your state of residency, because the insurer was not licensed in that state; or
- You are a beneficiary, assignee, or payee of one of the above, regardless of where you reside (except for nonresident certificate holders under group policies).

Owners of unallocated annuity contracts are covered if the contract was issued to or in connection with a specific benefit plan whose plan sponsor has its principal place of business in Washington, or the contract was issued to or in connection with a government lottery and the owner is a Washington resident.

4. HOW DOES THE ASSOCIATION PROTECT COVERED PERSONS AGAINST LOSS?

After an order of liquidation is entered against a company, the Association begins its work of carrying out the purpose of the Act, which is to assure the performance of insurance obligations of that company. The Association is authorized to carry out its duties by working with insurance companies in good standing to assume or take over the covered policies. The association may also directly provide benefits and coverage as authorized by the Act. The Association has the authority to collect the funds necessary to provide protection to covered persons against losses on their covered policies.

5. WHERE DOES THE ASSOCIATION GET THE MONEY TO PROVIDE THIS PROTECTION?

The Association is authorized to collect money from all life and disability insurance companies doing business in Washington. The funds collected from an assessment are used to pay claims to covered persons and/or to fund the assumption of covered policies by another insurer.

6. DOES THE ASSOCIATION PAY OUT THE MONEY IT COLLECTS RIGHT AWAY OR DO COVERED PERSONS HAVE TO WAIT?

The Association generally cannot make an assessment for covered policies issued by a company until after an order of liquidation has been entered against the company, and a reasonable estimate can be made of the amount of money needed. Insurance companies receiving an assessment notice must make their payments within thirty days.

Because it takes time for an action to be commenced against a financially impaired insurer, for a Court to issue an order, and for funds to be collected to satisfy the obligations of that insurer, some delay, hopefully short, is unavoidable before payments can be made. Although it is impossible to predict how long this process will take in any given case, an average time period of twelve to eighteen months is not unusual.

When necessary, the Association may borrow money to make payments more promptly, particularly in cases that will take an unusual amount of time to be resolved.

7. WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF PROTECTION PROVIDED BY THE ACT?

The Act provides the following maximum amounts of protection:

Life Insurance Death Benefits	\$500,000
Disability Benefits and Health Benefits (including Long Term Care Benefits)	\$500,000
Present Value of Individual Annuities	\$500,000

Unallocated Annuity Contracts,
other than certain government retirement plans
(limit is per contract owner or plan sponsor)\$5,000,000

Government Retirement Plans in
Unallocated Annuities established
under Internal Revenue Code § § 401, 403(b), or 457
(limit is per participant)\$100,000

This protection becomes effective at the time of entry of a Court order of liquidation against the insurer. Of course, if the amount owed under the contract or policy is less than the maximum benefit under the Act, the covered person will be entitled to protection only up to the actual amount owed.

Furthermore, the maximum protection available to each covered person remains the same, regardless of the number of contracts through which he or she has a claim.

8. IF A HUSBAND AND WIFE EACH INDIVIDUALLY OWN A COVERED POLICY, IS THE PROTECTION UNDER THE ACT PROVIDED TO EACH OF THEM?

Yes. As long as the residency requirements are met, both would be entitled to the protection provided by the Act, up to the maximum amount.

9. WHY DOESN'T MY INSURANCE COMPANY ADVERTISE THE FACT THAT ITS POLICIES AND CONTRACTS ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE ACT?

Under Washington law, insurance companies are prohibited from advertising that their policies or contracts may be covered under the Act.

10. WHY HASN'T MY AGENT TOLD ME ABOUT THE GUARANTY ACT?

Your insurance agent is subject to the same prohibitions as your insurance company. As a representative of the company, an agent must exercise great care when soliciting business and consequently, will generally not discuss the subject of a guaranty act with clients.

11. WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN A VIOLATION OF THE ACT?

You should contact the Association if you believe your rights have been violated under the Act. If you are dissatisfied with the actions of the Association, you may also contact the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

CONCLUSION

This brochure has been prepared by the Washington Life and Disability Insurance Guaranty Association. Its purpose is to inform the public in a general way of the protections that are available in this state on insurance policies and annuity contracts issued by companies authorized to do business in Washington. The Association does not, by this brochure, endorse any company or its products, but rather seeks to address some of the concerns that you may have regarding the security of insurance policies and annuity contracts.

For more information or answers to specific questions you may contact the Washington Life and Disability Insurance Guaranty Association or the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, whose addresses and telephone numbers are shown in the Preface.



STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

A Stock Life Insurance Company
900 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204-1282
(503) 321-7000

CERTIFICATE

GROUP SHORT TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE

Policyholder:	City of Tacoma
Policy Number:	605772-E
Effective Date:	January 1, 2021

The Group Policy has been issued to the Policyholder. We certify that you will be insured as provided by the terms of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy. If the terms of this Certificate differ from the terms of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy, the latter will govern. If your coverage is changed by an amendment to the Group Policy, we will provide the Employer with a revised Certificate or other notice to be given to you.

Possession of this Certificate does not necessarily mean you are insured. You are insured only if you meet the requirements set out in this Certificate.

"You" and "your" mean the Member. "We", "us" and "our" mean Standard Insurance Company. Other defined terms appear with the initial letters capitalized. Section headings, and references to them, appear in boldface type.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. P. Dan".

Chairman, President and CEO

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COVERAGE FEATURES

This section contains many of the features of your short term disability (STD) insurance. Other provisions, including exclusions, limitations, appear in other sections. Please refer to the text of each section for full details. The Table of Contents and the Index of Defined Terms help locate sections and definitions.

GENERAL POLICY INFORMATION

Group Policy Number:	605772-E
Policyholder:	City of Tacoma
Employer:	City of Tacoma
Group Policy Effective Date:	January 1, 2021
Policy Issued in:	Washington

You are a Member if you are:

1. An employee who holds a regular, project, or probationary appointment in the City service, or an employee of the Tacoma Public Library; excluding a commissioned firefighter or police officer (but not a Fire Chief or Police Chief); and
2. Employed and paid for services by the Employer on a full-time basis (regularly scheduled to work at least 20 hours each week);
3. Actively At Work at least 20 hours each week; and
4. A citizen or resident of the United States or Canada.

For purposes of the Member definition, Actively At Work will include regularly scheduled days off, holidays, or vacation days, so long as the person is capable of Active Work on those days.

Member does not include:

1. A commissioned firefighter or police officer (other than a Fire Chief or Police Chief).
 2. A temporary or seasonal employee, a full-time member of the armed forces of any country, a leased employee, or an independent contractor.
-

SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE

Eligibility Waiting Period: If you are a Member on the Group Policy Effective Date, you are eligible on that date.

If you become a Member after the Group Policy Effective Date, you are eligible on the date you become a Member.

Eligibility Waiting Period means the period you must be a Member before you become eligible for insurance.

STD Benefit: \$212

Benefit Waiting Period:

For Disability caused by accidental Injury: None

For Disability caused by Physical Disease, Pregnancy, or Mental Disorder: 7 days

Extended Benefit Waiting Period:

For Disability caused by accidental Injury: None

For Disability caused by Physical Disease, Pregnancy, or Mental Disorder:

60 days. The Extended Benefit Waiting Period applies only for the 12-month period beginning on the most recent date your insurance becomes effective. Thereafter for any period of continuous coverage only the Benefit Waiting Period will apply. See **When Your Insurance Becomes Effective** and **Reinstatement Of Insurance**.

Enrollment Period for Contributory insurance:

The 30-day period beginning on the date you become eligible.

Maximum Benefit Period:

For Members under age 60:

26 weeks for Disability caused by accidental Injury.

13 weeks for Disability caused by Physical Disease, Pregnancy, or Mental Disorder.

For Members age 60 or older:

26 weeks in a calendar year for Disability caused by accidental Injury.

13 weeks in a calendar year for Disability caused by Physical Disease, Pregnancy, or Mental Disorder.

However, STD Benefits will end on the date long term disability benefits become payable to you under a group plan provided by your Employer, even if that occurs before the end of the Maximum Benefit Period.

If you are Disabled for less than one full week, we will pay one-seventh of the STD Benefit for each day of Disability.

One Time Open Enrollment Period: January 11, 2021, through January 29, 2021

The Extended Benefit Waiting Period will not be required for you to become insured for Contributory insurance, if you apply during your Employer's One Time Open Enrollment Period from January 11, 2021, through January 29, 2021.

Insurance applied for during this One Time Open Enrollment Period will be effective February 1, 2021.

PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS

Insurance is:

Contributory

INSURING CLAUSE

If you become Disabled while insured under the Group Policy, we will pay STD Benefits according to the terms of the Group Policy after we receive Proof Of Loss satisfactory to us.

ST.IC.OT.1

BECOMING INSURED

To become insured you must be a Member, complete your Eligibility Waiting Period, and meet the requirements in **Active Work Provisions** and **When Your Insurance Becomes Effective**.

You are a Member if you are:

1. An employee who holds a regular, project, or probationary appointment in the City service, or an employee of the Tacoma Public Library; excluding a commissioned firefighter or police officer (but not a Fire Chief or Police Chief); and
2. Employed and paid for services by the Employer on a full-time basis (regularly scheduled to work at least 20 hours each week);
3. Actively At Work at least 20 hours each week; and
4. A citizen or resident of the United States or Canada.

For purposes of the Member definition, Actively At Work will include regularly scheduled days off, holidays, or vacation days, so long as you are capable of Active Work on those days.

You are not a Member if you are:

1. A commissioned firefighter or police officer (other than a Fire Chief or Police Chief).
2. A temporary or seasonal employee, a full-time member of the armed forces of any country, a leased employee, or an independent contractor.

Eligibility Waiting Period means the period you must be a Member before you become eligible for insurance. Your Eligibility Waiting Period is shown in the **Coverage Features**.

(VAR MBR DEF) ST.BI.OT.1

WHEN YOUR INSURANCE BECOMES EFFECTIVE

A. When Insurance Becomes Effective

Subject to the **Active Work Provisions**, your insurance becomes effective as follows:

The **Coverage Features** states whether insurance is Contributory or Noncontributory.

a. Noncontributory Insurance

Noncontributory insurance becomes effective on the date you become eligible.

b. Contributory Insurance

You must apply in writing for Contributory insurance and agree to pay premiums. Contributory insurance becomes effective on:

- i. The first day of the calendar month following the 30-day initial Enrollment Period, if you apply within 30 days after you become eligible.
- ii. The date your application is received, if you apply after the 30-day initial Enrollment Period.

Note: If you do not apply during the Enrollment Period, then an Extended Benefit Waiting Period will apply. The Enrollment Period and Benefit Waiting Periods are shown in **Coverage Features**.

B. Takeover Provisions

1. If you were insured under the Prior Plan on the day before the effective date of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy, your Eligibility Waiting Period is waived on the effective date of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy.
2. An Extended Benefit Waiting Period will apply if you were eligible for insurance under the Prior Plan for more than 30 days but were not insured. The applicable Benefit Waiting Periods are shown in **Coverage Features**.

(EBWP_WITH 60 DAY PD) ST.EF.OT.3X

ACTIVE WORK PROVISIONS

Active Work Requirement

You must be capable of Active Work on the day before the scheduled effective date of your insurance or your insurance will not become effective as scheduled. If you are incapable of Active Work because of Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder on the day before the scheduled effective date of your insurance, your insurance will not become effective until the day after you complete one full day of Active Work as an eligible Member.

Active Work and Actively At Work mean performing with reasonable continuity the Material Duties of your Own Occupation at your Employer's usual place of business.

ST.AW.OT.1X

WHEN YOUR INSURANCE ENDS

Your insurance ends automatically on the earliest of:

1. The date the last period ends for which a premium contribution was made for your insurance.
2. The date the Group Policy terminates.
3. The last day of the calendar month in which your employment terminates.
4. The last day of the calendar month in which you cease to be a Member. However, your insurance will be continued during the following periods when you are absent from Active Work, unless it ends under any of the above.
 - a. During the first 90 days of a temporary or indefinite administrative or involuntary leave of absence or sick leave. A period when you are absent from Active Work as part of a severance or other employment termination agreement is not a leave of absence.
 - b. During a leave of absence if continuation of your insurance under the Group Policy is required by a state-mandated family or medical leave act or law.
 - c. During any other temporary leave of absence approved by your Employer in advance and in writing and scheduled to last 12 months or less. A period of Disability is not a leave of absence.
 - d. During the Benefit Waiting Period and while STD Benefits are payable.

ST.EN.OT.1X

REINSTATEMENT OF INSURANCE

If your insurance ends, you may become insured again as a new Member. However, the following will apply:

1. If you cease to be a Member because of a Disability that is not covered solely because of the exclusion for work related Disabilities, your insurance will end. However, if you become a Member

again immediately after workers' compensation temporary benefits end, the Eligibility Waiting Period will be waived.

2. If your insurance ends because you cease to be a Member for any reason other than item 1 above, and if you become a Member again within 90 days, the Eligibility Waiting Period will be waived.
3. If your insurance ends because you fail to make a required premium contribution, the Eligibility Waiting Period will be waived and until you have been insured for 12 consecutive months an Extended Benefit Waiting Period will apply. The applicable Benefit Waiting Periods are shown in **Coverage Features**.
4. If your insurance ends because you are on a federal or state-mandated family or medical leave of absence, and you become a Member again immediately following the period allowed, your insurance will be reinstated pursuant to the federal or state-mandated family or medical leave act or law.
5. In no event will insurance be retroactive.

(EBWP_NONOCC) ST.RE.OT.4

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

You are Disabled if you meet the following Own Occupation definition of Disability:

You are required to be Disabled only from your Own Occupation. You are Disabled from your Own Occupation if, as a result of Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder, you are unable to perform with reasonable continuity the Material Duties of your Own Occupation.

Own Occupation means the job you are regularly performing for your Employer when Disability begins.

Material Duties means the usual duties you perform in your regular job with your Employer, that cannot be reasonably modified or omitted. In no event will we consider working more than 8 hours per day or an average of more than 40 hours per week to be a Material Duty.

(OWN_JOB_DEF_WITH_40_NO_PARTL) ST.DD.WA.2

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION EXPENSE BENEFIT

If you return to work in any occupation for any employer, not including self-employment, as a result of a reasonable accommodation made by such employer, we will pay that employer a Reasonable Accommodation Expense Benefit in an amount agreed to by us, but not to exceed the expenses incurred.

The Reasonable Accommodation Expense Benefit is payable only if the reasonable accommodation is approved by us in writing prior to its implementation.

ST.RA.OT.1

TEMPORARY RECOVERY

You may temporarily recover from your Disability during the Maximum Benefit Period, and then become Disabled again from the same cause or causes, without having to serve a new Benefit Waiting Period. Temporary Recovery means you cease to be Disabled for no longer than the applicable allowable period. See **Definition Of Disability**.

A. Allowable Period

The allowable period of recovery during the Maximum Benefit Period is: a total of 90 days of recovery.

B. Effect Of Temporary Recovery

If your Temporary Recovery does not exceed the Allowable Period, the following will apply.

1. The period of Temporary Recovery will not count toward your Maximum Benefit Period.
2. No STD Benefits will be payable for the period of Temporary Recovery.
3. No STD Benefits will be payable after benefits become payable to you under any other disability insurance plan under which you become insured during your period of recovery.
4. Except as stated above, the provisions of the Group Policy will be applied as if there had been no interruption of your Disability.

ST.TR.OT.2X

WHEN STD BENEFITS END

Your STD Benefits end automatically on the earliest of:

1. The date you are no longer Disabled.
2. The date your Maximum Benefit Period ends.
3. The date you die.
4. The date long term disability benefits become payable to you under a group long term disability policy, even if that occurs before the end of the Maximum Benefit Period.
5. The date benefits become payable to you under any other disability insurance plan under which you become insured through employment during a period of Temporary Recovery.
6. The date you fail to provide proof of continued Disability and entitlement to STD Benefits.
7. The date you begin working for any employer.

(NO PARTL_REV LTD LIM) ST.BE.OT.3

BENEFITS AFTER INSURANCE ENDS OR IS CHANGED

During each period of continuous Disability, we will pay STD Benefits according to the terms of the Group Policy in effect on the date you become Disabled. Your right to receive STD Benefits will not be affected by:

1. Any amendment to the Group Policy that is effective after you become Disabled; or
2. Termination of the Group Policy after you become Disabled.

ST.BA.OT.1

EFFECT OF NEW DISABILITY

If a period of Disability is extended by a new cause while STD Benefits are payable, STD Benefits will continue while you remain Disabled. However, 1 and 2 below will apply.

1. STD Benefits will not continue beyond the end of the original Maximum Benefit Period.
2. All provisions of the Group Policy, including the **Disabilities Excluded From Coverage** and **Limitations** sections, will apply to the new cause of Disability.

ST.ND.OT.1

DISABILITIES EXCLUDED FROM COVERAGE

A. War

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by War or any act of War. War means declared or undeclared war, whether civil or international, and any substantial armed conflict between organized forces of a military nature.

B. Intentionally Self-Inflicted Injury

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by an intentionally self-inflicted Injury, while sane or insane.

C. Work Related

You are not covered for a Disability arising out of or in the course of any employment for wage or profit.

D. Violent Or Criminal Conduct

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by your committing or attempting to commit an assault or felony, or actively participating in a violent disorder or riot. Actively participating does not include being at the scene of a violent disorder or riot while performing your official duties.

E. Loss Of License Or Certification

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by the loss of your professional license, occupational license or certification.

(NONOCC) ST.XD.OT.1

LIMITATIONS

A. Care Of A Physician

You must be under the ongoing care of a Physician in the appropriate specialty as determined by us during the Benefit Waiting Period. No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are not under the ongoing care of a Physician in the appropriate specialty as determined by us.

B. Occupational Benefits

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period when you are eligible to receive benefits for your Disability under a workers' compensation law or similar law. If your claim for these benefits is accepted, compromised or settled (whether disputed or undisputed), you must repay us for the full amount of any payments we make to you while your claim for occupational benefits is pending.

C. Working

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period: (a) when you are working for wage or profit for any employer; or (b) when you are self-employed. This limitation applies whether you are working in your Own Occupation or another occupation.

D. Imprisonment

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are confined for any reason in a penal or correctional institution.

E. Return To Work Responsibility

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are able to work in your Own Occupation and able to earn at least 20% of your predisability earnings, but you elect not to work.

(NONOCC_ NO PARTL_RTW_RSP) ST.LM.OT.1X

CLAIMS

A. Filing A Claim

Claims should be filed on our forms. If you do not receive our forms within 15 days after you ask for them, you may submit your claim in a letter to us. The letter should include the date Disability began, and the cause and nature of the Disability.

B. Time Limits On Filing Proof Of Loss

You must give us Proof Of Loss within 90 days after the end of the Benefit Waiting Period. If you cannot do so, you must give it to us as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than one year after that 90-day period. If Proof Of Loss is filed outside these time limits, your claim will be denied. These limits will not apply while you lack legal capacity.

C. Proof Of Loss

Proof Of Loss means written proof that you are Disabled and entitled to STD Benefits. Proof Of Loss must be provided at your expense.

For claims of Disability due to conditions other than Mental Disorders, we may require proof of physical impairment that results from anatomical or physiological abnormalities which are demonstrable by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques.

D. Documentation

Completed claims statements, a signed authorization for us to obtain information, and any other items we may reasonably require in support of a claim must be submitted at your expense. If the required documentation is not provided within 45 days after we mail our request, your claim may be denied.

E. Investigation Of Claim

We may investigate your claim at any time.

At our expense, we may have you examined at reasonable intervals by specialists of our choice. We may deny or suspend STD Benefits if you fail to attend an examination or cooperate with the examiner.

F. Time Of Payment

We will pay STD Benefits within 60 days after you satisfy Proof Of Loss.

STD Benefits will be paid to you at the end of each week you qualify for them. STD Benefits remaining unpaid at your death will be paid to your estate.

G. Notice Of Decision On Claim

We will evaluate your claim promptly after you file it. Within 45 days after we receive your claim we will send you: (a) a written decision on your claim; or (b) a notice that we are extending the period to decide your claim for 30 days. Before the end of this extension period we will send you: (a) a written decision on your claim; or (b) a notice that we are extending the period to decide your claim for an additional 30 days. If an extension is due to your failure to provide information necessary to decide the claim, the extended time period for deciding your claim will not begin until you provide the information or otherwise respond.

If we extend the period to decide your claim, we will notify you of the following: (a) the reasons for the extension; (b) when we expect to decide your claim; (c) an explanation of the standards on which entitlement to benefits is based; (d) the unresolved issues preventing a decision; and (e) any additional information we need to resolve those issues.

If we request additional information, you will have 45 days to provide the information. If you do not provide the requested information within 45 days, we may decide your claim based on the information we have received.

If we deny any part of your claim, you will receive a written notice of denial containing:

- a. The reasons for our decision.
- b. Reference to the parts of the Group Policy on which our decision is based.
- c. A description of any additional information needed to support your claim.
- d. Information concerning your right to a review of our decision.

H. Review Procedure

If all or part of a claim is denied, you may request a review. You must request a review in writing within 180 days after receiving notice of the denial.

You may send us written comments or other items to support your claim. You may review and receive copies of any non-privileged information that is relevant to your request for review. There will be no charge for such copies. You may request the names of medical or vocational experts who provided advice to us about your claim.

The person conducting the review will be someone other than the person who denied the claim and will not be subordinate to that person. The person conducting the review will not give deference to the initial denial decision. If the denial was based on a medical judgment, the person conducting the review will consult with a qualified health care professional. This health care professional will be someone other than the person who made the original medical judgment and will not be subordinate to that person. Our review will include any written comments or other items you submit to support your claim.

We will review your claim promptly after we receive your request. Within 45 days after we receive your request for review we will send you: (a) a written decision on review; or (b) a notice that we are extending the review period for 45 days. If the extension is due to your failure to provide information necessary to decide the claim on review, the extended time period for review of your claim will not begin until you provide the information or otherwise respond.

If we extend the review period, we will notify you of the following: (a) the reasons for the extension; (b) when we expect to decide your claim on review; and (c) any additional information we need to decide your claim.

If we request additional information, you will have 45 days to provide the information. If you do not provide the requested information within 45 days, we may conclude our review of your claim based on the information we have received.

If we deny any part of your claim on review, you will receive a written notice of denial containing:

- a. The reasons for our decision.
- b. Reference to the parts of the Group Policy on which our decision is based.
- c. Information concerning your right to receive, free of charge, copies of non-privileged documents and records relevant to your claim.

I. Assignment

The rights and benefits under the Group Policy are not assignable.

(REV PUB WRDG) ST.CL.OT.2

TIME LIMITS ON LEGAL ACTIONS

No action at law or in equity may be brought until 60 days after you have given us Proof Of Loss. No such action may be brought more than three years after the earlier of:

1. The date we receive Proof Of Loss; and
2. The time within which Proof Of Loss is required to be given.

ST.TL.OT.1

INCONTESTABILITY PROVISIONS

A. Incontestability Of Insurance

Any statement you make to obtain or to increase insurance is a representation and not a warranty.

No misrepresentation will be used to reduce or deny a claim or contest the validity of insurance unless:

1. The insurance would not have been approved if we had known the truth; and
2. We have given you or any person claiming benefits a copy of the signed written instrument which contains your misrepresentation.

After insurance has been in effect for two years, during the lifetime of the insured, we will not use a misrepresentation to reduce or deny the claim, unless it was a fraudulent misrepresentation.

B. Incontestability Of The Group Policy

Any statement made by the Policyholder or Employer to obtain the Group Policy is a representation and not a warranty.

No misrepresentation by the Policyholder or your Employer will be used to deny a claim or to deny the validity of the Group Policy unless:

1. The Group Policy would not have been issued if we had known the truth; and
2. We have given the Policyholder or Employer a copy of a written instrument signed by the Policyholder or Employer which contains the misrepresentation.

The validity of the Group Policy will not be contested after it has been in force for two years, except for nonpayment of premiums or fraudulent misrepresentations.

ST.IN.OT.1

CLERICAL ERROR, AGENCY AND MISSTATEMENT

A. Clerical Error

Clerical error by the Policyholder, your Employer, or their respective employees or representatives will not:

1. Cause a person to become insured.
2. Invalidate insurance under the Group Policy otherwise validly in force.
3. Continue insurance under the Group Policy otherwise validly terminated.

B. Agency

The Policyholder and your Employer act on their own behalf as your agent, and not as our agent. The Policyholder and your Employer have no authority to alter, expand or extend our liability or to waive, modify or compromise any defense or right we may have under the Group Policy.

C. Misstatement Of Age

If a person's age has been misstated, we will make an equitable adjustment of premiums, benefits, or both. The adjustment will be based on:

1. The amount of insurance based on the correct age; and
2. The difference between the amount paid and the amount which would have been paid if the age had been correctly stated.

ST.CE.OT.1

TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT OF THE GROUP POLICY

The Group Policy may be terminated by us or the Policyholder according to its terms. It will terminate automatically for nonpayment of premium. The Policyholder may terminate the Group Policy in whole, and may terminate insurance for any class or group of Members, at any time by giving us written notice.

Benefits under the Group Policy are limited to its terms, including any valid amendment. No change or amendment will be valid unless it is approved in writing by one of our executive officers and given to the Policyholder for attachment to the Group Policy. If the terms of the certificate differ from the Group Policy, the terms stated in the Group Policy will govern. The Policyholder, your Employer, and their respective employees or representatives have no right or authority to change or amend the Group Policy or to waive any of its terms or provisions without our signed written approval.

We may change the Group Policy in whole or in part when any change or clarification in law or governmental regulation affects our obligations under the Group Policy, or with the Policyholder's consent.

Any such change or amendment of the Group Policy may apply to current or future Members or to any separate classes or groups of Members.

ST.TA.OT.1

DEFINITIONS

Benefit Waiting Period includes the Benefit Waiting Period and the Extended Benefit Waiting Period if it applies to you, and means the period you must be continuously Disabled before STD Benefits become payable. No STD Benefits are payable for the Benefit Waiting Period or the Extended Benefit Waiting Period. See **Coverage Features**.

Contributory means insurance is elective and Members pay all or part of the premium for insurance.

Employer means an employer (including approved affiliates and subsidiaries) for which coverage under the Group Policy is approved in writing by us.

Group Policy means the group STD insurance policy issued by us to the Policyholder and identified by the Group Policy Number.

Hospital means a legally operated hospital providing full-time medical care and treatment under the direction of a full-time staff of licensed physicians. Rest homes, nursing homes, convalescent homes, homes for the aged, and facilities primarily affording custodial, educational, or rehabilitative care are not Hospitals.

Injury means an injury to the body.

Maximum Benefit Period means the longest period for which STD Benefits are payable for any one period of continuous Disability, whether from one or more causes. It begins at the end of the Benefit Waiting Period. No STD Benefits are payable after the end of the Maximum Benefit Period, even if you are still Disabled. See **Coverage Features**.

Mental Disorder means any mental, emotional, behavioral, psychological, personality, cognitive, mood or stress-related abnormality, disorder, disturbance, dysfunction or syndrome, regardless of cause (including any biological or biochemical disorder or imbalance of the brain) or the presence of physical symptoms. Mental Disorder includes, but is not limited to, bipolar affective disorder, organic brain syndrome, schizophrenia, psychotic illness, manic depressive illness, depression and depressive disorders, anxiety and anxiety disorders.

Noncontributory means (a) insurance is nonelective and the Policyholder or Employer pay the entire premium for insurance; or (b) the Policyholder or Employer require all eligible Members to have insurance and to pay all or part of the premium for insurance.

Physical Disease means a physical disease entity or process that produces structural or functional changes in your body as diagnosed by a Physician.

Physician means a licensed M.D. or D.O., acting within the scope of the license. Physician does not include you or your spouse, or the brother, sister, parent, or child of either you or your spouse.

Pregnancy means your pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including complications of pregnancy.

Prior Plan means your Employer's group short term disability insurance plan in effect on the day before the effective date of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy and which is replaced by the Group Policy.

STD Benefit means the weekly benefit payable to you under the terms of the Group Policy.

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