

# **YOUR BENEFIT PLAN**

**HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

All Full-time Active Employees

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**Maryland**

**The group insurance policy providing coverage under this certificate was issued in a jurisdiction other than Maryland and may not provide all of the benefits required by Maryland law.**

## State Notices

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN STATES:** There are state-specific requirements that may change the provisions described in the group insurance certificate. If you live in a state that has such requirements, those requirements will apply to your coverage. State-specific requirements that may apply to your coverage are summarized below. In addition, updated state-specific requirements are published on our website. You may access the website at [www.thehartford.com](http://www.thehartford.com). If you are unable to access this website, want to receive a printed copy of these requirements, or have any questions or complaints regarding any of these requirements or any aspect of your coverage, please contact your Employee Benefits Manager; or you may contact us as follows:

**The Hartford**  
**Group Benefits Division, Customer Service**  
**P.O. Box 2999**  
**Hartford, CT 06104-2999**  
**1-800-523-2233**

If you have a complaint and contacts between you, us, your agent, or another representative have failed to produce a satisfactory solution to the problem, some states require we provide you with additional contact information. If your state requires such disclosure, the contact information is listed below with the other state requirements and notices.

We are providing notice that Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company is subject to economic and trade sanctions laws and regulations. These laws and regulations, including the laws and regulations administered and enforced by the United States Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC"), prevent Hartford Life and Accident from providing coverage to, and from paying benefits to, entities and individuals where prohibited by applicable law. In addition, these laws and regulations prohibit certain activities with respect to certain countries.

We have included this information to make you aware of the existence and potential impact of these economic and trade sanctions programs on your benefit program.

The Hartford complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. The Hartford does not exclude or treat people differently for any reason prohibited by law with respect to their race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

If your policy is governed under the laws of Maryland, any of the benefits, provisions or terms that apply to the state you reside in as shown below will apply only to the extent that such state requirements are more beneficial to you.

### **Alaska:**

1. The **Policy Interpretation** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is not applicable.

### **Arizona:**

1. **NOTICE:** The Certificate may not provide all benefits and protections provided by law in Arizona. Please read the Certificate carefully.

### **Arkansas:**

1. **NOTICE:** You have the right to file a complaint with the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID). You may call AID to request a complaint form at (800) 852-5494 or (501) 371-2640 or write the Department at:  
Arkansas Insurance Department  
1 Commerce Way, Suite 102  
Little Rock, AR 72202
2. The **Policy Interpretation** provision, if shown in the General Provisions section of the Certificate, does not apply to you.

### **California:**

1. **NOTICE: READ YOUR CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY**  
You have a 30 day right from Your original Certificate Effective Date to examine Your certificate. If You are not satisfied, You may return it to Us within 30 days of Your original Certificate Effective Date. In that event, We will consider it void from its Effective Date and any premiums paid will be refunded. Any claims paid under The Policy during the initial 30 day period will be deducted from the refund.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT YOU RETAIN ALL RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO YOUR POLICY/CERTIFICATE AGAINST YOUR ORIGINAL INSURER IN THE EVENT THE ASSUMING INSURER IS UNABLE TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS. IN SUCH EVENT YOUR ORIGINAL INSURER REMAINS LIABLE TO YOU NOTWITHSTANDING THE TERMS OF ITS ASSUMPTION AGREEMENT.

2. The **Policy Interpretation** provision, if shown in the General Provisions section of the Certificate, does not apply to you. The following requirement applies to you:

**Eligibility Determination:** *How will We determine Your eligibility for benefits?*

We, and not Your Employer or plan administrator, have the responsibility to fairly, thoroughly, objectively and timely investigate, evaluate and determine Your eligibility or Your beneficiaries for benefits for any claim You or Your beneficiaries make on The Policy. We will:

- 1) obtain with Your cooperation and authorization if required by law, only such information that is necessary to evaluate Your claim and decide whether to accept or deny Your claim for benefits. We may obtain this information from Your Notice of Claim, submitted proofs of loss, statements, or other materials provided by You or others on Your behalf; or, at Our expense We may obtain necessary information, or have You physically examined when and as often as We may reasonably require while the claim is pending. In addition, and at Your option and at Your expense, You may provide Us and We will consider any other information, including but not limited to, reports from a Physician or other expert of Your choice. You should provide Us with all information that You want Us to consider regarding Your claim;
- 2) as a part of Our routine operations, We will apply the terms of The Policy for making decisions, including decisions on eligibility, receipt of benefits and claims, or explaining policies, procedures and processes;
- 3) if We approve Your claim, We will review Our decision to approve Your claim for benefits as often as is reasonably necessary to determine Your continued eligibility for benefits;
- 4) if We deny Your claim, We will explain in writing to You or Your beneficiaries the basis for an adverse determination in accordance with The Policy as described in the provision entitled **Claim Denial**.

In the event We deny Your claim for benefits, in whole or in part, You can appeal the decision to Us. If You choose to appeal Our decision, the process You must follow is set forth in The Policy provision entitled **Claim Appeal**. If You do not appeal the decision to Us, then the decision will be Our final decision.

3. **For Your Questions and Complaints:**

State of California Insurance Department  
Consumer Communications Bureau  
300 South Spring Street, South Tower  
Los Angeles, CA 90013  
**Toll Free:** 1(800) 927-HELP  
**TDD Number:** 1(800) 482-4833  
**Web Address:** [www.insurance.ca.gov](http://www.insurance.ca.gov)

**Colorado:**

1. Entering a civil union, terminating a civil union, the death of a party to a civil union or a party to a civil union losing employment, which results in a loss of group insurance, will all constitute as a **Change in Family Status**.
2. **Complications of Pregnancy**, if shown in the **Definitions** section of the certificate, will always include acute nephritis or nephrosis, cardiac decompensation, missed abortion or any similar medical and surgical conditions of comparable severity regardless of hospital confinement.
3. The **Claim Appeal** provision will always include the following:

In addition, if a claim for benefits is wholly or partially denied and all administrative remedies have been exhausted, You are entitled to pursue such claim anew, from the beginning, in a court with jurisdiction and entitled to a trial by jury.

4. The **Policy Interpretation** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is not applicable.

**Florida:**

1. **NOTICE:** The benefits of the policy providing you coverage may be governed primarily by the laws of a state other than Florida.

**Georgia:**

1. **NOTICE:** The laws of the state of Georgia prohibit insurers from unfairly discriminating against any person based upon his or her status as a victim of family abuse.

**Idaho:**

1. **For Your Questions and Complaints:**

Idaho Department of Insurance  
Consumer Affairs  
700 W State Street, 3rd Floor  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0043  
**Toll Free:** 1-800-721-3272  
**Web Address:** [www.DOI.Idaho.gov](http://www.DOI.Idaho.gov)

2. **Notice to Buyer: This is a disability income protection policy.**
3. The **Benefits Commence** provision, shown in the **Schedule of Insurance** section of the Certificate, cannot exceed:
  - 1) 90 days for plan designs with a **Maximum Duration of Benefits Payable** of 1 year or less;
  - 2) 180 days for plan designs with a **Maximum Duration of Benefits Payable** of more than 1 year but less than 2 years; or
  - 3) 365 days for plan designs with a **Maximum Duration of Benefits Payable** of 2 years or more.
4. The **Maximum Duration of Benefits Payable** provision, shown in the **Schedule of Insurance** section of the Certificate, cannot be less than 6 months. If the plan design includes both short term and long term disability benefits, the combined short term disability and long term disability **Maximum Duration of Benefits** cannot be less than 6 months.

**Illinois:**

1. You may file a consumer complaint online at the Illinois Department of Insurance's website or by mail. The Department maintains a Consumer Division in Chicago at 115 S. LaSalle Street, 13th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603; and in Springfield at 320 West Washington Street, Springfield, Illinois 62767.

This notice is to advise you that should any complaints arise regarding this insurance, you may contact the following:

Illinois Department of Insurance  
320 W. Washington Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62767-0001

Illinois Department of Insurance  
115 S. LaSalle Street  
13th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60603

**Consumer Complaints:** [DOI.Complaints@illinois.gov](mailto:DOI.Complaints@illinois.gov); toll-free: 1(866) 445-5364

**Officer of Consumer Health Insurance:** [DOI.Complaints@illinois.gov](mailto:DOI.Complaints@illinois.gov); toll-free: 1(877) 527-9431

2. The **Policy Interpretation** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is not applicable to you.
3. In accordance with Illinois law, insurers are required to provide the following **NOTICE** to applicants of insurance policies issued in Illinois.

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**  
**The Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act**  
**Effective June 1, 2011**

The Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act ("the Act") creates a legal relationship between two persons of the same or opposite sex who form a civil union. The Act provides that the parties to a civil union are entitled to the same legal obligations, responsibilities, protections and benefits that are afforded or recognized by the laws of Illinois to spouses. The law further provides that a party to a civil union shall be included in any definition or use of the terms "spouse," "family," "immediate family," "dependent," "next of kin," and other terms descriptive of spousal relationships as those terms are used throughout Illinois law. This includes the terms "marriage" or "married," or variations thereon. Insurance policies are required to provide identical benefits and protections to both civil unions and marriages. If policies of insurance provide coverage for children, the children of civil unions must also be provided coverage. The Act also requires recognition of civil unions or same sex civil unions or marriages legally entered into in other jurisdictions.

For more information regarding the Act, refer to 750 ILCS 75/1 *et seq.* Examples of the interaction between the Act and existing law can be found in the Illinois Insurance Facts, Civil Unions and Insurance Benefits document available on the Illinois Department of Insurance's website at <https://doi.illinois.gov>.

**Indiana:**

1. **For Your Questions and Complaints:**

Public Information/Market Conduct  
Indiana Department of Insurance  
311 W. Washington St. Suite 300  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2787  
1(317) 232-2395

**Kansas:**

1. The **Policy Interpretation** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is amended to read as follows:

**Policy Interpretation:** *Who interprets Policy terms and conditions?*

Pursuant to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA), Your Employer has delegated to Us the fiduciary responsibility to determine eligibility for benefits and to construe and interpret all terms and provisions of The Policy. Therefore, We are a fiduciary for The Policy and We have the continuing duty to act prudently and in the interest of You, Your beneficiaries and the other plan participants. If You have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, then You may file suit in state or federal court for a review of Your eligibility or entitlement to benefits under The Policy. This provision only applies where the interpretation of The Policy is governed by ERISA.

**Louisiana:**

1. You are entitled to have your coverage reinstated after release from active military service; subject to the terms of the policy.

**Maine:**

1. **NOTICE:** The benefits under this policy are subject to reduction due to other sources of income.

This means that your benefits will be reduced by the amount of any other benefits for loss of time provided to you or for which you are eligible as a result of the same period of disability for which you claim benefits under this policy.

Other sources of income are plans or arrangements of coverage that provide disability-related benefits such as Worker's Compensation or other similar governmental programs or laws, or disability-related benefits received from your employer or as the result of your employment, membership or association with any group, union, association or other organization. Other sources of income include disability-related benefits under the United States Social Security Act or an alternate governmental plan, the Railroad Retirement Act, and other similar plans or acts. Other sources of income may also include certain disability-related or retirement benefits that you receive because of your retirement unless you were receiving them prior to becoming disabled.

What comprises other sources of income under this policy is determined by the nature of the policyholder. Therefore, we strongly urge you to **Read Your Certificate Carefully**. A full description of the plans and types of plans considered to be other sources of income under this policy will be found in the definition of "Other Income Benefits" located in the Definitions section of your certificate.

2. **NOTICE:** The laws of the State of Maine require notification of the right to designate a third party to receive notice of cancellation, to change such a designation and, to have the Policy reinstated if the insured suffers from cognitive impairment or functional incapacity and the ground for cancellation was the insured's nonpayment of premium or other lapse or default on the part of the insured.

Within 10 days after a request by an insured, a Third Party Notice Request Form shall be mailed or personally delivered to the insured.

3. You are entitled to have your coverage reinstated within 90 days from the date of cancellation; subject to premium payment. We have the right to require a medical demonstration of cognitive and/or functional capacity at your expense.

**Maryland:**

1. **NOTICE:** The group insurance Policy providing coverage under the Certificate may have been issued in a jurisdiction other than Maryland and may not provide all of the benefits required by Maryland law.

**Massachusetts:**

1. You have the right to continue your coverage for up to 31 days should your employment terminate or you cease to be a member of an eligible class; subject to our receipt of the required premium payment.
2. You have the right to continue your coverage for a maximum of 90 days should your employment terminate due to a plant or partial plant closing. Premium payment must be received in order for coverage to continue.

**Michigan:**

1. The **Policy Interpretation** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is not applicable to you.

**Minnesota:**

1. The **Policy Interpretation** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is not applicable to you.

**Montana:**

1. **NOTICE:** Conformity with Montana statutes: The provisions of this certificate conform to the minimum requirements of Montana law and control over any conflicting statutes of any state in which the insured resides on or after the effective date of this certificate.
2. Pregnancy will be covered, the same as any other Sickness, anything in The Policy to the contrary notwithstanding.

**New Hampshire:**

1. If Your claim is denied, You may appeal to Us within 180 days of receipt of the claim denial, subject to the other terms of the **Claim Appeal** provision.
2. The time period stated for legal action to start in the **Legal Actions** provision shown in the **General Provisions** section can not be less than 3 years after the time **Proof of Loss** is required to be given.

**New York:**

1. We will not offset settlements or judgments from any lawsuit that represents or compensates you for a loss of earnings, if shown in the **Other Income Benefits** provision in the **Definitions** section of the certificate.
2. The **Subrogation** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is not applicable to you.
3. The **Reimbursement** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is not applicable to you.
4. If the definition of **Surviving Spouse** within the **Survivor Income Benefit** requires the completion of a domestic partner affidavit, the following requirement applies to you:

The domestic partner affidavit must be notarized and requires that You and Your domestic partner meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) you are both are legally and mentally competent to consent to contract in the state in which you reside;
- 2) you are not related by blood in a manner that would bar marriage under laws of the state in which you reside;
- 3) you have been living together on a continuous basis prior to the date of the application;
- 4) neither of you have been registered as a member of another domestic partnership within the last six months; and
- 5) you provide proof of cohabitation (e.g., a driver's license, tax return or other sufficient proof).

The domestic partner affidavit further requires that You and Your domestic partner provide proof of financial interdependence in the form of at least two of the following:

- 1) a joint bank account;
- 2) a joint credit card or charge card;
- 3) joint obligation on a loan;
- 4) status as an authorized signatory on the partner's bank account, credit card or charge card;
- 5) joint ownership of holdings or investments, residence, real estate other than residence, major items of personal property (e.g., appliances, furniture), or a motor vehicle;
- 6) listing of both partners as tenants on the lease of the shared residence;
- 7) shared rental payments of residence (need not be shared 50/50);

- 8) listing of both partners as tenants on a lease, or shared rental payments, for property other than residence;
- 9) a common household and shared household expenses (e.g., grocery bills, utility bills, telephone bills, etc. and need not be shared 50/50);
- 10) shared household budget for purposes of receiving government benefits;
- 11) status of one as representative payee for the other's government benefits;
- 12) joint responsibility for child care (e.g., school documents, guardianship);
- 13) shared child-care expenses (e.g., babysitting, day care, school bills, etc. and need not be shared 50/50);
- 14) execution of wills naming each other as executor and/or beneficiary;
- 15) designation as beneficiary under the other's life insurance policy;
- 16) designation as beneficiary under the other's retirement benefits account;
- 17) mutual grant of durable power of attorney;
- 18) mutual grant of authority to make health care decisions (e.g., health care power of attorney);
- 19) affidavit by creditor or other individual able to testify to partners' financial interdependence;
- 20) other item(s) of proof sufficient to establish economic interdependency under the circumstances of the particular case.

#### **North Carolina:**

1. The **Subrogation** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is not applicable to you.
2. We will not offset for income received from a mandatory "no-fault" automobile insurance plan; if included in the **Other Income Benefits** provision in the **Definitions** section of the certificate.
3. You are not required to be under the **Regular Care of a Physician** in order to continue to receive benefit payments provided qualified medical professionals have determined that further medical care and treatment would be of no benefit to You.
4. The **Exclusions** provision shall only exclude for Workers' Compensation if the final adjudication of the Worker's Compensation claim determined that benefits are paid, or may be paid, if duly claimed.
5. No statements will be used to reduce or deny a claim if the insured person has been covered under the Policy for at least 2 years. Prior to 2 years, such statement must be in writing and signed by the insured person in order to be used.
6. The **Sending Proof of Loss** provision is amended to state that written **Proof of Loss** must be sent to Us within 180 days following the completion of the **Elimination Period**.
7. The **Claims to be Paid** provision is amended to state that We may pay up to \$3,000 to a person who is Related to You and who, at Our sole discretion, is entitled to it. Any such payment shall fulfill Our responsibility for the amount paid.
8. **Notice of Claim** may also be given to Our representative, if applicable.
9. **NOTICE:** UNDER NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE SECTION 58-50-40, NO PERSON, EMPLOYER, FINANCIAL AGENT, TRUSTEE, OR THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PAYMENT OF GROUP LIFE INSURANCE, GROUP HEALTH OR GROUP HEALTH PLAN PREMIUMS, SHALL:
  1. CAUSE THE CANCELLATION OR NONRENEWAL OF GROUP LIFE INSURANCE, GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE, HOSPITAL, MEDICAL, OR DENTAL SERVICE CORPORATION PLAN, MULTIPLE EMPLOYER WELFARE ARRANGEMENT, OR GROUP HEALTH PLAN COVERAGES AND THE CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OF THE COVERAGES OF THE PERSON INSURED, BY WILLFULLY FAILING TO PAY THOSE PREMIUMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF THE INSURANCE OR PLAN CONTRACT; AND
  2. WILLFULLY FAIL TO DELIVER, AT LEAST 45 DAYS BEFORE THE TERMINATION OF THOSE COVERAGES, TO ALL PERSONS COVERED BY THE GROUP POLICY WRITTEN NOTICE OF THE PERSON'S INTENTION TO STOP PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS. VIOLATION OF THIS LAW IS A FELONY. ANY PERSON VIOLATING THIS LAW IS ALSO SUBJECT TO A COURT ORDER REQUIRING THE PERSON TO COMPENSATE PERSONS INSURED FOR EXPENSES OR LOSSES INCURRED AS A RESULT OF THE TERMINATION OF THE INSURANCE.

#### **IMPORTANT TERMINATION INFORMATION**

**YOUR INSURANCE MAY BE CANCELLED BY THE COMPANY. PLEASE READ THE TERMINATION PROVISION IN THIS CERTIFICATE.**

**THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE PROVIDES COVERAGE UNDER A GROUP MASTER POLICY. THIS CERTIFICATE PROVIDES ALL OF THE BENEFITS MANDATED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA INSURANCE CODE, BUT YOU MAY NOT RECEIVE ALL OF THE PROTECTIONS PROVIDED BY A POLICY ISSUED IN NORTH CAROLINA AND GOVERNED BY ALL OF THE LAWS OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

**PRE-EXISTING LIMITATION**

**READ CAREFULLY**

**NO BENEFITS WILL BE PAYABLE UNDER THIS PLAN FOR PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS WHICH ARE NOT COVERED UNDER THE PRIOR PLAN. PLEASE READ THE LIMITATIONS IN THIS CERTIFICATE.**

**READ YOUR CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY.**

**Oregon:**

1. You are entitled to have your coverage continue while you are scheduled or required to serve as a juror for jury duty.

**Rhode Island:**

1. The **Policy Interpretation** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is not applicable to you.

**South Carolina:**

1. The **Physical Examinations and Autopsy** provision will state that such autopsy must be performed during the period of contestability and must take place in the state of South Carolina.
2. If You become insured under The Policy on the Policy Effective Date and were insured under the Prior Policy within 30 days of being covered under The Policy, the **Pre-existing Condition Limitation** will end on the earliest of:
  - 1) the Policy Effective date, if Your coverage for the Disability was not limited by a pre-existing condition restriction under the Prior Policy; or
  - 2) the date the restriction would have ceased to apply had the Prior Policy remained in force, if Your coverage was limited by a pre-existing condition limitation under the Prior Policy.

This is subject to the other terms and conditions of the **Continuity From a Prior Policy** provision.

**South Dakota:**

1. The definition of **Physician** may include the insured person or a person Related to the insured person by blood or marriage provided that he/she is the only such physician in the area and provided that he/she is acting within the scope of their normal employment.
2. We will not offset against the amount of any benefit for loss of income, provided to Your family, Your Spouse or Your Spouse's family.

**Texas:**

1. The **Policy Interpretation** provision, if shown in the **General Provisions** section of the Certificate, is not applicable to you.
2. **NOTICE:**

**Have a complaint or need help?**

If you have a problem with a claim or your premium, call your insurance company first. If you can't work out the issue, the Texas Department of Insurance may be able to help.

Even if you file a complaint with the Texas Department of Insurance, you should also file a complaint or appeal through your insurance company. If you don't, you may lose your right to appeal.

**Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company**

To get information or file a complaint with your insurance company:

**Call: Customer Service at 860-547-5000**

**Toll-free: 1-800-523-2233**

Online: <https://www.thehartford.com/contact-the-hartford>  
Email: [gbdcustomerservice@thehartford.com](mailto:gbdcustomerservice@thehartford.com)  
Mail: The Hartford, Group Benefits Division, P.O. Box 2999, Hartford, CT 06104-2999

### **The Texas Department of Insurance**

To get help with an insurance question or file a complaint with the state:

**Call with a question: 1-800-252-3439**

File a complaint: [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)  
Email: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov)  
Mail: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091

### **¿Tiene una queja o necesita ayuda?**

Si tiene un problema con una reclamación o con su prima de seguro, llame primero a su compañía de seguros. Si no puede resolver el problema, es posible que el Departamento de Seguros de Texas (Texas Department of Insurance, por su nombre en inglés) pueda ayudar.

Aun si usted presenta una queja ante el Departamento de Seguros de Texas, también debe presentar una queja a través del proceso de quejas o de apelaciones de su compañía de seguros. Si no lo hace, podría perder su derecho para apelar.

### **Hartford Life and Accident Insurance Company**

Para obtener información o para presentar una queja ante su compañía de seguros:

**Llame a: servicio al cliente al 860-547-5000**

**Teléfono gratuito: 1-800-523-2233**

En línea: <https://www.thehartford.com/contact-the-hartford>  
Correo electrónico: [gbdcustomerservice@thehartford.com](mailto:gbdcustomerservice@thehartford.com)  
Dirección postal: The Hartford, Group Benefits Division, P.O. Box 2999, Hartford, CT 06104-2999

### **El Departamento de Seguros de Texas**

Para obtener ayuda con una pregunta relacionada con los seguros o para presentar una queja ante el estado:

**Llame con sus preguntas al: 1-800-252-3439**

Presente una queja en: [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)  
Correo electrónico: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov)  
Dirección postal: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091

### **Utah:**

1. If the **Sending Proof of Loss** provision provides a timeframe in which proof must be submitted before it affects Your claim, this time limitation shall not apply to You.

### **Vermont:**

1. The following requirement applies:

**Purpose:** Vermont law requires that health insurers offer coverage to parties to a civil union that is equivalent to coverage provided to married persons.

**Definitions, Terms, Conditions and Provisions:** The definitions, terms, conditions or any other provisions of the policy, contract, certificate and/or riders and endorsements to which this mandatory endorsement is attached are hereby amended and superseded as follows:

- 1) Terms that mean or refer to a marital relationship, or that may be construed to mean or refer to a marital relationship, such as "marriage", "spouse", "husband", "wife", "dependent", "next of kin", "relative", "beneficiary", "survivor", "immediate family" and any other such terms, include the relationship created by a civil union established according to Vermont law.

- 2) Terms that mean or refer to the inception or dissolution of a marriage, such as "date of marriage", "divorce decree", "termination of marriage" and any other such terms include the inception or dissolution of a civil union established according to Vermont law.
- 3) Terms that mean or refer to family relationships arising from a marriage, such as "family", "immediate family", "dependent", "children", "next of kin", "relative", "beneficiary", "survivor" and any other such terms include family relationships created by a civil union established according to Vermont law.
- 4) "Dependent" means a spouse, a party to a civil union established according to Vermont law, and a child or children (natural, stepchild, legally adopted or a minor or disabled child who is dependent on the insured for support and maintenance) who is born to or brought to a marriage or to a civil union established according to Vermont law.
- 5) "Child or covered child" means a child (natural, step-child, legally adopted or a minor or disabled child who is dependent on the insured for support and maintenance) who is born to or brought to a marriage or to a civil union established according to Vermont law.

**CAUTION: FEDERAL LAW RIGHTS MAY OR MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE**

Vermont law grants parties to a civil union the same benefits, protections and responsibilities that flow from marriage under state law. However, some or all of the benefits, protections and responsibilities related to health insurance that are available to married persons under federal law may not be available to parties to a civil union. For example, federal law, the Employee Income Retirement Security Act of 1974 known as "ERISA", controls the employer/employee relationship with regard to determining eligibility for enrollment in private employer health benefit plans. Because of ERISA, Act 91 does not state requirements pertaining to a private employer's enrollment of a party to a civil union in an ERISA employee welfare benefit plan. However, governmental employers (not federal government) are required to provide health benefits to the dependents of a party to a civil union if the public employer provides health benefits to the dependents of married persons. Federal law also controls group health insurance continuation rights under COBRA for employers with 20 or more employees as well as the Internal Revenue Code treatment of health insurance premiums. As a result, parties to a civil union and their families may or may not have access to certain benefits under this policy, contract, certificate, rider or endorsement that derive from federal law. You are advised to seek expert advice to determine your rights under this contract.

**Virginia:**

1. **For Your Questions and Complaints:**  
**State Corporation Commissions**  
**Life and Health Division**  
**Bureau of Insurance**  
P.O. Box 1157  
Richmond, VA 23218  
1(804) 371-9691 (inside Virginia)  
1(877) 310-6560 (outside Virginia)

**Washington:**

1. You are entitled to continue your insurance for a period of up to six months should your employment terminate as a result of a general work stoppage.

**Wisconsin:**

1. **For Your Questions and Complaints:**  
To request a Complaint Form:  
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance  
Complaints Department  
P.O. Box 7873  
Madison, WI 53707-7873  
1(800) 236-8517 (within Wisconsin)  
1(608) 266-0103 (outside of Wisconsin)



**HARTFORD LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY**

One Hartford Plaza

Hartford, Connecticut 06155

(A stock insurance company)

The Hartford® is The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc. and its subsidiaries.

**CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE**

**Policyholder:** HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Policy Number:** GRH-681878

**Policy Effective Date:** January 1, 2021

**Policy Anniversary Date:** January 1

We have issued The Policy to the Policyholder. Our name, the Policyholder's name and the Policy Number are shown above. The provisions of The Policy, which are important to You, are summarized in this certificate consisting of this form and any additional forms which have been made a part of this certificate. This certificate replaces any other certificate We may have given to You earlier under The Policy. The Policy alone is the only contract under which payment will be made. Any difference between The Policy and this certificate will be settled according to the provisions of The Policy on file with Us at Our home office. The Policy may be inspected at the office of the Policyholder.

Signed for the Company

Kevin Barnett, Secretary

Michael J. Fish, President

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**PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS LIMITATIONS OR EXCLUSIONS**

**Your certificate may limit or exclude benefit payment due to a pre-existing condition. A pre-existing condition is a condition for which You received treatment prior to the effective date of Your insurance coverage or an increase in coverage. Please refer to the Exclusions section of Your certificate for more detailed information.**

*A note on capitalization in this certificate:*

Capitalization of a term, not normally capitalized according to the rules of standard punctuation, indicates a word or phrase that is a defined term in The Policy or refers to a specific provision contained herein.

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## SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE

The Policy of short term Disability insurance provides You with short term income protection if You become Disabled from a covered Injury, Sickness or pregnancy.

**The benefits described herein are those in effect as of April 1, 2026.**

### **Cost of Coverage:**

You must contribute toward the cost of coverage.

### **Disclosure of Fees:**

We may reduce or adjust premiums, rates, fees and/or other expenses for programs under The Policy.

### **Disclosure of Services:**

In addition to the insurance coverage, We may offer noninsurance benefits and services to Active Employees.

### **Disclosure of Payment to the Policyholder:**

We have agreed to make payment to the Policyholder for reimbursement of cost(s) associated with:

- 1) audit;
- 2) marketing communication services; and
- 3) other administrative expenses.

### **Eligible Class(es) For Coverage:**

All Full-time Active Employees who are citizens or legal residents of the United States, its territories and protectorates; excluding temporary, leased or seasonal employees.

Full-time Employment: at least 20 hours weekly

**Annual Enrollment Period:** as determined by Your Employer on a yearly basis.

### **Eligibility Waiting Period for Coverage:**

The first day of the month coinciding with or next following the month in which You started working for the Employer.

The time period(s) referenced above are continuous. The Eligibility Waiting Period for Coverage will be reduced by the period of time You were a Full-time Active Employee with the Employer.

### **Benefits Commence:**

#### Option 1:

- 1) for Disability caused by Injury: on the 8th day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working, after exhaustion of all accumulated salary continuation;
- 2) for Disability caused by Sickness: on the 8th day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working, after exhaustion of all accumulated salary continuation.

#### Option 2:

- 1) for Disability caused by Injury: on the 15th day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working, after exhaustion of all accumulated salary continuation;
- 2) for Disability caused by Sickness: on the 15th day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working, after exhaustion of all accumulated salary continuation.

#### Option 3:

- 1) for Disability caused by Injury: on the 31st day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working, after exhaustion of all accumulated salary continuation;
- 2) for Disability caused by Sickness: on the 31st day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working, after exhaustion of all accumulated salary continuation.

#### Option 4:

- 1) for Disability caused by Injury: on the 46th day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working, after exhaustion of all accumulated salary continuation;

- 2) for Disability caused by Sickness: on the 46th day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working, after exhaustion of all accumulated salary continuation.

Option 5:

- 1) for Disability caused by Injury: on the 61st day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working, after exhaustion of all accumulated salary continuation;
- 2) for Disability caused by Sickness: on the 61st day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working, after exhaustion of all accumulated salary continuation.

**Weekly Benefit:**

The lesser of:

- 1) 66.67% of Your Pre-disability Earnings; or
- 2) The monthly amount You elect in increments of \$100, subject to a maximum of \$7,500.

The monthly amount You elect will be converted to a weekly benefit and paid on a weekly basis.

**Minimum Weekly Benefit: \$25**

Option 1:

**Maximum Duration of Benefits Payable:**

- †
- 1) if Your Disability is the result of a Pre-existing Condition: 4 week(s) if caused by Injury or Sickness; otherwise
  - 2) 51 week(s) if caused by Injury; or
  - 3) 51 week(s) if caused by Sickness.

Option 2:

**Maximum Duration of Benefits Payable:**

- 1) if Your Disability is the result of a Pre-existing Condition: 4 week(s) if caused by Injury or Sickness; otherwise
- 2) 50 week(s) if caused by Injury; or
- 3) 50 week(s) if caused by Sickness.

Option 3:

**Maximum Duration of Benefits Payable:**

- 1) if Your Disability is the result of a Pre-existing Condition: 4 week(s) if caused by Injury or Sickness; otherwise
- 2) 48 week(s) if caused by Injury; or
- 3) 48 week(s) if caused by Sickness.

Option 4:

**Maximum Duration of Benefits Payable:**

- 1) if Your Disability is the result of a Pre-existing Condition: 4 week(s) if caused by Injury or Sickness; otherwise
- 2) 46 week(s) if caused by Injury; or
- 3) 46 week(s) if caused by Sickness.

Option 5:

**Maximum Duration of Benefits Payable:**

- 1) if Your Disability is the result of a Pre-existing Condition: 4 week(s) if caused by Injury or Sickness; otherwise
- 2) 44 week(s) if caused by Injury; or
- 3) 44 week(s) if caused by Sickness.

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**Additional Benefits:**

**Disabled and Working Benefit**

see benefit

**Rehabilitative Employment Benefit**

see benefit

**ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT**

**Eligible Persons:** *Who is eligible for coverage?*

All persons in the class or classes shown in the Schedule of Insurance will be considered Eligible Persons.

**Eligibility for Coverage:** *When will I become eligible?*

You will become eligible for coverage on the later of:

- 1) the Policy Effective Date; or
- 2) the date on which You complete the Eligibility Waiting Period for Coverage shown in the Schedule of Insurance, if applicable.

**Enrollment:** *How do I enroll for coverage?*

To enroll for coverage You must:

- 1) complete and sign a group insurance enrollment form which is satisfactory to Us; and
- 2) deliver it to Your Employer.

You have the option to enroll electronically. Your Employer will provide instructions.

If You do not enroll within 31 days after becoming eligible under The Policy, or if You were eligible to enroll under the Prior Policy and did not do so, and later choose to enroll:

- 1) You may be required to give Us Evidence of Insurability that is complete and does not disqualify You from coverage, depending upon the coverage for which You enroll; and
- 2) You may only enroll:
  - a) during an Annual Enrollment Period designated by the Policyholder; or
  - b) within 31 days of the date You have a Change in Family Status.

The dates of the Annual Enrollment Period are shown in the Schedule of Insurance.

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**Change in Family Status:** *What constitutes a Change in Family Status?*

A Change in Family Status occurs when:

- 1) You get married;
- 2) You and Your spouse divorce;
- 3) Your child is born or You adopt or become the legal guardian of a child;
- 4) Your spouse dies;
- 5) Your child is no longer financially dependent on You or dies;
- 6) Your spouse is no longer employed, which results in a loss of group insurance; or
- 7) You have a change in classification from part-time to full-time or from full-time to part-time.

## PERIOD OF COVERAGE

**Effective Date:** *When does my coverage start?*

Your coverage will start on the earliest of:

- 1) the date You become eligible, if You enroll or have enrolled by then;
- 2) the date on which You enroll, if You do so within 31 days after the date You are eligible;
- 3) Policy Anniversary Date following the Annual Enrollment Period if You enroll during an Annual Enrollment Period.

**Deferred Effective Date:** *When will my effective date for coverage or a change in my coverage be deferred?*

If You are absent from work due to:

- 1) accidental bodily injury;
- 2) Sickness;
- 3) Mental Illness;
- 4) Substance Abuse; or
- 5) pregnancy;

on the date Your insurance, or increase in coverage, would otherwise have become effective, Your insurance, or increase in coverage will not become effective until You are Actively at Work one full day.

**Changes in Coverage:** *Can I change my benefit options?*

You may change Your benefit option only:

- 1) during an Annual Enrollment Period; or
- 2) within 31 days of a Change in Family Status.

At such time You may decrease coverage, or increase coverage to a higher option.

*When will a requested change in benefit option take effect?*

If You enroll for a change in benefit option during an Annual Enrollment Period, the change will take effect on the Policy Anniversary Date following the Annual Enrollment Period.

If You enroll for a change in benefit option within 31 days following a Change in Family Status, the change will take effect on the date You enroll for the change.

Any such increase in coverage is subject to the following provisions:

- 1) Deferred Effective Date; and
- 2) Pre-existing Conditions Limitation.

*Do coverage amounts change if there is a change in my class or my rate of pay?*

Your coverage may increase or decrease on the date there is a change in Your class or Pre-disability Earnings.

However, no increase in coverage will be effective unless on that date You:

- 1) are an Active Employee; and
- 2) are not absent from work due to being Disabled. If You were so absent from work, the effective date of such increase will be deferred until You are Actively at Work for one full day.

No change in Your Pre-disability Earnings will become effective until the date We receive notice of the change.

*What happens if the Employer changes The Policy?*

Any increase or decrease in coverage because of a change in The Policy will become effective on the date of the change, subject to the following provisions:

- 1) the Deferred Effective Date provision; and
- 2) Pre-existing Conditions Limitation.

**Termination:** *When will my coverage end?*

Your coverage will end on the earliest of the following:

- 1) the last day of the month following the month The Policy terminates;
- 2) the last day of the month following the month The Policy no longer insures Your class;
- 3) the last day of the month following the month premium payment is due but not paid;
- 4) the last day of the month following the month for which You make any required premium contribution;
- 5) the last day of the month following the month Your Employer terminates Your employment; or
- 6) the last day of the month following the month You cease to be a Full-time Active Employee in an eligible class for any reason;

unless continued in accordance with any of the Continuation Provisions.

**Continuation Provisions:** *Can my coverage be continued beyond the date it would otherwise terminate?*

Coverage can be continued by Your Employer beyond a date shown in the Termination provision, if Your Employer provides a plan of continuation which applies to all employees the same way. Continued coverage:

- 1) is subject to any reductions in The Policy;
- 2) is subject to payment of premium; and
- 3) terminates if:
  - a) The Policy terminates; or
  - b) coverage for Your class terminates.

In any event, Your benefit level, or the amount of earnings upon which Your benefits may be based, will be that in effect on the day before Your coverage was continued. Coverage may be continued in accordance with the above restrictions and as described below:

Leave of Absence: If You are on a documented leave of absence, other than Family and Medical Leave, or Military Leave of Absence, Your coverage may be continued for 12 months after the leave of absence commenced. If the leave terminates prior to the agreed upon date, this continuation will cease immediately.

Layoff: If You are temporarily laid off by the Employer due to lack of work, Your coverage may be continued until the last day of the month following the month in which the layoff commenced. If the layoff becomes permanent, this continuation will cease immediately.

Military Leave of Absence: If You enter active military service and are granted a military leave of absence in writing, Your coverage may be continued for up to 52 week(s), or longer if required by other applicable law. If the leave ends prior to the agreed upon date, this continuation will cease immediately.

**Family and Medical Leave:** If You are granted a leave of absence, in writing, according to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, or other applicable state or local law, Your coverage may be continued for up to 12 weeks, or 26 weeks if You qualify for Family Military Leave, or longer if required by other applicable law, following the date Your leave commenced. If the leave terminates prior to the agreed upon date, this continuation will cease immediately.

**Coverage while Disabled:** *Does my insurance continue while I am Disabled and no longer an Active Employee?*

If You are Disabled and You cease to be an Active Employee, Your insurance will be continued:

- 1) while You remain Disabled; and
- 2) until the end of the period for which You are entitled to receive short term Disability Benefits;

provided premiums for Your coverage continued to be paid.

After short term Disability Benefit payments have ceased, Your insurance will be reinstated, provided:

- 1) You return to work for one full day as a Full-time Active Employee in an eligible class;
- 2) The Policy remains in force; and
- 3) the premiums for You were paid during Your Disability, and continue to be paid.

**Extension of Benefits for Disability:** *Do benefits continue if The Policy terminates?*

If You are entitled to benefits while Disabled and The Policy terminates, benefits:

- 1) will continue as long as You remain Disabled by the same Disability; but
- 2) will not be provided beyond the date We would have ceased to pay benefits had the insurance remained in force.

Termination of The Policy for any reason will have no effect on Our liability under this provision.

## **BENEFITS**

**Disability Benefit:** *What are my Disability Benefits under The Policy?*

If, while covered under this Benefit, You:

- 1) become Disabled;
- 2) remain Disabled; and
- 3) submit Proof of Loss to Us;

We will pay the Weekly Benefit.

The amount of any Weekly Benefit payable will be reduced by:

- 1) the total amount of all Other Income Benefits, including any amount for which You could collect but did not apply; and
- 2) any income received from the Employer for the period You are Disabled.

**Minimum Weekly Benefit:** *Is there a Minimum Weekly Benefit?*

Your Weekly Benefit will not be less than the Minimum Weekly Benefit shown in the Schedule of Insurance.

**Partial Week Payment:** *How is a benefit calculated for a period of less than a week?*

If a Weekly Benefit is payable for less than a week, We will pay 1/5 of the Weekly Benefit for each day You were Disabled.

**Recurrent Disability:** *What happens to my benefits if I return to work as an Active Employee and then become Disabled again?*

When Your return to work as an Active Employee is followed by a Disability, and such Disability is:

- 1) due to the same cause; or
- 2) due to a related cause; and
- 3) within 15 consecutive calendar days of the return to work;

the Period of Disability prior to Your return to work and the recurrent Disability will be considered one Period of Disability, provided The Policy remains in force.

If You return to work as an Active Employee for 15 consecutive calendar days or more, any recurrence of a Disability will be treated as a new Disability.

**Period of Disability** means a continuous length of time during which You are Disabled under The Policy.

**Multiple Causes:** *How long will benefits be paid if a period of Disability is extended by another cause?*

If a period of Disability is extended by a new cause while Weekly Benefits are payable, Weekly Benefits will continue while You remain Disabled, subject to the following:

- 1) Weekly Benefits will not continue beyond the end of the original Maximum Duration of Benefits; and
- 2) any Exclusions and Pre-existing Conditions Limitations will apply to the new cause of Disability.

**Termination of Payment:** *When will my benefit payments end?*

Benefit payments will stop on the earliest of:

- 1) the date You are no longer Disabled;
- 2) the date You fail to furnish Proof of Loss;
- 3) the date You are no longer under the Regular Care of a Physician;
- 4) the date You refuse Our request that You submit to an examination by a Physician or other qualified medical professional;
- 5) the date of Your death;
- 6) the date You refuse to receive recommended treatment that is generally acknowledged by Physicians to cure, correct or limit the disabling condition;
- 7) the last day benefits are payable according to the Maximum Duration of Benefits;
- 8) the date Your Current Weekly Earnings are equal to or greater than 80% of Your Pre-disability Earnings if You are receiving benefits for being Disabled from Your Occupation; or
- 9) the date no further benefits are payable under any provision in The Policy that limits benefit duration.

**Disabled and Working Benefits:** *How are benefits paid when I am Disabled and Working?*

If, while covered under this benefit, You are Disabled and Working, as defined, We will use the following calculation to determine Your Weekly Benefit:

$$\text{Weekly Benefit} = \frac{(A - B)}{A} \times C$$

Where

**A** = Your Weekly Pre-disability Earnings.

**B** = Your Current Weekly Earnings.

**C** = The Weekly Benefit payable if You were Totally Disabled.

If You are participating in a program of Rehabilitative Employment approved by Us, We will determine Your Weekly Benefit by the Rehabilitative Employment Benefit.

Days which You are Disabled and Working may be used to satisfy the Benefits Commence Period.

**Partial Week Payment:** *How is a benefit calculated for a period of less than a week?*

If a Weekly Benefit is payable for less than a week, We will pay 1/5 of the Weekly Benefit for each day You were Disabled.

**Rehabilitative Employment Benefit:** *What happens to my benefits if I accept Rehabilitative Employment?*

If, while You are Totally Disabled or Disabled and Working, You accept Rehabilitative Employment, We will continue to pay a Weekly Benefit.

The Weekly Benefit We will pay will be equal to Your Total Disability Weekly Benefit, less 50% of any income received from the Rehabilitative Employment.

The sum of the Weekly Benefit and total income received from Rehabilitative Employment may not exceed 100% of Your Pre-disability Earnings. If this sum exceeds the Pre-disability Earnings, the Weekly Benefit paid by Us will be reduced by the excess amount.

We reserve the right to review any Rehabilitative Employment You participate in while benefits are being paid under The Policy.

If You remain Totally Disabled or Disabled and Working after a period of Rehabilitative Employment, You may continue to receive benefits under the Total Disability Benefit or Disabled and Working Benefit, subject to the Maximum Payment Period for such benefit.

## EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

**Exclusions:** *What Disabilities are not covered?*

The Policy does not cover, and We will not pay a benefit for, any Disability:

- 1) unless You are under the Regular Care of a Physician;
- 2) that is caused or contributed to by war or act of war, whether declared or not;
- 3) caused by Your commission of or attempt to commit a felony;
- 4) caused or contributed to by Your being engaged in an illegal occupation;
- 5) caused or contributed to by an intentionally self-inflicted Injury;
- 6) for which Workers' Compensation benefits are paid, or may be paid, if duly claimed; or
- 7) sustained as a result of doing any work for pay or profit for another employer, including self-employment.

**Pre-existing Condition Limitation:** *Are benefits limited for Pre-existing Conditions?*

We will only pay benefits, or an increase in benefits, under The Policy for any Disability that results from, or is caused or contributed to by, a Pre-existing Condition for up to 4 week(s), unless, at the time You become Disabled You have been continuously insured under The Policy for 6 consecutive month(s).

**Pre-existing Condition** means any Injury, Sickness, Mental Illness, pregnancy, or episode of Substance Abuse, or symptoms thereof, for which You received Medical Care during the 3 consecutive month period that ends the day before:

- 1) Your effective date of coverage; or
- 2) the effective date of a Change in Coverage.

**Medical Care** is received when a Physician or other health care provider:

- 1) is consulted or gives medical advice; or
- 2) recommends, prescribes, or provides Treatment.

**Treatment** includes but is not limited to:

- 1) medical examinations, tests, attendance or observation; and
- 2) use of drugs, medicines, medical services, supplies or equipment.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Notice of Claim:** *When should I notify the Company of a claim?*

You must give Us written, electronic or telephonic notice of a claim within 30 days after Disability occurs. Failure to give notice within such time shall not invalidate or reduce any claim if it shall be shown not to have been reasonably possible to give such notice and that notice was given as soon as was reasonably possible. Such notice must include Your name, Your address, and the Policy Number.

**Claim Forms:** *Are special forms required to file a claim?*

We will send forms to You to provide Proof of Loss, within 15 days of receiving a Notice of Claim. If We do not send the forms within 15 days, You may submit any other written, electronic or telephonic proof which fully describes the nature and extent of Your claim.

Proof of Loss is typically provided by telephone; however, if forms are required, they will be sent to You for providing Proof of Loss within 15 days after We receive a notice of claim.

**Proof of Loss:** *What is Proof of Loss?*

Proof of Loss may include but is not limited to the following:

- 1) documentation of:
  - a) the date Your Disability began;
  - b) the cause of Your Disability;
  - c) the prognosis of Your Disability;
  - d) Your Pre-disability Earnings, Current Weekly Earnings or any income, including but not limited to copies of Your filed and signed federal and state tax returns; and
  - e) evidence that You are under the Regular Care of a Physician;
- 2) any and all medical information, including x-ray films and photocopies of medical records, including histories, physical, mental or diagnostic examinations and treatment notes;
- 3) the names and addresses of all:
  - a) Physicians or other qualified medical professionals You have consulted;

- b) hospitals or other medical facilities in which You have been treated; and
- c) pharmacies which have filled Your prescriptions within the past three years;
- 4) Your signed authorization for Us to obtain and release:
  - a) medical, employment and financial information; and
  - b) any other information We may reasonably require;
- 5) disclosure of all information and documentation required by Us relating to Other Income Benefits;
- 6) proof that You and Your dependents have applied for all Other Income Benefits which are available; and
- 7) disclosure of all information and documentation required by Us in order to exercise Our Reimbursement rights.

You will not be required to claim any retirement benefits which You may only get on a reduced basis. All proof submitted must be satisfactory to Us.

**Additional Proof of Loss:** *What Additional Proof of Loss is the Company entitled to?*

To assist Us in determining if You are Disabled, or to determine if You meet any other term or condition of The Policy, We have the right to require You to:

- 1) meet and interview with Our representative; and
- 2) be examined by a Physician, vocational expert, functional expert, or other medical or vocational professional of Our choice.

Any such interview, meeting or examination will be:

- 1) at Our expense; and
- 2) as reasonably required by Us.

Your Additional Proof of Loss must be satisfactory to Us. Unless We determine You have a valid reason for refusal, We may deny, suspend or terminate Your benefits if You refuse to be examined or meet to be interviewed by Our representative.

**Sending Proof of Loss:** *When must Proof of Loss be given?*

Written Proof of Loss must be sent to Us within 90 days following the completion of the Benefits Commence period. If proof is not given by the time it is due, it will not affect the claim if:

- 1) it was not reasonably possible to give proof within the required time; and
- 2) proof is given as soon as reasonably possible; but
- 3) not later than 1 year after it is due, unless You are not legally competent.

We may request Proof of Loss throughout Your Disability, as reasonably required. In such cases, We must receive the proof within 30 days of the request.

**Claim Payment:** *When are benefit payments issued?*

When We determine that You;

- 1) are Disabled; and
- 2) eligible to receive benefits;

We will pay accrued benefits at the end of each week that You are Disabled. We may, at Our option, make an advance benefit payment based on Our estimated duration of Your Disability. If any payment is due after a claim is terminated, it will be paid as soon as Proof of Loss satisfactory to Us is received.

Benefits may be subject to interest payments as required by applicable law.

**Claims to be Paid:** *To whom will benefits for my claim be paid?*

All payments are payable to You. Any payments owed at Your death may be paid to Your estate. If any payment is owed to:

- 1) Your estate;
- 2) a person who is a minor; or
- 3) a person who is not legally competent;

then We may pay up to \$1,000 to a person who is Related to You and who, at Our sole discretion, is entitled to it. Any such payment shall fulfill Our responsibility for the amount paid.

**Claim Denial:** *What notification will I receive if my claim is denied?*

If a claim for benefits is wholly or partly denied, You will be furnished with written notification of the decision. This written notification will:

- 1) give the specific reason(s) for the denial;
- 2) make specific reference to The Policy provisions on which the denial is based;
- 3) provide a description of any additional information necessary to perfect a claim and an explanation of why it is necessary; and
- 4) provide an explanation of the review procedure.

**Claim Appeal:** *What recourse do I have if my claim is denied?*

On any claim, You or Your representative may appeal to Us for a full and fair review. To do so You:

- 1) must request a review upon written application within:
  - a) 180 days of receipt of claim denial if the claim requires Us to make a determination of disability; or
  - b) 60 days of receipt of claim denial if the claim does not require Us to make a determination of disability; and
- 2) may request copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to Your claim; and
- 3) may submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to Your claim.

We will respond to You in writing with Our final decision on the claim.

**Social Security:** *When must I apply for Social Security Benefits?*

You must apply for Social Security disability benefits when the length of Your Disability meets the minimum duration required to apply for such benefits. You must apply within 45 days from the date of Our request. If the Social Security Administration denies Your eligibility for benefits, You will be required:

- 1) to follow the process established by the Social Security Administration to reconsider the denial; and
- 2) if denied again, to request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Hearing and Appeals.

**Plan Offered by a State or Municipal Government:** *When must I apply for benefits under a plan offered by a state or municipal government?*

You must apply for disability benefits under a plan offered by a state or municipal government, such as those offered by a public employee retirement system or state teacher retirement system, when the length of Your Disability meets the minimum duration required to apply for such benefits and You are eligible under the plan. You must apply within 45 days from the date of Our request. If the administrator of that alternative plan denies Your eligibility for benefits, You will be required to follow the process established by the administrator to reconsider the denial.

**Benefit Estimates:** *How does the Company estimate Disability benefits under the United States Social Security Act or an alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government?*

We reserve the right to reduce Your Weekly Benefit by estimating the Social Security disability benefits, or disability benefits under an alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government, that You or Your spouse and children may be eligible to receive.

When We determine that You or Your dependent may be eligible for benefits, We may estimate the amount of these benefits. We may reduce Your Weekly Benefit by the estimated amount.

Your Weekly Benefit will not be reduced by estimated Social Security disability benefits nor disability benefits under an alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government if:

- 1) You apply for Social Security disability benefits, or disability benefits under an alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government if applicable, and pursue all required appeals in accordance with the Social Security and Plan Offered by a State or Municipal Government provisions; and
- 2) You have signed a form authorizing the Social Security Administration, or the administrator of the alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government if applicable, to release information about awards directly to Us; and
- 3) You have signed and returned Our reimbursement agreement, which confirms that You agree to repay all overpayments.

If We have reduced Your Weekly Benefit by an estimated amount and:

- 1) You or Your dependent are later awarded Social Security disability benefits, or disability benefits under an alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government, We will adjust Your Weekly Benefit when We receive proof of the amount awarded, and determine if it was higher or lower than Our estimate; or
- 2) Your application for Social Security disability benefits, or disability benefits under an alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government, has been denied, We will adjust Your Weekly Benefit when You provide Us proof of final denial from which You cannot appeal from an Administrative Law Judge of the Office of Hearing and Appeals, or similar level under an alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government when available.

If Your Social Security benefits or disability benefits under an alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government were lower than We estimated, and We owe You a refund, We will make such refund in a lump sum. If Your Social Security benefits or disability benefits under an alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government were higher than We estimated, and if Your Weekly Benefit has been overpaid, You must make a lump sum refund to Us equal to all overpayments, in accordance with the Overpayment Recovery provision.

**Overpayment:** *When does an overpayment occur?*

An overpayment occurs:

- 1) when We determine that the total amount We have paid in benefits is more than the amount that was due to You under The Policy; or
- 2) when payment is made by Us that should have been made under another group policy.

This includes, but is not limited to, overpayments resulting from:

- 1) retroactive awards received from sources listed in the Other Income Benefits definition;
- 2) failure to report, or late notification to Us of any Other Income Benefit(s) or earned income;
- 3) misstatement;
- 4) fraud; or
- 5) any error We may make.

**Overpayment Recovery:** *How does the Company exercise the right to recover overpayments?*

We have the right to recover from You any amount that We determine to be an overpayment. You have the obligation to refund to Us any such amount. Our rights and Your obligations in this regard may also be set forth in the reimbursement agreement You will be required to sign when You become eligible for benefits under The Policy.

If benefits are overpaid on any claim, You must reimburse Us within 30 days.

If reimbursement is not made in a timely manner, We have the right to:

- 1) recover such overpayments from:
  - a) You;
  - b) any other organization;
  - c) any other insurance company;
  - d) any other person to or for whom payment was made; and
  - e) Your estate;
- 2) reduce or offset against any future benefits payable to You or Your survivors, including the Minimum Weekly Benefit, until full reimbursement is made. Payments may continue when the overpayment has been recovered;
- 3) refer Your unpaid balance to a collection agency; and
- 4) pursue and enforce all legal and equitable rights in court.

**Reimbursement:** *What are Our reimbursement rights?*

We have the right to be reimbursed for any benefit payments made or required to be made under The Policy for a Disability for which You recover any funds from a Third Party.

If You recover any funds from a Third Party as:

- 1) a legal judgment;
- 2) an arbitration award; or
- 3) a settlement or otherwise;

You or Your attorney shall hold in constructive trust the lesser of:

- 1) the entire amount of the benefit payment(s) made or required to be made by Us; or
- 2) the total amount of the recovered funds;

less Our pro rata share of any reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs associated with the recovered funds. We have the right of first reimbursement if the total amount of the recovered funds exceeds the sum of all of Your economic and noneconomic losses incurred, excluding the losses for which we have made or are required to make benefit payments.

We have this right regardless of whether the particular funds recovered are still in Your possession. However, the amount which you must reimburse us is limited to the amount allocated in the settlement documents or judgment to the losses for which we have made or are required to make benefit payments.

By accepting benefit payment(s) under The Policy, You:

- 1) agree to cooperate fully with Our reimbursement rights, including disclosure of all information and documentation required by Us in order to exercise Our reimbursement rights; and
- 2) will not do anything to prejudice Our reimbursement rights.

You or Your attorney's failure to cooperate fully with Our reimbursement rights may result in denial or termination of Your benefits under The Policy.

**Third Party** as used in this provision, means:

- 1) any person or legal entity whose act or omission, in full or in part, causes You to suffer a Disability for which benefits are paid or payable under The Policy; or
- 2) any insurer, including Your own, that provides benefits to You as a result of the act or omission which causes You to suffer a Disability for which benefits are paid or payable under The Policy.

**Legal Actions:** *When can legal action be taken against Us?*

Legal action cannot be taken against Us:

- 1) sooner than 60 days after the date Proof of Loss is given; or
- 2) more than 3 years after the date Proof of Loss is required to be given according to the terms of The Policy.

**Insurance Fraud:** *How does the Company deal with fraud?*

Insurance Fraud occurs when You and/or Your Employer provide Us with false information or file a claim for benefits that contains any false, incomplete or misleading information with the intent to injure, defraud or deceive Us. It is a crime if You and/or Your Employer commit Insurance Fraud. We will use all means available to Us to detect, investigate, deter and prosecute those who commit Insurance Fraud. We will pursue all available legal remedies if You and/or Your Employer perpetrate Insurance Fraud.

**Misstatements:** *What happens if facts are misstated?*

If material facts about You were not stated accurately:

- 1) Your premium may be adjusted; and
- 2) the true facts will be used to determine if, and for what amount, coverage should have been in force.

No statement, except fraudulent misstatements, made by You relating to Your insurability will be used to contest the insurance for which the statement was made after the insurance has been in force for two years during Your lifetime. In order to be used, the statement must be in writing and signed by You.

All statements made by the Policyholder, the Employer or You under The Policy will be deemed representations and not warranties. No statement made to affect this insurance will be used in any contest unless it is in writing and a copy of it is given to the person who made it, or to his or her beneficiary or Your representative.

**Policy Interpretation:** *Who interprets the terms and conditions of The Policy?*

We have full discretion and authority to determine eligibility for benefits and to construe and interpret all terms and provisions of The Policy.

**Physical Examinations and Autopsy:** *Will I be examined during the course of my claim?*

While a claim is pending We have the right at Our expense:

- 1) to have the person who has a loss examined by a Physician when and as often as reasonably necessary; and
- 2) to make an autopsy in case of death where it is not forbidden by law.

## DEFINITIONS

**Actively at Work** means at work with the Employer on a day that is one of the Employer's scheduled workdays. On that day, You must be performing for wage or profit all of the regular duties of Your Occupation:

- 1) in the usual way; and
- 2) for Your usual number of hours.

If school is not in session due to normal vacation or school break(s), Actively at Work shall mean You are able to report for work with the Employer, performing all of the regular duties of Your Occupation in the usual way for Your usual number of hours as if school was in session.

**Active Employee** means an employee who works for the Employer on a regular basis in the usual course of the Employer's business. This must be at least the number of hours shown in the Schedule of Insurance.

**Current Weekly Earnings** means weekly earnings You receive from:

- 1) Your Employer; and
- 2) other employment;

while You are Disabled and eligible for the Disabled and Working Benefit.

However, if the other employment is a job You held in addition to Your job with Your Employer, then during any period that You are entitled to benefits for being Disabled from Your Occupation, only the portion of Your earnings that exceeds Your average earnings from the other employer over the 6 month period just before You became Disabled will count as Current Weekly Earnings.

Current Weekly Earnings also includes the pay You could have received for another job or a modified job if:

- 1) such job was offered to You by Your Employer, or another employer, and You refused the offer; and
- 2) the requirements of the position were consistent with:
  - a) Your education, training and experience; and
  - b) Your capabilities as medically substantiated by Your Physician.

**Disability or Disabled** means Total Disability or Disabled and Working Disability.

**Disabled and Working** means that You are prevented by:

- 1) Injury;
- 2) Sickness;
- 3) Mental Illness;
- 4) Substance Abuse; or
- 5) pregnancy;

from performing some, but not all of the Essential Duties of Your Occupation, are working on a part-time or limited duty basis, and as a result, Your Current Weekly Earnings are more than 20%, but are less than 80% of Your Pre-disability Earnings.

**Employer** means the Policyholder.

**Essential Duty** means a duty that:

- 1) is substantial, not incidental;
- 2) is fundamental or inherent to the occupation; and
- 3) cannot be reasonably omitted or changed.

Your ability to work the number of hours in Your regularly scheduled workweek is an Essential Duty.

**Injury** means bodily injury resulting:

- 1) directly from accident; and
- 2) independently of all other causes;

which occurs while You are covered under The Policy. However, an Injury will be considered a Sickness if Your Disability begins more than 30 days after the date of the accident.

**Mental Illness** means a mental disorder as listed in the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, published by the American Psychiatric Association. A Mental Illness may be caused by biological factors or result in physical symptoms or manifestations.

For the purpose of The Policy, Mental Illness does not include the following mental disorders outlined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders:

- 1) Mental Retardation;
- 2) Pervasive Developmental Disorders;
- 3) Motor Skills Disorder;
- 4) Substance-Related Disorders;
- 5) Delirium, Dementia, and Amnesic and Other Cognitive Disorders; or
- 6) Narcolepsy and Sleep Disorders related to a General Medical Condition.

**Other Income Benefits** means the amount of any benefit for loss of income, provided to You or Your family, as a result of the period of Disability for which You are claiming benefits under The Policy. This includes any such benefits for which You or Your family are eligible or that are paid to You or Your family, or to a third party on Your behalf, pursuant to any:

- 1) temporary, permanent disability, or impairment benefits under a Workers' Compensation Law, the Jones Act, occupational disease law, similar law or substitutes or exchanges for such benefits;
- 2) governmental law or program that provides disability or unemployment benefits as a result of Your job with Your Employer;
- 3) plan or arrangement of coverage, whether insured or not, which is received from Your Employer as a result of employment by or association with Your Employer or which is the result of membership in or association with any group, association, union or other organization;

- 4) mandatory "no fault" automobile insurance plan;
- 5) disability benefits under:
  - a) the United States Social Security Act or alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government;
  - b) the Railroad Retirement Act;
  - c) the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Old Age Security Act, the Quebec Pension Plan or any provincial pension or disability plan; or
  - d) similar plan or act;
 that You, Your spouse and/or children, are eligible to receive because of Your Disability; or
- 6) disability benefit from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other foreign or domestic governmental agency:
  - a) that begins after You become Disabled; or
  - b) that You were receiving before becoming Disabled, but only as to the amount of any increase in the benefit attributed to Your Disability.

Other Income Benefits also means the amount of any payments that are made to You or to Your family, or to a third party on Your behalf, pursuant to any:

- 1) disability benefit under Your Employer's Retirement Plan;
- 2) temporary, permanent disability or impairment benefits under a Workers' Compensation Law, the Jones Act, occupational disease law, similar law or substitutes or exchanges for such benefits;
- 3) portion of a judgment or settlement of a claim or lawsuit that represents or compensates for Your loss of earnings, less Our pro rata share of any associated reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs; or
- 4) retirement benefit from a Retirement Plan that is wholly or partially funded by employer contributions, unless:
  - a) You were receiving it prior to becoming Disabled; or
  - b) You immediately transfer the payment to another plan qualified by the United States Internal Revenue Service for the funding of a future retirement.

(Other Income Benefits will not include the portion, if any, of such retirement benefit that was funded by Your after-tax contributions.)

The amount of any increase in Other Income Benefits will not be included as Other Income Benefits if such increase:

- 1) takes effect after the date benefits become payable under The Policy; and
- 2) is a general increase which applies to all persons who are entitled to such benefits.

**Physician** means a person who is:

- 1) a doctor of medicine, osteopathy, psychology or other legally qualified practitioner of a healing art that We recognize or are required by law to recognize;
- 2) licensed to practice in the jurisdiction where care is being given;
- 3) practicing within the scope of that license; and
- 4) not You or Related to You by blood or marriage.

**Pre-disability Earnings** means, Your contracted annual rate of pay from Your Employer divided by 52.

However, if You are an hourly paid Employee, Pre-Disability Earnings means the product of:

- 1) the average number of hours You worked per week, not including overtime pay, over the most recent 12 month period immediately prior to the last day You were Actively at Work before You became Disabled, multiplied by:
- 2) Your hourly wage in effect on the last day You were Actively at Work before You became Disabled.

If we determine your earnings vary substantially from month to month, we may determine Your rate of pay by averaging Your earnings over the most recent 3 months.

**Regular Care of a Physician** means that You are being treated by a Physician:

- 1) whose medical training and clinical experience are suitable to treat Your disabling condition; and
- 2) whose treatment is:
  - a) consistent with the diagnosis of the disabling condition;
  - b) according to guidelines established by medical, research, and rehabilitative organizations; and
  - c) administered as often as needed;
 to achieve the maximum medical improvement.

**Rehabilitative Employment** means employment or service which:

- 1) prepares a Disabled person to resume gainful work; and
- 2) is approved, in writing, by Us.

**Related** means Your spouse, or other adult living with You, or Your sibling, parent, step-parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, son, daughter, or grandchild.

**Retirement Plan** means a defined benefit or defined contribution plan that provides benefits for Your retirement and which is not funded wholly by Your contributions. It does not include:

- 1) a profit sharing plan;
- 2) thrift, savings or stock ownership plans;
- 3) a non-qualified deferred compensation plan; or
- 4) an individual retirement account (IRA), a tax sheltered annuity (TSA), Keogh Plan, 401(k) plan, 403(b) plan or 457 deferred compensation arrangement.

**Sickness** means a Disability which is:

- 1) caused or contributed to by:
  - a) any condition, illness, disease or disorder of the body;
  - b) any infection, except a pus-forming infection of an accidental cut or wound or bacterial infection resulting from an accidental ingestion of a contaminated substance;
  - c) hernia of any type unless it is the immediate result of an accidental Injury covered by The Policy; or
  - d) pregnancy;
- 2) caused or contributed to by any medical or surgical treatment for a condition shown in item 1) above.

**Substance Abuse** means the pattern of pathological use of alcohol or other psychoactive drugs and substances characterized by:

- 1) impairments in social and/or occupational functioning;
- 2) debilitating physical condition;
- 3) inability to abstain from or reduce consumption of the substance; or
- 4) the need for daily substance use to maintain adequate functioning.

Substance includes alcohol and drugs but excludes tobacco and caffeine.

**The Policy** means the policy which We issued to the Policyholder under the Policy Number shown on the face page.

**Total Disability or Totally Disabled** means that You are prevented by:

- 1) Injury;
- 2) Sickness;
- 3) Mental Illness;
- 4) Substance Abuse; or
- 5) pregnancy;

from performing the Essential Duties of Your Occupation, and as a result, You are earning 20% or less of Your Pre-disability Earnings.

If You are in an occupation that requires You to maintain a license, Your failure to pass a physical examination required to maintain a license to perform the duties of Your Occupation alone, does not mean that You are disabled from Your Occupation.

**We, Our, or Us** means the insurance company named on the face page of The Policy.

**Weekly Benefit** means a weekly sum payable to You while You are Disabled, subject to the terms of The Policy.

**Your Occupation** means Your Occupation as it is recognized in the general workplace. Your Occupation does not mean the specific job You are performing for a specific employer or at a specific location.

**You or Your** means the person to whom this certificate is issued.