

AMENDMENT NO. 1

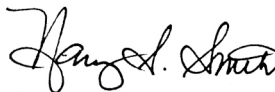
TO BE ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF GROUP POLICY NO.: 000010270935

ISSUED TO: Cherokee County

It is agreed that the above policy be replaced with the attached Policy, which is revised and dated July 1, 2022.

The effective date of this amendment is July 1, 2022; but only with respect to losses incurred on or after that date. Nothing contained in this amendment shall change any of the terms and conditions of this Policy; except as stated above.

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY



Officer of the Company

Accepted by the Group Policyholder this _____ day of _____ 20____

By _____ Title _____



The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
 A Stock Company Home Office Location: Fort Wayne, Indiana
 Group Insurance Service Office: 8801 Indian Hills Drive, Omaha, NE 68114-4066
 (800) 423-2765 Online: www.LincolnFinancial.com

Group Policyholder:

Cherokee County

In Consideration of the Group Policyholder's application for this Policy and payment of all premiums when due, The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company agrees to make the payments provided in this Policy to the persons entitled to them.

The first premium for this Policy is due on its effective date. Subsequent premiums are due on August 1, 2022, and on the same day of each month after that. Policy anniversaries will be each July 1st; unless shown otherwise on the Premium Rate Schedule inside.

The provisions and conditions set forth on the following pages are a part of this Policy, as fully as if recited over the signatures below.

The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company has executed this Policy at its Group Insurance Service Office in Omaha, Nebraska. The issue date of this Policy is July 1, 2022.

PLEASE READ THIS POLICY CAREFULLY.

THIS IS A LEGAL CONTRACT BETWEEN THE POLICYHOLDER AND THE COMPANY. THIS POLICY IS RENEWABLE AT THE COMPANY'S OPTION. IMPORTANT CANCELLATION INFORMATION - PLEASE READ THE PROVISION ENTITLED "POLICY TERMINATION," FOUND ON PAGE "7 04 NC."

ANY PERIOD OF DISABILITY WHICH BEGINS IN THE FIRST 12 MONTHS AFTER THE INSURED PERSON'S EFFECTIVE DATE, WHICH IS CAUSED OR CONTRIBUTED TO BY, OR RESULTS FROM A PRE-EXISTING CONDITION, WILL NOT BE COVERED BY THE POLICY.

THIS POLICY IS NOT A MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT POLICY. If you are eligible for Medicare, review the Guide to Health Insurance for People with Medicare, which is available from the Company, or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or online at www.medicare.gov/Publications.

SECRETARY

PRESIDENT

GROUP INSURANCE POLICY
 No. 000010270935
 PROVIDING
 WEEKLY DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE

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Cherokee County
000010270935
SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE

ELIGIBLE CLASS

Class 1

All Full-Time Employees

There will be an Open Enrollment Period beginning May 1st and ending May 31st for eligible employees to enroll for Weekly Disability Income Insurance. Evidence of insurability will not be required during this enrollment period provided the Insured Person:

- (1) has not been previously declined; and
- (2) elects an amount of insurance not to exceed the Maximum Weekly Benefit.

Coverage elected during this period that is not subject to Evidence of Insurability will become effective:

- (1) July 1st following the enrollment period, if Actively at Work on that day; or
- (2) The day the Insured Person resumes Active Work, if not Actively at Work on the day the elected coverage would otherwise take effect.

This Policy does not replace or provide benefits required by Workers' Compensation laws or any state disability insurance plan laws.

Cherokee County
000010270935
SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE

Cherokee County
000010270935
SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE
For
Class 1 - All Full-Time Employees

MINIMUM HOURS: 30 hours per week

WAITING PERIOD: (For date insurance begins, refer to “Effective Date” section)
One month of continuous Active Work

CONTRIBUTIONS: Insured Employees are required to contribute to the cost of the Weekly Disability Income Insurance.

WEEKLY DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE

BENEFIT PERCENTAGE: 60%

MAXIMUM WEEKLY BENEFIT: \$500

MINIMUM WEEKLY BENEFIT: 10% of the Weekly Total Disability Benefit

DAY BENEFITS BEGIN: 15th consecutive day of Disability due to Accidental Injury; and
15th consecutive day of Disability due to Sickness.

The Day Benefits Begin may be reached by days of Total Disability, Partial Disability, or any combination thereof.

MAXIMUM BENEFIT PERIOD: 24 weeks

The Maximum Weekly Benefit will not exceed the Benefit Percentage times Basic Weekly Earnings.

After the Day Benefits Begin, the Maximum Benefit Period will be reduced by any days for which the Insured Person receives payment under the Employer’s Sick Leave or Salary Continuance Plan for the same Disability.

Weekly Disability Income Insurance will terminate when an Insured Person retires.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES:

Family Income Benefit: 3 times the Insured Person's last Weekly Benefit payable immediately prior to death.

Rehabilitation Assistance Benefit:

- Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit of 5% of Basic Weekly Earnings
- Reasonable Accommodation Benefit
- Vocational Rehabilitation Benefit

DEFINITIONS

As used throughout this Policy, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated below. Other parts of this Policy contain definitions specific to those provisions.

ACTIVE WORK or **ACTIVELY AT WORK** means an Employee's performance of all Main Duties of his or her Own Occupation, for the regularly scheduled number of hours, at:

- (1) the Employer's place of business; or
- (2) any other business location where the Employer requires the Employee to travel.

Unless disabled on the prior workday or on the day of absence, an Employee will be considered Actively at Work on the following days:

- (1) a Saturday, Sunday or holiday that is not a scheduled workday;
- (2) a paid vacation day, or other scheduled or unscheduled non-workday; or
- (3) a non-medical leave of absence of 12 weeks or less, whether taken with the Employer's prior approval or on an emergency basis.

This includes a Military Leave or an approved Family or Medical Leave that is not due to the Employee's own health condition.

BASIC WEEKLY EARNINGS or **PREDISABILITY INCOME** means the Insured Person's average weekly base salary or hourly pay from the Employer before taxes on the Determination Date. The "**Determination Date**" is the last day worked just prior to the date the Disability begins.

It does **not** include commissions, bonuses, overtime pay, or any other extra compensation. It does **not** include income from a source other than the Employer. It will not exceed the amount shown in the Employer's financial records, the amount for which premium has been paid, or the Maximum Covered Weekly Earnings permitted by this Policy; whichever is less. (Maximum Covered Weekly Earnings equals the Maximum Weekly Benefit divided by the Benefit Percentage shown in the Schedule of Insurance.) Exception: For purposes of determining the Partial Disability Weekly Benefit, Basic Weekly Earnings will not exceed the amount shown in the Employer's financial records.

COMPANY means The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, an Indiana corporation. Its Group Insurance Service Office address is 8801 Indian Hills Drive, Omaha, Nebraska 68114-4066.

DAY or **DATE** means the period of time that begins at 12:01 a.m. and ends at 12:00 midnight, standard time, at the Group Policyholder's place of business. When used with regard to effective dates, it means 12:01 a.m. When used with regard to termination dates, it means 12:00 midnight.

DISABILITY or **DISABLED** means Total Disability or Partial Disability.

DISABILITY BENEFIT, when used with the term Retirement Plan, means a benefit that:

- (1) is payable under a Retirement Plan due to disability as defined in that plan; and
- (2) does not reduce the benefits that would have been paid as Retirement Benefits at the normal retirement age under the plan if the disability had not occurred.

If the payment of the benefit does cause such a reduction, the benefit will be deemed a Retirement Benefit as defined in this Policy.

EMPLOYEE or **FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE** means a person:

- (1) whose employment with the Employer is the person's main occupation;
- (2) whose employment is for regular wage or salary, on a full-time basis;
- (3) who is regularly scheduled to work at such occupation at least the Minimum Hours shown in the Schedule of Insurance;
- (4) who is a member of an Eligible Class which is eligible for coverage under this Policy;
- (5) who is not a temporary or seasonal employee; and
- (6) who is a citizen of the United States or legally works in the United States.

DEFINITIONS **(Continued)**

EMPLOYER means the Group Policyholder. It includes any division, subsidiary or affiliated company named in the Application or Participation Agreement.

EVIDENCE OF INSURABILITY means a statement of proof of an Employee's medical history. The Company uses this to determine his or her acceptance for insurance or an increased amount of insurance. Such proof will be provided at the Employee's own expense.

FAMILY OR MEDICAL LEAVE means an approved leave of absence that:

- (1) is subject to the federal FMLA law (the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and any amendments to it) or a similar state law;
- (2) is taken in accord with the Employer's leave policy and the law which applies; and
- (3) does not exceed the period approved by the Employer and required by that law.

Under the federal FMLA law, such leaves are permitted for up to 12 weeks in a 12-month period as defined by the Employer. The 12 weeks:

- (1) may consist of consecutive or intermittent work days; or
- (2) may be granted on a part-time equivalency basis.

If an Employee is entitled to a leave under both the federal FMLA law and a similar state law, he or she may elect the more favorable leave (but not both). If an Employee is on an FMLA leave due to his or her own health condition on the date Policy coverage takes effect, he or she is not considered Actively at Work.

FULL-TIME, as it applies to the Partial Disability Benefit, means the average number of hours the Insured Person was regularly scheduled to work, at his or her Own Occupation, during the week just prior to:

- (1) the date Disability begins; or
- (2) the date an approved leave of absence begins, if Disability begins while the Insured Person is continuing coverage during a leave of absence.

GROUP POLICYHOLDER means the person, company, trust or other organization as shown on the Title Page of this Policy.

INJURY means bodily Injury which results directly from an accident, independently of all other causes. In determining Weekly Benefits, a Disability will be considered caused by a Sickness if:

- (1) the Disability begins more than 60 days after the Injury; or
- (2) the Injury occurred before the Insured Person's Effective Date under this Policy.

The term "Injury" shall not include any:

- (1) condition to which a Sickness, its natural progression or its treatment is a substantial contributing cause (based upon the preponderance of medical evidence);
- (2) condition caused by emotional stress or trauma; infection (except pyogenic bacterial infection of an Injury); or medical or surgical treatment (except when needed solely for an Injury);
- (3) repetitive trauma condition which results from repetitious, physically traumatic activities that occur over time; or
- (4) pregnancy; except for complications that result from an Injury.

INSURANCE MONTH or **POLICY MONTH** means that period of time:

- (1) beginning at 12:01 a.m. Standard Time, at the Group Policyholder's place of business on the first day of any calendar month; and
- (2) ending at 12:00 midnight on the last day of the same calendar month.

INSURED PERSON means a Person for whom Policy coverage is in effect.

MAIN DUTIES or **MATERIAL AND SUBSTANTIAL DUTIES** means those job tasks that:

- (1) are normally required to perform the Insured Person's Own Occupation; and
- (2) could not reasonably be modified or omitted.

DEFINITIONS (Continued)

To determine whether a job task could reasonably be modified or omitted, the Company will apply the Americans with Disabilities Act's standards concerning reasonable accommodation. It will apply the Act's standards, whether or not:

- (1) the Employer is subject to the Act; or
- (2) the Insured Person has requested such a job accommodation.

An Employer's failure to modify or omit other job tasks does **not** render the Insured Person unable to perform the Main Duties of the job.

Main Duties include those job tasks:

- (1) as described in the U.S. Department of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles; and
- (2) as performed in the general labor market and national economy.

Main Duties are **not** limited to those specific job tasks as performed for a certain firm or at a certain work site.

MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE TREATMENT means diagnostic services, consultation, care or services that are consistent with the symptoms or diagnosis causing the Insured Person's Disability. Such treatment must be rendered:

- (1) by a Physician whose license and any specialty are consistent with the disabling condition; and
- (2) according to generally accepted, professionally recognized standards of medical practice.

MILITARY LEAVE means a leave of absence that:

- (1) is subject to the federal USERRA law (the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 and any amendments to it);
- (2) is taken in accord with the Employer's leave policy and the federal USERRA law; and
- (3) does not exceed the period required by that law.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD means a designated timeframe for eligible employees to elect coverage who did not enroll during their initial eligibility period. Evidence of insurability is not required during this period provided certain conditions are met as described in the Schedule of Benefits. Participation in an Open Enrollment Period does not change the Policy provisions related to Waiting Periods or Pre-Existing Condition Limitations. Employees who have been previously declined for coverage may resubmit satisfactory evidence of insurability to apply for initial coverage during this Open Enrollment Period.

OWN OCCUPATION or **REGULAR OCCUPATION** means the occupation, trade or profession:

- (1) in which the Insured Person was employed with the Employer prior to Disability; and
- (2) which was his or her main source of earned income prior to Disability.

It means a collective description of related jobs, as defined by the U.S. Department of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles. It includes any work in the same occupation for pay or profit, regardless of:

- (1) whether such work is with the Employer, with some other firm, or on a self-employed basis; or
- (2) whether a suitable opening is currently available with the Employer or in the local labor market.

PARTIAL DISABILITY or **PARTIALLY DISABLED** means that, due to an Injury or Sickness, the Insured Person:

- (1) is unable to perform one or more of the Main Duties of his or her Own Occupation, or is unable to perform such duties Full-Time; and
- (2) is engaged in Partial Disability Employment.

DEFINITIONS (Continued)

PARTIAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT means the Insured Person is working at his or her Own Occupation or any other occupation; however, because of a Partial Disability:

- (1) the Insured Person's hours or production is reduced;
- (2) one or more Main Duties of the job are reassigned; or
- (3) the Insured Person is working in a lower-paid occupation.

During Partial Disability Employment, his or her current earnings:

- (1) must be at least 20% of Predisability Income; and
- (2) may not exceed the percentage specified in the Partial Disability Benefit section.

PERSON means an Employee of the Employer:

- (1) who is a member of an Employee class which is eligible for coverage under this Policy; and
- (2) who has completed an enrollment form.

PERSONAL INSURANCE means the insurance provided by this Policy on Insured Persons.

PHYSICIAN means:

- (1) a legally qualified medical doctor who is licensed to practice medicine, to prescribe and administer drugs, or to perform surgery; or
- (2) any other duly licensed medical practitioner who is deemed by state law to be the same as a legally qualified medical doctor.

The medical doctor or other medical practitioner must be acting within the scope of his or her license. He or she must be qualified to provide Medically Appropriate Treatment for the Insured Person's disabling condition.

Physician does **not** include the Insured Person or a relative of the Insured Person receiving treatment. Relatives include:

- (1) the Insured Person's spouse, siblings, parents, children and grandparents; and
- (2) his or her spouse's relatives of like degree.

POLICY means this group insurance Policy issued by the Company to the Group Policyholder.

PREDISABILITY INCOME--See Basic Weekly Earnings definition.

REGULAR CARE OF A PHYSICIAN means the Insured Person:

- (1) personally visits a Physician, as often as medically required according to standard medical practice to effectively manage and treat his or her disabling condition; and
- (2) receives Medically Appropriate Treatment, by a Physician whose license and any specialty are consistent with the disabling condition.

Such care will be deemed medically necessary until the attending Physician certifies in writing that the Insured Person has reached his or her maximum point of recovery and that further treatment would be useless.

REGULAR OCCUPATION--See Own Occupation or Regular Occupation definition.

DEFINITIONS (Continued)

RETIREMENT BENEFIT, when used with the term Retirement Plan, means a benefit that:

- (1) is payable under a Retirement Plan either in a lump sum or in the form of periodic payments;
- (2) does not represent contributions made by an Insured Person (Payments representing Employee contributions are deemed to be received over the Insured Person's expected remaining life, regardless of when they are actually received.); and
- (3) is payable upon:
 - (a) early or normal retirement; or
 - (b) disability (if the payment does reduce the benefit which would have been paid at the normal retirement age under the plan, if disability had not occurred).

RETIREMENT PLAN means a defined benefit or defined contribution plan that:

- (1) provides Retirement Benefits to Employees; and
- (2) is not funded wholly by Employee contributions.

The term shall **not** include any 401(k), profit-sharing or thrift plan; informal salary continuance plan; individual retirement account (IRA); tax sheltered annuity (TSA); stock ownership plan; or a non-qualified plan of deferred compensation.

An Employer's Retirement Plan is deemed to include any Retirement Plan:

- (1) which is part of any federal, state, county, municipal or association retirement system; and
- (2) for which the Insured Person is eligible as a result of employment with the Employer.

SICK LEAVE or **SALARY CONTINUANCE PLAN** means a plan that:

- (1) is established and maintained by the Employer for the benefit of Employees; and
- (2) continues payment of all or part of an Insured Person's Predisability Income for a specified period after he or she becomes Disabled.

It does **not** include compensation the Employer pays an Insured Person for work actually performed during a Disability.

SICKNESS means illness, pregnancy or disease.

TOTAL DISABILITY or **TOTALLY DISABLED** means the Insured Person's inability, due to Sickness or Injury, to perform each of the Main Duties of his or her Own Occupation. A Person engaging in any employment for wage or profit is not Totally Disabled. The loss of a professional license, an occupational license or certification, or a driver's license for any reason does **not**, by itself, constitute Total Disability.

WAITING PERIOD means the period of time an Employee must be employed in an eligible class with the Employer, before he or she becomes eligible to enroll for coverage under this Policy. The period of service must be continuous, except as explained in the Eligibility provision captioned Prior Service Credit Towards Waiting Period.

WEEKLY BENEFIT means the amount payable weekly by the Company to the Insured Person who is Totally Disabled or Partially Disabled.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION OR SIMILAR COVERAGE means coverage under a law that compensates for job related Injury or Sickness. It includes (but is not limited to):

- (1) coverage under any Workers' Compensation or occupational disease law;
- (2) coverage under the Jones Act; the Longshoreman's and Harbor Worker's Act; the Maritime Doctrine of Maintenance, Wages or Cure; or
- (3) any plan provided in place of one of those plans.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

ENTIRE CONTRACT. The entire contract between the parties shall consist of:

- (1) this Policy and any amendments to it;
- (2) the Group Policyholder's application (a copy of which is attached);
- (3) any Participating Employers' applications or Participation Agreements; and
- (4) any individual applications of Insured Persons.

In the absence of fraud, all statements made by the Group Policyholder and by Insured Persons are representations and not warranties. No statement made by an Insured Person will be used to contest the coverage provided by this Policy, unless:

- (1) it is contained in a written statement signed by that Insured Person; and
- (2) a copy of the statement has been furnished to that Insured Person.

AUTHORITY TO MAKE OR AMEND CONTRACT. Only a Company Officer located in the Company's Group Insurance Service Office has the authority to:

- (1) determine the insurability of a group or any individual within a group;
- (2) make a contract in the Company's name;
- (3) amend or waive any provision of this Policy; or
- (4) extend the time for payment of any premium.

No change in this Policy will be valid, unless it is made in writing and signed by such a Company Officer.

INCONTESTABILITY. Except for the non-payment of premiums or fraud, the Company may not contest the validity of this Policy after it has been in force for two years from its date of issue; and as to any Insured Person, after his or her coverage has been in force for two years during his or her lifetime. This clause does not preclude, at any time, the assertion of defenses based upon:

- (1) this Policy's eligibility requirements, exclusions and limitations; and
- (2) other Policy provisions unrelated to the validity of coverage.

RESCISSION. The Company has the right to rescind any insurance for which Evidence of Insurability was required, if:

- (1) an Insured Person incurs a claim during the first two years of coverage; and
- (2) the Company discovers that the Insured Person made a Material Misrepresentation on his or her application.

A "**Material Misrepresentation**" is an incomplete or untrue statement that caused the Company to issue coverage that it would have disapproved, had it known the truth. "**To rescind**" means to cancel insurance back to its effective date. In that event, the Company will refund all premium paid for the rescinded insurance, less any benefits paid for Insured Person's claims. The Company reserves the right to recover any claims paid in excess of such premiums.

NONPARTICIPATION. This is a non-participating Policy. It will not share in the divisible surplus of the Company.

INFORMATION TO BE FURNISHED. The Group Policyholder and any Participating Employers may be required to furnish any information needed to administer this Policy, including:

- (1) information about Persons:
 - (a) who become eligible for insurance;
 - (b) whose amounts of coverage change; or
 - (c) whose eligibility or coverage ends;
- (2) occupational information and other facts that may be needed to manage a claim; and
- (3) any other information that the Company may reasonably require.

The Company may inspect the Group Policyholder's or any Participating Employer's records that relate to this Policy, at any reasonable time.

GENERAL PROVISIONS
(Continued)

Clerical error by the Group Policyholder or Participating Employer:

- (1) will not void or terminate insurance that otherwise would be in effect;
- (2) will not result in insurance coverage that otherwise would not be in effect; and
- (3) will not continue insurance that otherwise would be terminated.

Once an error is discovered, a fair adjustment in premium will be made. If a premium adjustment involves the return of unearned premium, the amount of the return will be limited to the 12-month period that precedes the date the Company receives proof such an adjustment should be made.

MISSTATEMENTS OF FACTS. If relevant facts about any Person were misstated:

- (1) a fair adjustment of the premium will be made; and
- (2) the true facts will decide if and in what amount insurance is valid under this Policy.

If an Insured Person's age has been misstated, any benefits shall be in the amount the paid premium would have purchased at the correct age.

ACTS OF THE POLICYHOLDER. In administering this Policy, the Group Policyholder must:

- (1) treat Employees the same in like situations; and
- (2) allow the Company, without inquiry, to rely on its acts.

GROUP POLICYHOLDER'S AGENCY. For all purposes of this Policy, the Group Policyholder acts on its own behalf or as an agent of the Insured Person. Under no circumstances will the Group Policyholder be deemed the agent of the Company.

CERTIFICATES. The Group Policyholder will be furnished with individual Certificates for delivery to each Insured Person. These certificates summarize the benefits provided by this Policy. If there is a conflict between this Policy and the Certificate, this Policy will control.

CONFORMITY WITH STATE STATUTES. If, on its effective date, any provision of this Policy conflicts with any applicable law, the provision will be deemed to conform to the minimum requirements of the law.

CURRENCY. In administering this Policy:

- (1) all Predisability Income will be expressed in U.S. dollars; and
- (2) all premium and benefit amounts must be paid in U.S. dollars.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION OR STATE DISABILITY INSURANCE. This Policy does not replace or provide benefits required by:

- (1) Workers' Compensation laws; or
- (2) any state temporary disability insurance plan laws.

ASSIGNMENT. The rights and benefits under this Policy may not be assigned.

ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATES

ELIGIBLE CLASSES. The classes of Employees eligible for insurance are shown in the Schedule of Insurance. The Company has the right to review and terminate any or all classes eligible under this Policy, if any class ceases to be covered by this Policy.

ELIGIBILITY. A Person becomes eligible for coverage provided by this Policy on the later of:

- (1) this Policy's date of issue; or
- (2) the date the Waiting Period is completed.

Prior Service Credit Towards Waiting Period. The Waiting Period is shown in the Schedule of Insurance. Prior service in an Eligible Class will apply toward the Waiting Period, when:

- (1) a former Employee is rehired within one year after his or her employment ends; or
- (2) an Employee returns from an approved Family or Medical Leave within:
 - (a) the 12-week leave period required by federal law; or
 - (b) any longer period required by a similar state law; or
- (3) an Employee returns from a Military Leave within the period required by federal USERRA law.

EFFECTIVE DATE. A Person's initial amount of Personal Insurance becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. on the latest of:

- (1) the first day of the Insurance Month coinciding with or next following the date the Person becomes eligible for the coverage;
- (2) the date the Person resumes Active Work, if not Actively at Work on the day he or she becomes eligible;
- (3) the date the Person makes written application for coverage and signs:
 - (a) a payroll deduction order, if the Insured Person pays any part of this Policy's premiums; or
 - (b) an order to pay premiums from the Person's Flexible Benefits Plan account, if Employer contributions are made through such an account; or
- (4) the date the Company approves the Person's Evidence of Insurability, if required.

Any increased or additional coverage becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. on the latest of:

- (1) the first day of the Insurance Month coinciding with or next following the date on which the Insured Person becomes eligible for the increase, if Actively at Work on that day;
- (2) the date the Insured Person resumes Active Work, if not Actively at Work on the day the increase would otherwise take effect; or
- (3) the date any required Evidence of Insurability is approved by the Company.

Any decrease will take effect on the day of the change, whether or not the Insured Person is Actively at Work.

Evidence of Insurability. Evidence of Insurability satisfactory to the Company must be submitted (at the Employee's expense) when:

- (1) a Person makes written application for coverage (or an increased amount of coverage) more than 31 days after becoming eligible for the coverage; or
- (2) a Person makes written application for coverage after he or she has requested:
 - (a) to cancel insurance;
 - (b) to stop payroll deductions for the insurance; or
 - (c) to stop premium payments from the Flexible Benefits Plan account.

Effective Date for Change in Eligible Class. An Insured Person may become a member of a different Eligible Class. Coverage under the different Eligible Class will be effective:

- (1) on the first day of the Insurance Month coinciding with or next following the date of the change;
- (2) except as stated in the Effective Date provision for increases or decreases.

ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATES
(Continued)

REINSTATEMENT RIGHTS. If an Insured Person's coverage terminates due to one of the following breaks in service, he or she will be entitled to reinstate the coverage upon resuming Active Work with the Employer within the required timeframe. **"Reinstatement"** or **"to reinstate"** means to re-enroll for this Policy's coverage, without satisfying a new Waiting Period or providing Evidence of Insurability. Reinstatement is available upon:

- (1) return from an approved Family or Medical Leave within:
 - (a) the 12-week period required by federal law; or
 - (b) any longer period required by a similar state law;
- (2) return from a Military Leave within the period required by federal USERRA law;
- (3) return from any other approved leave of absence within six months after the leave begins;
- (4) return within 12 months following a lay off; or
- (5) return within 12 months following termination of employment for any other reason.

To reinstate coverage, the Insured Person must apply for coverage or be re-enrolled within 31 days after resuming Active Work in an Eligible Class. The reinstated amount of insurance may not exceed the amount that terminated. Reinstatement will take effect on the date the Insured Person returns to Active Work.

If the above conditions are met, and this Policy includes a Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion, then:

- (1) the months of leave will count towards any unmet Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion period;
and
- (2) a new Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion will not apply to the reinstated amount of insurance.

A new Pre-Existing Condition Exclusion will apply to any increased amount of insurance.

INDIVIDUAL TERMINATIONS

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE. An Insured Person's coverage will terminate at 12:00 midnight on the earliest of:

- (1) the date this Policy terminates or the Employer's participation terminates (but without prejudice to any claim incurred prior to termination);
- (2) the date the Insured Person's Class is no longer eligible for insurance;
- (3) the date the Insured Person ceases to be a member of an Eligible Class;
- (4) the last day of the Insurance Month in which the Insured Person requests termination;
- (5) the last day of the last Insurance Month for which premium payment is made on the Insured Person's behalf;
- (6) the end of the period for which the last required premium has been paid;
- (7) with respect to any particular insurance benefit, the date the portion of this Policy providing that benefit terminates;
- (8) the date the Insured Person's employment with the Group Policyholder or Participating Employer terminates (unless coverage is continued as provided below); or
- (9) the date the Insured Person enters the armed services of any state or country on active duty, except for duty of 30 days or less for training in the Reserves or National Guard. (If the Insured Person sends proof of military service, the Company will refund any unearned premium).

CONTINUATION RIGHTS. Ceasing Active Work results in termination of the Insured Person's eligibility for coverage, but coverage may be continued as follows.

Disability. If the Insured Person is absent due to Total Disability or engaged in Partial Disability Employment, coverage may be continued:

- (1) until the Day Benefits Begin; and
- (2) during the period for which benefits are payable.

The Company must receive the required premium from the Employer until the first day of the Insurance Month coinciding with or next following the Day Benefits Begin.

Premium payments for Weekly Disability Income Insurance will be waived:

- (1) from the first day of the Insurance Month coinciding with or next following the Day Benefits Begin;
- (2) until the first day of the Insurance Month coinciding with or next following the end of the period for which benefits are payable.

If coverage is to be continued following a period for which premiums were waived, premium payments must be resumed as they become due.

Family or Medical Leave. If an Insured Person goes on an approved Family or Medical Leave and is **not** entitled to the more favorable continuation available during Disability, coverage may be continued until the earliest of:

- (1) the end of the leave period approved by the Employer;
- (2) the end of the leave period required by federal law, or any more favorable period required by a similar state law;
- (3) the date the Insured Person notifies the Employer that he or she will not return; or
- (4) the date the Insured Person begins employment with another employer.

The required premium payments must be received from the Employer, throughout the period of continued coverage.

Military Leave. If an Insured Person goes on a Military Leave, coverage may be continued for the same period allowed for an approved Family or Medical Leave. The required premium payments must be received from the Employer, throughout the period of continued coverage.

**INDIVIDUAL TERMINATIONS
(Continued)**

Lay Off or Other Leave. When an Insured Person ceases work due to a temporary lay off, or due to an approved leave of absence (other than an approved Family or Medical Leave or a Military Leave); coverage may be continued for three Insurance Months after the lay off or leave begins. The required premium payments must be received from the Employer, throughout the period of continued coverage.

Conditions. In administering the above continuations, the Employer must not act so as to discriminate unfairly among Insured Persons in similar situations. Insurance may **not** be continued when an Insured Person ceases Active Work due to a labor dispute, strike, work slowdown or lockout.

INDIVIDUAL TERMINATION DURING DISABILITY. Termination of an Insured Person's coverage during a Disability will have no effect on benefits payable for that period of Disability.

PREMIUMS AND PREMIUM RATES

PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS. No coverage provided by this Policy will be in effect until the first premium for such coverage is paid. For coverage to remain in effect, each subsequent premium must be paid on or before its due date. The Group Policyholder is responsible for paying all premiums as they become due. Premiums are payable on or before their due dates at the Company's Group Insurance Service Office. The premium must be paid in U.S. dollars.

PREMIUM RATE CHANGE. The Company may change any premium rate on any of the following dates:

- (1) the date this Policy's terms are changed;
- (2) the date the Company's liability is changed due to a change in federal, state or local law;
- (3) the date the Company's liability is changed because the Group Policyholder (or any covered division, subsidiary or affiliated company):
 - (a) relocates, dissolves or merges, or is added to or removed from this Policy; or
 - (b) ceases to be covered by the state Worker's compensation program or any other program of like intent; or
 - (c) ceases to provide or reduces Sick Leave or Salary Continuance Plan benefits;
- (4) the date any coverage for one or more classes ceases to be provided under this Policy;
- (5) the date the number of Insured Persons changes by 25% or more from the enrollment on the date this Policy took effect, or the most recent Rate Guarantee Date expired, if later; or
- (6) on any premium due date on or after this Policy's first anniversary, or any later rate guarantee date agreed upon by the Company; provided such rate change is based upon at least 12 months of experience and is not made more often than once every 6 months.

Unless the Company and the Group Policyholder agree otherwise, the Company will give at least 45 days' advance written notice of any increase in premium rates.

PREMIUM AMOUNT. The amount of premium due on each due date will be the sum of the products obtained by multiplying each rate shown in the Premium Rate Schedule by the amount of insurance to which the rate applies.

Premium adjustments will not be pro-rated daily. Instead, premium will be adjusted as follows.

- (1) When an Insured Person's insurance or increase takes effect, premium will be charged from the monthly due date coinciding with or next following that change.
- (2) When all or part of an Insured Person's insurance terminates, the applicable premium will cease on the monthly due date coinciding with or next following that termination.
- (3) When premiums are paid other than monthly, increases or decreases will result in adjustment from the premium due date coinciding with or next following that change.

The above manner of charging premium is for accounting purposes only. It will not extend coverage beyond a date it would have otherwise terminated. Each premium payment will include any adjustments in past premiums, which are needed due to changes that have not yet been taken into account. If a premium adjustment involves a return of unearned premium, the refund will be limited to the prior 12-month period.

PREMIUMS AND PREMIUM RATES
(Continued)

PREMIUM RATE SCHEDULE

Monthly Weekly Disability Income Rate

Insured Employee's Attained Age	Monthly Rate per \$10 of weekly benefit
Less than 25	\$.465
25 - 29	\$.466
30 - 34	\$.466
35 - 39	\$.466
40 - 44	\$.485
45 - 49	\$.499
50 - 54	\$.508
55 - 59	\$.52
60 - 64	\$.564
65 - 69	\$.584
70 and older	\$.706

Rate changes due to an increase in age will become effective on the Policy Anniversary date coinciding with or next following the Insured Person's birthday.

The above rate or rates are guaranteed until July 1, 2024, unless an exception listed in the Premium Rate Change section applies. After that, any premium rate change will be as shown in the renewal letter. The Company will send the Group Policyholder a renewal letter prior to each Policy Anniversary.

GRACE PERIOD

A grace period of 31 days from the due date will be allowed for the payment of each premium after the first. This Policy will remain in effect during the grace period; unless the Group Policyholder gives the Company advance written notice of termination. The Group Policyholder will remain liable for payment of a pro rata premium for the time this Policy remained in force during the grace period.

POLICY TERMINATION

TERMINATION BY THE COMPANY. To terminate this Policy, the Company must give the Group Policyholder at least 45 days' advance written notice of its intent to do so. The Company may terminate this Policy coverage on the due date of any premium; if:

- (1) the total number of Insured Persons is less than ten;
- (2) all of the premium is paid by the Group Policyholder and less than 100% of those eligible for coverage are insured;
- (3) part of the premium is paid by Insured Persons and less than 63% of those eligible for coverage are insured;
- (4) the Group Policyholder, without good cause, fails to:
 - (a) promptly furnish any information the Company reasonably requires; or
 - (b) perform its duties pertaining to this Policy in good faith;
- (5) the Company terminates all other policies where permitted by their terms, which provide life insurance or weekly disability income insurance in the same state in which this Policy was issued; or
- (6) state law otherwise requires this Policy to be terminated.

TERMINATION BY GROUP POLICYHOLDER. The Group Policyholder may terminate this Policy at any time, by giving the Company advance written notice. Coverage will then terminate:

- (1) on the date the Company receives the notice; or
- (2) any later date the Group Policyholder and the Company have agreed upon.

The Group Policyholder remains responsible for the payment of premiums to the date of termination.

AUTOMATIC TERMINATION. If any premium remains unpaid at the end of the Grace Period; then this Policy will automatically terminate, without any action on the Company's part, on the last day of the Grace Period. The Group Policyholder remains responsible for the payment of premiums to the date of termination.

EFFECT ON INCURRED CLAIMS. Termination of this Policy will not affect benefits otherwise payable for a claim incurred while this Policy is in force.

PORTABILITY

ELIGIBILITY. This Policy provides portability for up to 12 months, when an Insured Person's insurance under this Policy terminates because his or her employment with the Employer ends; provided:

- (1) the Insured Person is not disabled, retired or on a leave of absence; and
- (2) the Insured Person was insured under the Employer's short term disability plan for at least 12 months in a row, just prior to the date employment ended. The 12 months may be a combination of coverage under this Policy, and under any prior group short term disability plan this Policy replaces.

Continuation of insurance under the Portability provision will follow any state required continuation or other continuation allowed under the Ceasing Active Work section of this Policy.

Portability is not available to an Insured Person whose insurance terminates because:

- (1) the Insured Person's Employer ceases to be a Participating Employer; or
- (2) this Policy is terminated by the Employer or the Company.

NOTE: THE BENEFITS CONTINUED UNDER THE PORTABILITY PROVISION ARE NOT THE SAME BENEFIT PROVISIONS PROVIDED UNDER THIS POLICY.

APPLICATION. To continue insurance under the Portability provision, written application and the first premium payment must be made within 31 days of the date insurance ends under this Policy.

AMOUNT OF COVERAGE. The amount of continued insurance may not exceed the amount in force when employment ends. Continued insurance may not be increased. A former Employee may decrease the amount of continued insurance:

- (1) at any time during the continuation period;
- (2) by completing a request form supplied by the Company.

The decrease will take effect on the first day of the Insurance Month after the Company receives the request.

PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS. Premiums for continued insurance under the Portability provision shall be derived solely from the Insured Person's contributions. For Portability coverage to become effective and remain in effect, each Insured Person shall make premium payment for his or her continued insurance directly to the Company, on or before each premium due date. The Company will send each Insured Person a billing statement in advance of each premium due date. The Insured Person is responsible for paying all premiums as they become due.

The required premium will equal:

- (1) the rate in effect for the continued coverage provided under the Portability Trust Policy; plus
- (2) a direct billing fee.

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE. Continued insurance will end on the earliest of:

- (1) the date insurance under this Portability provision has been continued for 12 months;
- (2) the date the Portability Trust Policy terminates; but without prejudice to any claim incurred prior to termination;
- (3) the last day of the Insurance Month in which termination of the continued insurance is requested;
- (4) the end of the period for which premium has been paid;
- (5) the date the Insured Person dies or retires;
- (6) the date the Insured Person enters the armed services of any state or country on active duty; except for duty of 30 days or less for training in the Reserves or National Guard. (If the Insured Person sends proof of military service, the Company will refund any unearned premium);
- (7) the date the Insured Person is reinstated for coverage under this Policy; or
- (8) the date the Insured Person is covered under any other group short term disability plan.

**CLAIMS PROCEDURES
FOR WEEKLY DISABILITY INCOME BENEFITS**

NOTICE AND PROOF OF CLAIM -- Notice of Claim. Written notice of a Disability claim must be given:

- (1) within 20 days after the Injury or Sickness causing Disability begins; or
- (2) as soon as reasonably possible after that.*

The notice must be sent to the Company's Group Insurance Service Office. It should include the Insured Person's name and address and the number of this Policy.

Claim Forms. When notice of claim is received, the Company will send claim forms for filing the required proof. If the Company does not send the forms within 15 days, the Insured Person may send the Company written proof of Disability in a letter. It should state the date the Disability began, its cause and degree. The Company will periodically send the Insured Person additional claim forms.

Proof of Claim. The Company must be given written proof of a Disability claim:

- (1) within 90 days after the Day Benefits Begin; or
- (2) as soon as reasonably possible after that.*

Proof of claim must be provided at the Insured Person's own expense. It must show the date the Disability began, its cause and degree. Documentation must include the following:

- (1) completed statements by the Insured Person and the Employer;
- (2) a completed statement by the attending Physician, which must describe any restrictions on the performance of the duties of the Insured Person's Regular Occupation;
- (3) proof of any other income received, and of any other benefits available from other income sources, which may affect Policy benefits;
- (4) a signed authorization for the Company to obtain more information; and
- (5) any other items the Company may reasonably require in support of the claim.

Proof of continued Disability, Regular Care of a Physician, and any Other Income Benefits affecting the claim must be given to the Company. It should be supplied within 45 days after the Company requests it. If it is not, benefits may be suspended. Such proof must be supplied within 180 days after the end of the period for which the Company is liable; or as soon as reasonably possible after that.*

***Exception:** Failure to give notice or furnish proof of claim within the required time period will not invalidate or reduce the claim, if it is shown that it was done:

- (1) as soon as reasonably possible; and
- (2) in no event more than one year after it was required.

These time limits will not apply while the Insured Person lacks legal capacity.

EXAMINATION. The Company may have the Insured Person examined:

- (1) by a Physician, specialist or vocational rehabilitation expert of the Company's choice;
- (2) as often as reasonably required while a claim or appeal is pending.

Any such exam will be at the Company's expense.

The Company may determine that (in its opinion) the Insured Person has:

- (1) failed to cooperate with an examiner;
- (2) failed to take an exam scheduled by the Company; or
- (3) postponed such an exam more than twice.

In that event, benefits may be denied or suspended, until the required exam is completed.

CLAIMS PROCEDURES (Continued)

TIME OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS. Weekly Disability Income Benefits payable under this Policy will be paid immediately after the Company receives complete proof of claim and confirms liability. Such benefits will be paid biweekly, during any period for which the Company is liable. If benefits are due for less than a week, they will be paid on a pro rata basis. The daily rate will equal 1/7 of the Weekly Benefit. Any balance, which remains unpaid at the end of the period of liability, will be paid immediately after the Company receives complete proof of claim and confirms liability.

TO WHOM PAYABLE. All Weekly Disability Income Benefits are payable to the Insured Person, while living. After the Insured Person's death, such benefits will be payable to his or her estate.

NOTICE OF CLAIM DECISION. The Company will send the Insured Person a written notice of its claim decision. If the Company denies any part of the claim, the written notice will explain:

- (1) the reason for the denial, under the terms of this Policy and any internal guidelines;
- (2) how the Insured Person may request a review of the Company's decision; and
- (3) whether more information is needed to support the claim.

This notice will be sent within 15 days after the Company resolves the claim. It will be sent within 45 days after the Company receives the first proof of claim, if reasonably possible.

Delay Notice. The Company may need more than 15 days to process the claim, due to matters beyond its control. If so, an extension will be permitted. In that event, the Company will send the Insured Person a written delay notice:

- (1) by the 15th day after receiving the first proof of claim; and
- (2) every 30 days after that, until the claim is resolved.

The notice will explain:

- (1) what additional information is needed to determine liability; and
- (2) when a decision can be expected.

If the Insured Person does not receive a written decision by the 105th day after the Company receives the first proof of claim, there is a right to an immediate review, as if the claim was denied.

Exception: The Company may need more information from the Insured Person to process a claim. If so, it must be supplied within 45 days after the Company requests it. The resulting delay will not count towards the above time limits for claim processing.

REVIEW PROCEDURE. Within 180 days after receiving a denial notice, the Insured Person may request a claim review by sending the Company:

- (1) a written request; and
- (2) any written comments or other items to support the claim.

He or she may review certain non-privileged information relating to the request for review.

Notice of Decision. The Company will review the claim and send the Insured Person a written notice of its decision. The notice will state the reasons for the Company's decision, under the terms of this Policy and any internal guidelines. If the Company upholds the denial of all or part of the claim, the notice will also describe:

- (1) any further appeal procedures available under this Policy;
- (2) the right to access relevant claim information; and
- (3) the right to request a state insurance department review, or to bring legal action.

This notice will be sent within 45 days after the Company receives the request for review, or within 90 days if a special case requires more time.

CLAIMS PROCEDURES (Continued)

Delay Notice. If the Company needs more than 45 days to process an appeal, in a special case:

- (1) an extension of up to 45 more days will be permitted; and
- (2) the Company will send the Insured Person a written delay notice, by the 30th day after receiving the request for review.

The notice will explain:

- (1) the special circumstances which require the delay;
- (2) whether more information is needed to review the claim; and
- (3) when a decision can be expected.

Exception: The Company may need more information from the Insured Person to process an appeal. If so, it must be supplied within 45 days after the Company requests it. The resulting delay will not count towards the above time limits for appeal processing.

Claims Subject to ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974). Before bringing a civil legal action under the federal labor law known as ERISA, an employee benefit plan participant or beneficiary must exhaust available administrative remedies. Under this Policy, the plan participant or beneficiary must first seek two administrative reviews of the adverse claim decision, in accord with this section. After the required reviews:

- (1) an ERISA plan participant or beneficiary may bring legal action under Section 502(a) of ERISA; and
- (2) the Company will waive any right to assert that he or she failed to exhaust administrative remedies.

RIGHT OF RECOVERY. If benefits have been overpaid on any claim, full reimbursement to the Company is required within 60 days. If reimbursement is not made, the Company has the right to:

- (1) reduce future benefits and suspend payment of the Minimum Weekly Benefit under this Policy, until full reimbursement is made;
- (2) reduce benefits payable to the Insured Person or his or her beneficiary under any group insurance policy issued by the Company, until full reimbursement is made; or
- (3) recover such overpayments from the Insured Person or his or her estate.

Such reimbursement is required whether the overpayment is due to fraud, the Company's error in processing a claim, or any other reason.

LEGAL ACTIONS. No legal action to recover any benefits may be brought until 60 days after the required written proof of claim has been given. No such legal action may be brought more than three years after the date written proof of claim is required.

COMPANY'S DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY. Except for the functions that this Policy clearly reserves to the Group Policyholder or Employer, the Company has the authority to manage this Policy, interpret its provisions, administer claims and resolve questions arising under it. The Company's authority includes (but is not limited to) the right to:

- (1) establish administrative procedures, determine eligibility and resolve claims questions;
- (2) determine what information the Company reasonably requires to make such decisions; and
- (3) resolve all matters when an internal claim review is requested.

Any decision the Company makes in the exercise of its authority shall be conclusive and binding; subject to the Insured Person's rights to request a state insurance department review or to bring legal action.

This provision does not apply to residents of California.

WEEKLY DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE

TOTAL DISABILITY BENEFIT. The Company will pay a Weekly Total Disability Benefit for each week the Total Disability continues, if the Insured Person:

- (1) becomes Totally Disabled while insured for this benefit;
- (2) is under the Regular Care of a Physician; and
- (3) submits proof of continued Total Disability and Physician's care to the Company upon request.

Duration. Benefits start on the Day Benefits Begin, and end on the earliest of:

- (1) the date the Insured Person ceases to be Totally Disabled or dies;
- (2) the date the Maximum Benefit Period ends; or
- (3) the date the Insured Person is able, but chooses not to engage in Partial Disability Employment in his or her Own Occupation.

Proportional benefits will be paid for a partial week of Total Disability.

At the Company's option, benefits may also be denied or suspended on any of the following dates:

- (1) the date the Insured Person (without good cause):
 - (a) fails to take a required medical exam;
 - (b) fails to cooperate with an examiner; or
 - (c) postpones a required exam more than twice; or
- (2) the 45th day after the Company requests additional proof, if not given.

Amount. The amount of the Weekly Total Disability Benefit equals:

- (1) the Insured Person's Basic Weekly Earnings multiplied by the Benefit Percentage; or
- (2) the Maximum Weekly Benefit, if less.

The Day Benefits Begin, Maximum Benefit Period, Benefit Percentage, and Maximum Weekly Benefit are shown in the Schedule of Insurance.

PARTIAL DISABILITY BENEFIT. The Company will pay a Weekly Partial Disability Benefit, if the Insured Person:

- (1) becomes Partially Disabled while insured for this benefit;
- (2) is engaged in Partial Disability Employment;
- (3) is earning at least 20% of Basic Weekly Earnings when Partial Disability Employment begins;
- (4) is under the Regular Care of a Physician; and
- (5) submits proof of continued Partial Disability, Physician's care and reduced earnings to the Company upon request.

The Insured Person is not required to be Totally Disabled prior to receiving Weekly Partial Disability Benefits. The Day Benefits Begin may be reached by days of Total Disability, Partial Disability, or any combination of these. Proportional benefits will be paid for a partial week of Partial Disability.

Duration. Benefits start on the Day Benefits Begin, and will cease on the earliest of:

- (1) the date the Insured Person ceases to be Partially Disabled or dies;
- (2) the date the Maximum Benefit Period ends;
- (3) the date the Insured Person earns more than 99% of Basic Weekly Earnings; or
- (4) the date the Insured Person is able, but chooses not to work Full-Time or part-time in his or her Own Occupation.

At the Company's option, benefits may also be denied or suspended on any of the following dates:

- (1) the date the Insured Person (without good cause):
 - (a) fails to take a required medical exam;
 - (b) fails to cooperate with an examiner; or
 - (c) postpones a required exam more than twice; or
- (2) the 45th day after the Company requests additional proof, if not given.

WEEKLY DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE
(Continued)

Amount. The amount of the Weekly Partial Disability Benefit equals the lesser of A or B below:

- (A) The Insured Person's Basic Weekly Earnings multiplied by the Benefit Percentage (limited to the Maximum Weekly Benefit); or
- (B) The Insured Person's Basic Weekly Earnings minus earnings the Insured Person earned or received from any occupation or form of employment during that period of Disability.

The amount of the Weekly Partial Disability Benefit will not be less than the Minimum Weekly Benefit.

The Day Benefits Begin, Maximum Benefit Period, Benefit Percentage, Maximum Weekly Benefit, and Minimum Weekly Benefit are shown in the Schedule of Insurance.

WEEKLY DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE
(Continued)

RULES CONCERNING EARNINGS AND OTHER BENEFITS. The Insured Person's Earnings during Partial Disability Employment may affect the amount of the Weekly Benefit. Also, the Disability may entitle the Insured Person to other benefits, awards or settlements that affect eligibility for Policy benefits. If so, the following rules will apply.

"Earnings", as used in this provision, means pay the Insured Person earns or receives from any occupation or form of employment, as reported for federal income tax purposes. Earnings include (but are not limited to) a:

- (1) salaried or hourly Employee's gross earnings (shown on Form W-2); including:
 - (a) wages, tips, commissions, bonuses and overtime pay; and
 - (b) any pre-tax contributions to a Section 125 Plan, flexible spending account, or qualified deferred compensation plan;
- (2) proprietor's net profit (figured from Form 1040, Schedule C);
- (3) professional corporation shareholder's net profit (figured from Form 1040, Schedule C);
- (4) partner's net earnings from self-employment (shown on Schedule K-1) and any W-2 earnings; and
- (5) Subchapter S Corporation shareholder's net earnings from trade or business activities (shown on Schedule K-1).

Claiming Other Benefits. The Insured Person must actively pursue a claim for the other benefits. For example, if Workers' Compensation benefits may be payable for the same period of Disability:

- (1) the Insured Person and Employer must cooperate in filing a claim for those benefits; and
- (2) the Company will require proof of the denial or duration of those benefits, to determine its liability under this Policy.

Refunding Overpayments. Upon receiving other benefits for the same period of Disability, the Insured Person must refund any resulting overpayment of Weekly Benefits under this Policy. If he or she does not promptly refund an overpayment to the Company within 60 days, in a lump sum, then:

- (1) the Company will reduce or eliminate future payments; and
- (2) the Minimum Weekly Benefit will not apply, until the amount is repaid.

RECURRENT DISABILITY. **"Recurrent Disability"** means a Disability caused by an Injury or Sickness which is the same as, or related to, the cause of a prior Disability for which Weekly Benefits were payable.

- (1) A Recurrent Disability will be treated as a new period of Disability, if the Insured Person:
 - (a) has returned to his or her Own Occupation; and
 - (b) has worked on a full-time basis, for two consecutive weeks or more.A new Day Benefits Begin and new Maximum Benefit Period will apply.
- (2) A Recurrent Disability will be treated as part of the prior Disability, if the Insured Person:
 - (a) has returned to his or her Own Occupation; and
 - (b) has worked on a full-time basis, for less than two consecutive weeks.The same Day Benefits Begin and same Maximum Benefit Period will apply to the Recurrent Disability as to the prior Disability.

To qualify for a Weekly Benefit for a Recurrent Disability, the Insured Person must earn less than the percentage of Predisability Income specified in the Partial Disability Benefit section. Benefit payments will be subject to all other terms of this Policy that applied to the prior Disability. This Recurrent Disability provision will cease to apply to an Insured Person who becomes eligible for coverage under any other group short-term disability policy.

WEEKLY DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE
(Continued)

EXCLUSIONS. Weekly Benefits will not be payable for any period of Disability:

- (1) which is the result of an intentionally self-inflicted Injury or suicide attempt;
- (2) during which the Insured Person is not under the Regular Care of a Physician;
- (3) which is the result of war (declared or undeclared) or any act of war;
- (4) which is the result of a Sickness or Injury for which the Insured Person receives benefits under Workers' Compensation or similar coverage;
- (5) which arises out of (or in the course of) any employment for wage or profit, when the Disability would be covered by Workers' Compensation or similar coverage if:
 - (a) the Employer had enrolled the Insured Person for such coverage; and
 - (b) the Insured Person and Employer had cooperated in filing a claim under that plan;
- (6) during which the Insured Person is eligible to receive disability benefits under any other compulsory benefit act or law;_ or
- (7) during which the Insured Person receives Disability Benefits or Retirement Benefits under the Employer's Retirement Plan.

PRE-EXISTING CONDITION LIMITATION. This Policy will not cover any period of Disability:

- (1) which is caused or contributed to by, or results from a Pre-Existing Condition; and
- (2) which begins in the first 12 months after the Insured Person's Effective Date.

"Pre-Existing Condition" means a Sickness or Injury for which the Insured Person received Treatment within 6 months prior to his or her Effective Date.

"Treatment" means consultation, care and services by a Physician. It includes diagnostic measures and the prescription, refill and taking of prescribed drugs or medicines.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION BENEFIT

BENEFIT. If an Insured Person is Disabled and is receiving Weekly Benefits under this Policy, he or she may be eligible for a Vocational Rehabilitation Benefit. This benefit consists of services which may include:

- (1) vocational evaluation, counseling, training or job placement;
- (2) job modification or special equipment; and
- (3) other services which the Company deems reasonably necessary to help the Insured Person return to work.

The Company will determine the Insured Person's eligibility and the amount of any benefit payable.

ELIGIBILITY. An Insured Person may be eligible for the Vocational Rehabilitation Benefit if the Company finds that he or she:

- (1) has a Disability that prevents the performance of the Main Duties of his or her Own Occupation;
- (2) has the physical and mental abilities needed to complete a Rehabilitation Program; and
- (3) is reasonably expected to return to work after completing the Rehabilitation Program; in view of his or her degree of motivation and the labor force demand for workers in the proposed occupation.

The Company must also find that the cost of the proposed services is less than its expected claim liability.

AMOUNT. The amount of any Vocational Rehabilitation Benefit will not exceed the Company's expected claims liability. This benefit will not be payable for services covered under the Insured Person's health care plan or any other vocational rehabilitation program. Payment may be made to the provider of the services, at the Company's option.

CONDITIONS. The Company, the Insured Person, or his or her Physician may first propose vocational rehabilitation. When a Rehabilitation Program is approved by the Company, this Policy's definition of "Disability" will be waived during the rehabilitation period; however, it will be reapplied after the Rehabilitation Program ends. The Company will determine the amount and duration of any Weekly Disability benefits payable after the Rehabilitation Program ends.

LIMITATION. This Policy will not cover any period of Disability for an Insured Person who has received a Vocational Rehabilitation Benefit and has failed to complete the Rehabilitation Program, without Good Cause.

DEFINITIONS.

"Good Cause," as used in this provision, means the Insured Person's:

- (1) documented physical or mental impairments, which render the Insured Person unable to take part in or complete a Rehabilitation Program;
- (2) involvement in a medical program, which prevents or interferes with the Insured Person's taking part in or completing a Rehabilitation Program; or
- (3) participating in good faith in some other vocational rehabilitation program, which:
 - (a) conflicts with taking part in or completing a Rehabilitation Program developed by the Company; and
 - (b) is reasonably expected to return the Insured Person to work.

"Rehabilitation Program" means a written vocational rehabilitation program:

- (1) which the Company develops with input from:
 - (a) the Insured Person;
 - (b) the Insured Person's Physician; and
 - (c) any current or prospective employer, when appropriate; and
- (2) which describes the Program's goals; each party's responsibilities; and the times, dates and costs of the rehabilitation services.

OTHER PROVISIONS. Unless stated otherwise, this benefit is subject to all the Definitions, Exclusions, Claims Procedures, and other provisions of this Policy.

REHABILITATION INCENTIVE BENEFIT

BENEFIT. The Company will pay a Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit to an Insured Person who is Totally or Partially Disabled and who actively participates in a Rehabilitation Program approved by the Company.

AMOUNT. The amount of the Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit is shown in the Schedule of Insurance.

The Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit is paid in addition to any other Policy benefits, and is not subject to Policy provisions that would otherwise reduce the benefit amount, such as the Other Income Benefits provision.

DURATION. The Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit starts on the latest of:

- (1) the date the Insured Person begins to participate in an approved Rehabilitation Program; or
- (2) the date the Company approves the Insured Person's Rehabilitation Program.

The Rehabilitation Incentive Benefit will cease on the earliest of:

- (1) the date the Weekly Total or Partial Disability Benefits would otherwise cease under this Policy; or
- (2) the date the Insured Person ceases participation in an approved Rehabilitation Program.

DEFINITION.

"Rehabilitation Program" means a written vocational rehabilitation program:

- (1) which the Company develops with input from:
 - (a) the Insured Person;
 - (b) the Insured Person's Physician; and
 - (c) any current or prospective employer, when appropriate; and
- (2) which describes the Program's goals; each party's responsibilities; and the times, dates and costs of the rehabilitation services.

PROOF. Written proof of active participation in a Rehabilitation Program must be given:

- (1) within 180 days after the Day Benefits Begin; or
- (2) as soon as reasonably possible after that.

Proof of active participation must be provided at the Insured Person's own expense. The proof must be sent to the Company's Group Insurance Service Office. It should include the Insured Person's name and address and the number of this Policy.

Exception: Failure to furnish proof of active participation in a Rehabilitation Program within the required time period will not invalidate the benefit, if it is shown that it was done:

- (1) as soon as reasonably possible; and
- (2) in no event more than one year after it was required.

These time limits will not apply while the Insured Person lacks legal capacity.

OTHER PROVISIONS. Unless stated otherwise, this benefit is subject to all the Definitions, Exclusions, Claims Procedures, and other provisions of this Policy.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION BENEFIT

BENEFIT. If an Insured Person is Disabled and is receiving Weekly Benefits under this Policy, then the Group Policyholder may be eligible for a Reasonable Accommodation benefit. This benefit reimburses the Group Policyholder for 50% of the expense incurred for reasonable accommodation services for the Insured Person, but will not exceed the lesser of:

- (1) a maximum benefit of \$2500 for any one Insured Person; or
- (2) the Company's expected liability for the Insured Person's Weekly Disability Income claim.

Such services may include:

- (1) providing the Insured Person a more accessible parking space or entrance;
- (2) removing barriers or hazards to the Insured Person from the worksite;
- (3) special seating, furniture or equipment for the Insured Person's work station;
- (4) providing special training materials or translation services during the Insured Person's training; and
- (5) other services the Company deems reasonably necessary to help the Insured Person return to work with the Group Policyholder.

ELIGIBILITY. The Company will determine the Group Policyholder's eligibility to receive the Reasonable Accommodation benefit. To qualify for the Reasonable Accommodation benefit, the Group Policyholder must have an Insured Person:

- (1) whose Disability prevents the performance of his or her Own Occupation at the Group Policyholder's worksite;
- (2) who has the physical and mental abilities needed to perform his or her Own Occupation or another occupation at the Group Policyholder's worksite, but only with the help of the proposed accommodation; and
- (3) who is reasonably expected to return to work with the help of the proposed accommodation.

The Company must also find that the requested Reasonable Accommodation benefit is less than the expected liability for the Insured Person's Weekly Disability Income claim.

WRITTEN PROPOSAL. The reasonable accommodation services must be provided in accord with a written proposal, which is developed with input from:

- (1) the Group Policyholder;
- (2) the Insured Person; and
- (3) the Insured Person's Physician, when appropriate.

The proposal must state:

- (1) the purpose of the proposed accommodation; and
- (2) the times, dates, and costs of the services.

CONDITIONS. The Company, the Group Policyholder, the Insured Person, or the Insured Person's Physician may first propose an accommodation.

The proposal must be approved by the Company in writing.

The Company will reimburse the Group Policyholder upon receipt of proof that the Group Policyholder:

- (1) has provided the services for the Insured Person; and
- (2) has paid the provider for the services.

OTHER PROVISIONS. Unless stated otherwise, the Reasonable Accommodation benefit is subject to all the Definitions, Exclusions, Claims Procedures and other provisions of this Policy.

FAMILY INCOME BENEFIT

BENEFIT. The Company will pay a benefit to the Eligible Survivor(s) when satisfactory written proof is received that an Insured Person died:

- (1) after Disability had continued for at least 14 consecutive days; and
- (2) while receiving a Weekly Benefit.

If payment becomes due to the Insured Person's children; then payment will be made to:

- (1) the surviving children, in equal shares; or
- (2) a person named by the Company to receive payments on the children's behalf.

This payment will be valid and effective against all claims by others representing, or claiming to represent, the Insured Person's children.

If there are no Eligible Survivors, payment will be made to the Insured Person's estate.

AMOUNT. The Family Income Benefit is shown in the Schedule of Insurance. Reductions for Other Income Benefits will not apply.

If any state disability plan compulsory death benefits become payable upon the Insured Person's death, then any Family Income Benefit amount payable will be reduced by such compulsory death benefits.

DEFINITION.

"Eligible Survivor(s)" means the Insured Person's:

- (1) surviving spouse; or, if none,
- (2) surviving children who are under age 25 on the Insured Person's date of death.

OTHER PROVISIONS. Unless stated otherwise, this benefit is subject to all the Definitions, Exclusions, Claims Procedures, and other provisions of this Policy.

**NOTICE CONCERNING COVERAGE
LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS UNDER THE NORTH CAROLINA
LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION ACT**

Residents of this state who purchase life insurance, annuities or health insurance should know that the insurance companies and Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) licensed in this state to write these types of insurance are members of the North Carolina Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association. The purpose of this association is to assure that policyholders will be protected, within limits, in the unlikely event that a member insurer or HMO becomes financially unable to meet its obligations. If this should happen, the guaranty association will assess its other member insurance companies for the money to pay the claims of insured persons who live in this state and, in some cases, to keep coverage in force. The valuable extra protection provided by these insurers through the guaranty association is not unlimited, however. And, as noted *in the box* below, this protection is not a substitute for consumers' care in selecting companies that are well-managed and financially stable.

The North Carolina Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association may not provide coverage for this policy. If coverage is provided, it may be subject to substantial limitations or exclusions, and require continued residency in North Carolina. You should not rely on coverage by the North Carolina Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association in selecting an insurance company or in selecting an insurance policy.

Coverage is NOT provided for your policy or any portion of it that is not guaranteed by the insurer or for which you have assumed the risk, such as a variable contract sold by prospectus.

Insurance companies or their agents are required by law to give or send you this notice. However, insurance companies and their agents are prohibited by law from using the existence of the guaranty association to induce you to purchase any kind of insurance policy.

The North Carolina Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association
Post Office Box #10218
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605-0218

North Carolina Department of Insurance
Consumer Services Division
1201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1201

The state law that provides for this safety-net coverage is called the North Carolina Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act. *On the back of this page* is a brief summary of this law's coverages, exclusions and limits. This summary does not cover all provisions of the law; nor does it in any way change anyone's rights or obligations under the act or the rights or obligations of the guaranty association.

Coverage

Generally, individuals will be protected by the life and health insurance guaranty association if they live in this state and hold a life or health insurance contract, or an annuity, or if they are insured under a group insurance contract, issued by a member insurer or HMO. The beneficiaries, payees or assignees of insured persons are protected as well, even if they live in another state.

Exclusions From Coverage

However, persons holding such policies are not protected by this association if:

- They are eligible for protection under the laws of another state (this may occur when the insolvent insurer was incorporated in another state whose guaranty association protects insureds who live outside that state);
- The insurer was not authorized to do business in this state;
- Their policy was issued by a fraternal benefit society, a mandatory state pooling plan, a mutual assessment company or similar plan in which the policyholder is subject to future assessments, or by an insurance exchange;
- They acquired rights to receive payments through a structured settlement factoring transaction.

The association also does not provide coverage for:

- Any policy or portion of a policy which is not guaranteed by the insurer or for which the individual has assumed the risk, such as a variable contract sold by prospectus;
- Any policy of reinsurance (unless an assumption certificate was issued);
- Interest rate yields that exceed the average rate specified in the law;
- Dividends;
- Experience or other credits given in connection with the administration of a policy for a group contract holder;
- Employers' plans to the extent they are self-funded (that is, not insured by an insurance company, even if an insurance company administers them);
- Unallocated annuity contracts (which give rights to group contract holders, not individuals), unless they fund a government lottery or a benefit plan of an employer, association or union, except that unallocated annuities issued to employee benefit plans protected by the Federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation are not covered; or
- A policy or contract commonly known as Medicare Part C, Medicare Part D, Medicaid or any regulations issued pursuant thereto.

Limits On Amount Of Coverage

The act also limits the amount the association is obligated to pay out as follows:

- (1) The guaranty association cannot pay more than what the insurance company would owe under the policy or contract.
- (2) Except as provided in (3), (4) and (5) below, the guaranty association will pay a maximum of \$300,000 per individual, per insolvency, no matter how many policies or types of policies issued by the insolvent company.
- (3) The guaranty association will pay a maximum of \$500,000 with respect to a health benefit plan.
- (4) The guaranty association will pay a maximum of \$1,000,000 with respect to the payee of a structured settlement annuity.
- (5) The guaranty association will pay a maximum of \$5,000,000 to any one unallocated annuity contract holder.

AMENDMENT TO BE ATTACHED TO AND MADE PART OF GROUP POLICY NO: 000010270935

ISSUED TO: Cherokee County

The Policy is amended by the addition of the following provisions.

**PRIOR INSURANCE CREDIT UPON TRANSFER OF
DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE CARRIERS**

This provision prevents loss of disability income coverage for an Insured Person, which could otherwise occur solely because of a transfer of insurance carriers. This Policy will provide the following Prior Insurance Credit, when it replaces a prior plan.

"Prior Plan" means a prior carrier's group disability income policy, which this Policy replaced within 1 day of the prior plan's termination date.

FAILURE TO SATISFY ACTIVE WORK RULE. Subject to premium payments, this Policy will provide disability income coverage to a Person who:

- (1) was insured by the prior plan on its termination date; and
- (2) was otherwise eligible under this Policy; but was not Actively-At-Work due to Injury or Sickness on its Effective Date.

AMOUNT OF COVERAGE. Until the Person satisfies this Policy's Active Work rule, his or her disability income coverage will not exceed that provided by the prior plan, had it remained in force. The Company will pay:

- (1) the benefit the prior plan would have paid; minus
- (2) any amount for which the prior carrier is liable.

DISABILITY DUE TO A PRE-EXISTING CONDITION. Benefits may be payable for a period of disability due to a Pre-Existing Condition for an Insured Person who:

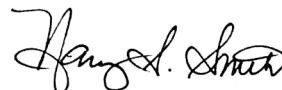
- (1) was insured by the prior plan on its termination date; and
- (2) was Actively-At-Work and became insured under this Policy on its Effective Date.

The benefits will be determined as follows:

- A. The Company will apply this Policy's Pre-Existing Condition Limitation. If the Insured Person qualifies for benefits, he or she will be paid according to this Policy's benefit schedule.
- B. If the Insured Person cannot satisfy this Policy's Pre-Existing Condition Limitation; then the prior plan's pre-existing condition limitation will be applied, as follows:
 - (1) If the Insured Person satisfies the prior plan's pre-existing condition limitation, giving consideration towards continuous time insured under both policies; then benefits will be paid according to the prior plan's benefit schedule.
 - (2) If the Insured Person cannot satisfy the Pre-Existing Condition Limitation of this Policy, or that of the prior plan; then no benefit will be paid.

This Amendment takes effect on the effective date of coverage under this Policy. In all other respects, this Policy remains the same.

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY



Officer of the Company