

STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

Have a complaint or need help?

If you have a problem with a claim or your premium, call your insurance company or HMO 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 or HMO. If you don't, you may lose your right to appeal.

Standard Insurance Company

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

Call: Customer Service

For Life Benefits Toll-free: 1(800)628-8600

For Disability Benefits Toll-free: 1(800)-368-1135

Online: www.standard.com/individual/contact-us

Mail: PO Box 711, Portland, Oregon 97207

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

Email: 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 o HMO. 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 o HMO. Si no lo hace, podría perder su derecho para apelar.

Standard Insurance Company

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

Llame a: Customer Service

Teléfono gratuito: For Life Benefits 1(800)628-8600

For Disability Benefits Teléfono gratuito: 1(800)368-1135

En línea: www.standard.com/individual/contact-us

Dirección postal: PO Box 711, Portland, Oregon 97207

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

Correo electrónico: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

Dirección postal: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091

How you're protected if your life or health insurance company fails

The Texas Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association protects you by paying your covered claims if your life or health insurance company is insolvent (can't pay its debts). **This notice summarizes your protections.**

The Association will pay your claims, with some exceptions required by law, if your company is licensed in Texas and a court has declared it insolvent. You must live in Texas when your company fails. If you don't live in Texas, you may still have some protections.

For each insolvent company, the Association will pay a person's claims only up to these dollar limits set by law:

- **Accident, accident and health, or health insurance (including HMOs):**
 - Up to \$500,000 for health benefit plans, with some exceptions.
 - Up to \$300,000 for disability income benefits.
 - Up to \$300,000 for long-term care insurance benefits.
 - Up to \$200,000 for all other types of health insurance.
- **Life Insurance:**
 - Up to \$100,000 in net cash surrender or withdrawal value.
 - Up to \$300,000 in death benefits.
- **Individual annuities:** Up to \$250,000 in the present value of benefits, including cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values.
- **Other policy types:** Limits for group policies, retirement plans and structured settlement annuities are in Chapter 463 of the Texas Insurance Code.
- **Individual aggregate limit:** Up to \$300,000 per person, regardless of the number of policies or contracts. A limit of \$500,000 may apply for people with health benefit plans.
- **Parts of some policies might not be protected:** For example, there is no protection for parts of a policy or contract that the insurance company doesn't guarantee such as some additions to the value of variable life or annuity policies.

To learn about the Association and your protections, contact: Texas Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association 515 Congress Avenue, Suite 1875 Austin, Texas 78701 1-800-982-6362 or www.txlifega.org	For questions about insurance, contact: Texas Department of Insurance P.O. Box 149104 Austin, Texas 78714-9091 1-800-252-3439 or www.tdi.texas.gov
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Note: You're receiving this notice because Texas law requires your insurance company to send you a summary of your protections under this Texas Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act (Insurance Code, Chapter 463). These protections apply to insolvencies that occur on or after September 1, 2019. **There may be other exceptions that aren't included in this notice.** When choosing an insurance company, you should not rely on the Association's coverage. Texas law prohibits companies and agents from using the Association as an inducement to buy insurance or HMO coverage.

Chapter 463 controls if there are differences between the law and this summary.



STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

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

GROUP LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE POLICY

Policyholder:	Liberty Independent School District
Policy Number:	171556-C
Effective Date:	September 1, 2023

The consideration for this Group Policy is the application of the Policyholder and the payment by the Policyholder of premiums as provided herein.

Subject to the **Policyholder Provisions** and the **Incontestability Provisions**, this Group Policy (a) is issued for the Initial Rate Guarantee Period shown in the **Coverage Features**, and (b) may be renewed for successive renewal periods by the payment of the premium set by us on each renewal date. The length of each renewal period will be set by us, but will not be less than 12 months.

For purposes of effective dates and ending dates under this Group Policy, all days begin and end at 12:00 midnight Standard Time at the Policyholder's address.

All provisions on this and the following pages are part of this Group Policy. "You" and "your" mean the Member. "We", "us", and "our" mean Standard Insurance Company. Other defined terms appear with their initial letters capitalized. Section headings, and references to them, appear in boldface type.

This is not a policy of workers' compensation insurance. The employer does not become a subscriber to the worker's compensation system by purchasing this policy and if the employer is a non-subscriber, the employer loses those benefits which would otherwise accrue under the workers' compensation laws. The employer must comply with the workers' compensation law as it pertains to non-subscribers and the required notifications that must be filed and posted.

STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

By

Handwritten signature of the President and CEO in black ink.

President and CEO

Handwritten signature of the Corporate Secretary in black ink.

Corporate Secretary

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COVERAGE FEATURES

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

GENERAL POLICY INFORMATION

Group Policy Number: 171556-C
Policyholder: Liberty Independent School District
Employer(s): Liberty Independent School District
Group Policy Effective Date: September 1, 2023
Policy Issued in: Texas

Member means:

1. A regular employee of the Employer;
2. Actively At Work at least 20 hours each week (for purposes of the Member definition, Actively At Work will include regularly scheduled days off, holidays, or vacation days, so long as the person is capable of Active Work on those days); and
3. A citizen or resident of the United States or Canada.

Member does not include a temporary or seasonal employee, a full-time member of the armed forces of any country, a leased employee, or an independent contractor.

Class Definition: None

SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE

Eligibility Waiting Period: You are eligible on one of the following dates, but not before the Group Policy Effective Date:

If you are a Member on the Group Policy Effective Date, you are eligible on the first day of the calendar month following the date you become a Member.

If you become a Member after the Group Policy Effective Date, you are eligible on the first day of the calendar month following the date you become a Member.

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

The maximum Leave Of Absence Periods are as follows:

1. If you are on a Leave Of Absence due to a sabbatical or other leave and receive at least one-quarter of the Predisability Earnings paid to you immediately before the start of such leave, your insurance may be continued to the end of 12 months, or, if earlier, the end of such leave.
2. If you are on a Leave Of Absence for the purpose of either full-time study for an advanced degree, or work in the field of education or research such as a Fulbright Award, foundation grant, or

government project, and receive less than one-quarter of the Predisability Earnings paid to you immediately before the start of such leave, your insurance may be continued to the end of 12 months, or, if earlier, the end of such leave.

3. If you are on a Leave Of Absence due to a family or medical leave and continuation of insurance is required by a state-mandated family or medical leave act or law, your insurance may be continued to the end of 6 months, or, if later, the period required by the state act or law.
4. If you are on any other Leave Of Absence, your insurance may be continued to the end of 30 days, or if earlier, the period approved by your Employer.

Leave Of Absence means a period when you are absent from Active Work during which your insurance under the Group Policy will continue and employment will be deemed to continue, solely for the purposes of determining when your insurance ends, provided the required premiums for you are remitted and such a leave of absence for you is approved by your Employer and set forth in a written document that is dated on or before the leave is to start and shows that you are scheduled to return to Active Work.

During a Leave Of Absence your Predisability Earnings and your Own Occupation will be based on what was in effect on your last day of Active Work immediately before the start of your Leave Of Absence.

Own Occupation Period:	The first 24 months for which LTD Benefits are paid.
Any Occupation Period:	From the end of the Own Occupation Period to the end of the Maximum Benefit Period.

LTD Benefit:	The amount you elect, reduced by Deductible Income. You may elect an amount in multiples of \$100, from \$200 to \$8,000. You may not elect an amount in excess of 66 2/3% of your Predisability Earnings.
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Minimum LTD Benefit:	25% of your Maximum LTD Benefit before reduction by Deductible Income, whichever is greater.
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If your Disability is subject to the Preexisting Condition Limitation and you have been continuously insured under the Group Policy for:

less than 12 months:	Your Maximum Benefit Period is 90 days.
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12 months or more and you elected to change your insurance during the preceding Annual Enrollment period by:

a) increasing your LTD Benefit Amount by more than \$300:

Your LTD Benefit is equal to the amount of insurance for which you were insured under the Group Policy on the day before the last preceding Annual Enrollment Period plus \$300, reduced by Deductible Income.

b) decreasing your Benefit Waiting Period by more than one level:

Your Benefit Waiting Period equals the Benefit Waiting Period which applied to the Option under which you were insured on the day before the last preceding Annual Enrollment Period.

c) increasing your Maximum Benefit Period:

Your Maximum Benefit Period equals the length of the Maximum Benefit Period which applied to the Option under which you were insured on the day before the last preceding Annual Enrollment Period.

PREMIUM AND RENEWALS

Premium Rate:

Each Member's rate is based on the Benefit Waiting Period option selected by the Member.

Benefit Waiting Period Option: Monthly rate per \$100 of LTD Benefit, before reduction by Deductible Income:

Option 1: \$2.760

Option 2: \$2.320

Option 3: \$1.900

Option 4: \$1.660

Option 5: \$1.480

Option 6: \$1.070

Premium Due Dates: September 1, 2023 and the first day of each calendar month thereafter.

Initial Rate Guarantee Period: September 1, 2023 to September 1, 2026

Minimum Participation: The greater of 10 insured Members or 25% of eligible Members

INSURING CLAUSE

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

LT.IC.OT.1

BECOMING INSURED

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

You are a Member if you are:

1. A regular employee of the Employer;
2. Actively At Work at least 20 hours each week (for purposes of the Member definition, Actively At Work will include regularly scheduled days off, holidays, or vacation days, so long as you are capable of Active Work on those days); and
3. A citizen or resident of the United States or Canada.

You are not a Member if you are a temporary or seasonal employee, a full-time member of the armed forces of any country, a leased employee, or an independent contractor.

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

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

WHEN YOUR INSURANCE BECOMES EFFECTIVE

You must apply in writing for insurance and agree to pay premiums within 31 days of the date you become eligible for insurance. Otherwise, you may not apply to become insured until the Annual Enrollment Period.

A. When Insurance Becomes Effective

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

1. Insurance Subject To Evidence Of Insurability

Insurance subject to Evidence Of Insurability becomes effective on the date we approve your Evidence Of Insurability.

2. Insurance Not Subject To Evidence of Insurability

Insurance becomes effective on:

- i. the date you become eligible if you apply on or before that date;
- ii. the date you apply if you apply within 31 days after you become eligible; or
- iii. The end of the Annual Enrollment Period following the date you apply, if you apply during the Annual Enrollment Period.

Annual Enrollment Period means the period designated each year by your Employer when you may change insurance elections.

B. Takeover Provisions

If you were insured under the Prior Plan on the day before the effective date of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy, your Eligibility Waiting Period is waived on the effective date of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy.

C. Evidence Of Insurability Requirement

Evidence Of Insurability satisfactory to us is required for reinstatements if required.

Providing Evidence Of Insurability means you must:

1. Complete and sign our medical history statement;
2. Sign our form authorizing us to obtain information about your health;
3. Undergo a physical examination, if required by us, which may include blood testing; and
4. Provide any additional information about your insurability that we may reasonably require.

D. Changes In Insurance

If you are insured and elect to make a change in your insurance, you may apply for a change only during the Annual Enrollment Period. You must apply in writing for any elective increase or decrease in your insurance.

1. Increases

Insurance Increases mean an elective increase in the amount of your LTD Benefit, decrease in the length of your Benefit Waiting Period, and increase in your Maximum Benefit Period.

The Preexisting Condition Limitation will apply to your elected Insurance Increases described below:

A. Your LTD Benefit will be subject to the Preexisting Condition Limitation if you elect:

1. An increase of more than \$300 in the amount of your LTD Benefit;
2. A decrease of more than one level in the length of your Benefit Waiting Period; or
3. An increase in the length of your Maximum Benefit Period.

B. Your eligibility for First Day Hospital Benefit will be subject to the Preexisting Condition Limitation if you elect a decrease of more than one level in your Benefit Waiting Period and that change adds First Day Hospital Benefit to your insurance.

2. Decreases

Insurance Decreases mean an elective decrease in the amount your LTD Benefit, increase in the length of your Benefit Waiting Period, or decrease in your Maximum Benefit Period.

3. Effective Date Of Changes

Subject to the **Active Work Provisions**, an Insurance Increase becomes effective at the end of the Annual Enrollment Period, if you apply during the Annual Enrollment Period.

An Insurance Decrease becomes effective at the end of the Annual Enrollment Period, if you apply during the Annual Enrollment Period.

Any changes in your insurance becomes effective at the end of the Annual Enrollment Period, if you apply during the Annual Enrollment Period.

(CHOICE) LT.EF.OT.1

ACTIVE WORK PROVISIONS

A. Active Work Requirement

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

date of your insurance, your insurance will not become effective until the day after you complete one full day of Active Work as an eligible Member.

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

B. Changes In Insurance

This Active Work requirement also applies to any increase in your insurance.

LT.AW.OT.1

CONTINUITY OF COVERAGE

If your Disability is subject to the Preexisting Condition Limitation, LTD Benefits will be payable if:

1. You were insured under the Prior Plan on the day before the effective date of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy;
2. You became insured under the Group Policy when your insurance under the Prior Plan ceased;
3. You were continuously insured under the Group Policy from the effective date of your insurance under the Group Policy through the date you became Disabled from the Preexisting Condition; and
4. Benefits would have been payable under the terms of the Prior Plan if it had remained in force, taking into account the preexisting condition exclusion, if any, of the Prior Plan.

For such a Disability, the amount of your LTD Benefit will be the lesser of:

- a. The monthly benefit that would have been payable under the terms of the Prior Plan under which you were insured on the day before you became insured under the Group Policy if it had remained in force; or
- b. The LTD Benefit payable under the terms of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy, but without application of the Preexisting Condition Limitation.

When the LTD Benefit you elected under the Group Policy exceeds the amount for which you were insured under the Prior Plan described in item a. above, the amount of your LTD Benefit will be the amount described above plus the difference between b. and a. not to exceed \$300.

If the Benefit Waiting Period you elect under the Group Policy is less than the benefit waiting period plan level you were insured for under the Prior Plan that you were insured under on the day before you became insured under the Group Policy, your LTD Benefits will begin on the later of the following dates:

- a. The date benefits would have begun under the terms of the Prior Plan if it had remained in force; or
- b. The date LTD Benefits begin under the terms of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy.

If the Maximum Benefit Period you elect under the Group Policy is longer than the maximum benefit period you were insured for under the Prior Plan that you were insured under on the day before you became insured under the Group Policy, your LTD Benefits will end on the earlier of the following dates:

- a. The date benefits would have ended under the terms of the Prior Plan if it had remained in force; or
- b. The date LTD Benefits end under the terms of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy.

(PX_CHOICE) LT.CC.OT.1

WHEN YOUR INSURANCE ENDS

Your insurance ends automatically on the earliest of:

1. The date the last period ends for which a premium contribution was made for your insurance.
2. The date the Group Policy terminates.
3. The date your employment terminates. However, if your employment terminates on the last day of the school year, your insurance will be continued through the last day of the calendar month prior to the state of your Employer's new school year, provided that premium contributions are paid through the end of that calendar month.
4. The date you cease to be a Member. However, your insurance will be continued during the following periods when you are absent from Active Work, unless it ends under any of the above.
 - a. During the first 90 days of a temporary or indefinite administrative or involuntary leave of absence or sick leave, provided your Employer is paying you at least the same Predisability Earnings paid to you immediately before you ceased to be a Member. A period when you are absent from Active Work as part of a severance or other employment termination agreement is not a leave of absence, even if you are receiving the same Predisability Earnings.
 - b. During any other temporary Leave Of Absence approved by your Employer in advance and in writing, but not to exceed the applicable Leave Of Absence Period shown in the **Coverage Features**. A period of Disability is not a leave of absence.
 - c. During the Benefit Waiting Period.

(ANY NEW LOA) LT.EN.OT.3X

CONTINUED INSURANCE DURING SCHOOL VACATIONS

If you cease to be a Member because of a school break or vacation, your insurance will be continued during that period.

LT.SV.OT.1

WAIVER OF PREMIUM

We will waive payment of premium for your insurance on the first day of the calendar month coinciding with or next following the date LTD Benefits are payable for 90 days.

(CHOICE) LT.WP.OT.1

REINSTATEMENT OF INSURANCE

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

1. If you cease to be a Member because of a covered Disability following the Benefit Waiting Period, your insurance will end; however, if you become a Member again immediately after LTD Benefits end, the Eligibility Waiting Period will be waived and, with respect to the condition(s) for which LTD Benefits were payable, the Preexisting Condition Limitation will be applied as if your insurance had remained in effect during that period of Disability.
2. If your insurance ends because you cease to be a Member for any reason other than a covered Disability, and if you become a Member again within 90 days, the Eligibility Waiting Period will be waived.
3. If your insurance ends because you fail to make a required premium contribution, you must provide Evidence Of Insurability to become insured again.

4. If your insurance ends because you are on a federal or state-mandated family or medical leave of absence, and you become a Member again immediately following the period allowed, your insurance will be reinstated pursuant to the federal or state-mandated family or medical leave act or law.
5. The Preexisting Conditions Limitation will be applied as if insurance had remained in effect in the following instances:
 - a. If you become insured again within 90 days.
 - b. If required by federal or state-mandated family or medical leave act or law and you become insured again immediately following the period allowed under the family or medical leave act or law.
6. In no event will insurance be retroactive.

(CHOICE) LT.RE.OT.2

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

You are Disabled if you meet the following definitions during the periods they apply:

- A. Own Occupation Definition Of Disability.
- B. Any Occupation Definition Of Disability.

A. Own Occupation Definition Of Disability

During the Benefit Waiting Period and the Own Occupation Period you are required to be Disabled only from your Own Occupation.

You are Disabled from your Own Occupation if, as a result of Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder:

1. You are unable to perform with reasonable continuity the Material Duties of your Own Occupation; and
2. You suffer a loss of at least 20% in your Indexed Predisability Earnings when working in your Own Occupation.

Note: You are not Disabled merely because your right to perform your Own Occupation is restricted, including a restriction or loss of license.

During the Own Occupation Period you may work in another occupation while you meet the Own Occupation Definition Of Disability. However, you will no longer be Disabled when your Work Earnings from another occupation meet or exceed 80% of your Indexed Predisability Earnings. Your Work Earnings may be Deductible Income. See **Return To Work Provisions** and **Deductible Income**.

Own Occupation means any employment, business, trade, profession, calling or vocation that involves Material Duties of the same general character as the occupation you are regularly performing for your Employer when Disability begins. In determining your Own Occupation, we are not limited to looking at the way you perform your job for your Employer, but we may also look at the way the occupation is generally performed in the national economy. If your Own Occupation involves the rendering of professional services and you are required to have a professional or occupational license in order to work, your Own Occupation is as broad as the scope of your license.

Material Duties means the essential tasks, functions and operations, and the skills, abilities, knowledge, training and experience, generally required by employers from those engaged in a particular occupation that cannot be reasonably modified or omitted. In no event will we consider working an average of more than 40 hours per week to be a Material Duty.

B. Any Occupation Definition Of Disability

During the Any Occupation Period you are required to be Disabled from all occupations.

You are Disabled from all occupations if, as a result of Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder, you are unable to perform with reasonable continuity the Material Duties of Any Occupation.

Any Occupation means any occupation or employment which you are able to perform, whether due to education, training, or experience, which is available at one or more locations in the national economy and in which you can be expected to earn at least 60% of your Indexed Predisability Earnings within twelve months following your return to work, regardless of whether you are working in that or any other occupation.

Material Duties means the essential tasks, functions and operations, and the skills, abilities, knowledge, training and experience, generally required by employers from those engaged in a particular occupation that cannot be reasonably modified or omitted. In no event will we consider working an average of more than 40 hours per week to be a Material Duty.

Your Any Occupation Period and Own Occupation Period are shown in the **Coverage Features**.

(OWNOCC_ANY_WITH 40) LT.DD.OT.1

RETURN TO WORK PROVISIONS

A. Return To Work Responsibility

During the Own Occupation Period no LTD Benefits will be paid for any period when you are able to work in your Own Occupation and able to earn at least 20% of your Indexed Predisability Earnings, but you elect not to work.

During the Any Occupation Period no LTD Benefits will be paid for any period when you are able to work in Any Occupation and able to earn at least 20% of your Indexed Predisability Earnings, but you elect not to work.

B. Return To Work Incentive

You may serve your Benefit Waiting Period while working if you meet the Own Occupation Definition Of Disability.

You are eligible for the Return To Work Incentive on the first day you work after the Benefit Waiting Period if LTD Benefits are payable on that date. The Return To Work Incentive changes 12 months after that date, as follows:

1. During the first 12 months, your Work Earnings will be Deductible Income as determined in a., b. and c:
 - a. Determine the amount of your LTD Benefit as if there were no Deductible Income, and add your Work Earnings to that amount.
 - b. Determine 100% of your Indexed Predisability Earnings.
 - c. If a. is greater than b., the difference will be Deductible Income.
2. After those first 12 months, 50% of your Work Earnings will be Deductible Income.

C. Work Earnings Definition

Work Earnings means your gross monthly earnings from work you perform while Disabled, plus the earnings you could receive if you worked as much as you are able to, considering your Disability, in work that is reasonably available:

- a. In your Own Occupation during the Own Occupation Period; and
- b. In Any Occupation during the Any Occupation Period.

Work Earnings includes earnings from your Employer, any other employer, or self-employment, and any sick pay, vacation pay, annual or personal leave pay or other salary continuation earned or accrued while working.

Earnings from work you perform will be included in Work Earnings when you have the right to receive them. If you are paid in a lump sum or on a basis other than monthly, we will prorate your Work Earnings over the period of time to which they apply. If no period of time is stated, we will use a reasonable one.

In determining your Work Earnings we:

1. Will use the financial accounting method you use for income tax purposes, if you use that method on a consistent basis.
2. Will not be limited to the taxable income you report to the Internal Revenue Service.
3. May ignore expenses under section 179 of the IRC as a deduction from your gross earnings.
4. May ignore depreciation as a deduction from your gross earnings.
5. May adjust the financial information you give us in order to clearly reflect your Work Earnings.

If we determine that your earnings vary substantially from month to month, we may determine your Work Earnings by averaging your earnings over the most recent three-month period. During the Own Occupation Period you will no longer be Disabled when your average Work Earnings over the last three months exceed 80% of your Indexed Predisability Earnings. During the Any Occupation Period you will no longer be Disabled when your average Work Earnings over the last three months exceed 60% of your Indexed Predisability Earnings.

D. Family Care Expenses Adjustment

If you must pay Family Care Expenses in order to work, we will reduce the amount of the Work Earnings used in determining your Deductible Income, subject to the following:

1. Your Work Earnings will be reduced by the first \$250 per Family Member of the monthly Family Care Expenses you pay, but not to exceed a total of \$500 for all Family Members.
2. The Work Earnings and the Family Care Expenses must be for the same period.
3. You must give us satisfactory proof of the Family Care Expenses you pay.
4. The Work Earnings reduction by Family Care Expenses will end 12 months after it begins.

Family Care Expenses means the amount you pay to a licensed care provider for the care of your Family which is necessary in order for you to work.

Family Member means:

1. Your Child; or
2. Your spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, or other close family member residing in your home who is:
 - a. Continuously incapable of self-sustaining employment because of mental retardation or physical handicap; and
 - b. Chiefly dependent upon you for support and maintenance.

Child means:

1. Your child residing in your home (including your stepchild and an adopted child), from live birth through age 11; or
2. Your child, age 12 or older, residing in your home (including your stepchild and an adopted child) who is:

- a. Continuously incapable of self-sustaining employment because of mental retardation or physical handicap; and
- b. Chiefly dependent upon you for support and maintenance.

(FAMILY CR) LT.RW.OT.1

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION EXPENSE BENEFIT

If you return to work in any occupation for any employer, not including self-employment, as a result of a reasonable accommodation made by such employer, we will pay that employer a Reasonable Accommodation Expense Benefit of up to \$25,000, but not to exceed the expenses incurred.

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

LT.RA.OT.1

REHABILITATION PLAN PROVISION

While you are Disabled you may qualify to participate in a Rehabilitation Plan. Rehabilitation Plan means a written plan, program or course of vocational training or education that is intended to prepare you to return to work.

To participate in a Rehabilitation Plan you must apply on our forms or in a letter to us. The terms, conditions and objectives of the plan must be accepted by you and approved by us in advance. We have the sole discretion to approve your Rehabilitation Plan.

An approved Rehabilitation Plan may include our payment of some or all of the expenses you incur in connection with the plan, including:

- a. Training and education expenses.
- b. Family care expenses.
- c. Job-related expenses.
- d. Job search expenses.

LT.RH.OT.1

TEMPORARY RECOVERY

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

A. Allowable Periods

1. During the Benefit Waiting Period: a total of 30 days of recovery.
2. During the Maximum Benefit Period: 180 days for each period of recovery.

B. Effect Of Temporary Recovery

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

1. The Predisability Earnings used to determine your LTD Benefit will not change.
2. The period of Temporary Recovery will not count toward your Benefit Waiting Period, your Maximum Benefit Period or your Own Occupation Period.
3. No LTD Benefits will be payable for the period of Temporary Recovery.

4. No LTD Benefits will be payable after benefits become payable to you under any other disability insurance plan under which you become insured during your period of Temporary Recovery.
5. Except as stated above, the provisions of the Group Policy will be applied as if there had been no interruption of your Disability.

LT.TR.OT.1

WHEN LTD BENEFITS END

Your LTD Benefits end automatically on the earliest of:

1. The date you are no longer Disabled.
2. The date your Maximum Benefit Period ends.
3. The date you die.
4. The date benefits become payable under any other LTD plan under which you become insured through employment during a period of Temporary Recovery.
5. The date you fail to provide proof of continued Disability and entitlement to LTD Benefits.

LT.BE.OT.1

PREDISABILITY EARNINGS

Your Predisability Earnings will be based on your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work. Any subsequent change in your earnings after that last full day of Active Work will not affect your Predisability Earnings.

Predisability Earnings means your monthly rate of earnings from your Employer, including:

1. Stipends averaged over the preceding 12 months or over the period of your employment if less than 12 months.
2. Contributions you make through a salary reduction agreement with your Employer to:
 - a. An Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 401(k), 403(b), 408(k), 408(p), or 457 deferred compensation arrangement; or
 - b. An executive nonqualified deferred compensation arrangement.
3. Amounts contributed to your fringe benefits according to a salary reduction agreement under an IRC Section 125 plan.

Predisability Earnings does not include:

1. Bonuses.
2. Commissions.
3. Overtime pay.
4. Shift differential pay.
5. Stock options or stock bonuses.
6. Your Employer's contributions on your behalf to any deferred compensation arrangement or pension plan.
7. Any other extra compensation.

If you are paid on an annual contract basis, your monthly rate of earnings is one-twelfth (1/12th) of your annual contract salary.

If you are paid hourly, your monthly rate of earnings is based on your hourly pay rate multiplied by the number of hours you are regularly scheduled to work per month, but not more than 173 hours. If you do not have regular work hours, your monthly rate of earnings is based on the average number of hours you worked per month during the preceding 12 calendar months (or during your period of employment if less than 12 months), but not more than 173 hours.

(BASE_NO STOCK) LT.PD.OT.1X

DEDUCTIBLE INCOME

Subject to **Exceptions To Deductible Income**, Deductible Income means:

1. Sick pay, annual or personal leave pay, severance pay, or other salary continuation, including donated amounts, (but not vacation pay) paid to you by your Employer, if it exceeds the amount found in a., b., and c.
 - a. Determine the amount of your LTD Benefit as if there were no Deductible Income, and add your sick pay or other salary continuation to that amount.
 - b. Determine 100% of your Indexed Predisability Earnings.
 - c. If a. is greater than b., the difference will be Deductible Income.
2. Your Work Earnings, as described in the **Return To Work Provisions**.
3. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive because of your disability, including amounts for partial or total disability, whether permanent, temporary, or vocational, under any of the following:
 - a. A workers' compensation law;
 - b. The Jones Act;
 - c. Maritime Doctrine of Maintenance, Wages, or Cure;
 - d. Longshoremen's and Harbor Worker's Act; or
 - e. Any similar act or law.
4. Any amount you, your Spouse, or your child under age 18 receive or are eligible to receive because of your disability or retirement under:
 - a. The Federal Social Security Act;
 - b. The Canada Pension Plan;
 - c. The Quebec Pension Plan;
 - d. The Railroad Retirement Act; or
 - e. Any similar plan or act.

Full offset: Both the primary benefit (the benefit awarded to you) and dependents benefit are Deductible Income.

Benefits your Spouse or a child receives or are eligible to receive because of your disability are Deductible Income regardless of marital status, custody, or place of residence. The term "child" has the meaning given in the applicable plan or act.
5. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive because of your disability under any state disability income benefit law or similar law.
6. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive because of your disability under another group insurance coverage.

7. Any disability or retirement benefits you receive or are eligible to receive under your Employer's retirement plan, including a public employee retirement system, a state teacher retirement system, and a plan arranged and maintained by a union or employee association for the benefit of its members. You and your Employer's contributions will be considered as distributed simultaneously throughout your lifetime, regardless of how funds are distributed from the retirement plan.

If any of these plans has two or more payment options, the option which comes closest to providing you a monthly income for life with no survivors benefit will be Deductible Income, even if you choose a different option.

8. Any earnings or compensation included in Predisability Earnings which you receive or are eligible to receive while LTD Benefits are payable.
9. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive under any unemployment compensation law or similar act or law.
10. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive from or on behalf of a third party because of your disability, whether by judgment, settlement or other method. If you notify us before filing suit or settling your claim against such third party, the amount used as Deductible Income will be reduced by a pro rata share of your costs of recovery, including reasonable attorney fees.
11. Any amount you receive by compromise, settlement, or other method as a result of a claim for any of the above, whether disputed or undisputed.

(DOM_NO OTHR OFFST_PUB_WITH 3RD) LT.DI.OT.1

EXCEPTIONS TO DEDUCTIBLE INCOME

Deductible Income does not include:

1. Any cost of living increase in any Deductible Income other than Work Earnings, if the increase becomes effective while you are Disabled and while you are eligible for the Deductible Income.
2. Reimbursement for hospital, medical, or surgical expense.
3. Reasonable attorneys fees incurred in connection with a claim for Deductible Income.
4. Benefits from any individual disability insurance policy.
5. Early retirement benefits under the Federal Social Security Act which are not actually received.
6. Group credit or mortgage disability insurance benefits.
7. Accelerated death benefits paid under a life insurance policy.
8. Benefits from the following:
 - a. Profit sharing plan.
 - b. Thrift or savings plan.
 - c. Deferred compensation plan.
 - d. Plan under IRC Section 401(k), 408(k), 408(p), or 457.
 - e. Individual Retirement Account (IRA).
 - f. Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA) under IRC Section 403(b).
 - g. Stock ownership plan.
 - h. Keogh (HR-10) plan.

(PUB_NO OTHR OFFST) LT.ED.OT.1

RULES FOR DEDUCTIBLE INCOME

A. Monthly Equivalents

Each month we will determine your LTD Benefit using the Deductible Income for the same monthly period, even if you actually receive the Deductible Income in another month.

If you are paid Deductible Income in a lump sum or by a method other than monthly, we will determine your LTD Benefit using a prorated amount. We will use the period of time to which the Deductible Income applies. If no period of time is stated, we will use a reasonable one.

B. Your Duty To Pursue Deductible Income

You must pursue Deductible Income for which you may be eligible. We may ask for written documentation of your pursuit of Deductible Income. You must provide it within 60 days after we mail you our request. Otherwise, we may reduce your LTD Benefits by the amount we estimate you would be eligible to receive upon proper pursuit of the Deductible Income.

C. Pending Deductible Income

We will not deduct pending Deductible Income until it becomes payable. You must notify us of the amount of the Deductible Income when it is approved. You must repay us for the resulting overpayment of your claim.

D. Overpayment Of Claim

We will notify you of the amount of any overpayment of your claim under any group disability insurance policy issued by us. You must immediately repay us. You will not receive any LTD Benefits until we have been repaid in full. In the meantime, any LTD Benefits paid, including the Minimum LTD Benefit, will be applied to reduce the amount of the overpayment. We may charge you interest at the legal rate for any overpayment which is not repaid within 30 days after we first mail you notice of the amount of the overpayment.

LT.RU.OT.1

SUBROGATION

If LTD Benefits are paid or payable to you under the Group Policy as the result of any act or omission of a third party, we will be subrogated to all rights of recovery you may have in respect to such act or omission. You must execute and deliver to us such instruments and papers as may be required and do whatever else is needed to secure such rights. You must avoid doing anything that would prejudice our rights of subrogation.

If you notify us before filing suit or settling your claim against such third party, the amount to which we are subrogated will be reduced by a pro rata share of your costs of recovery, including reasonable attorney fees. If suit or action is filed, we may record a notice of payments of LTD Benefits, and such notice shall constitute a lien on any judgment recovered.

If you or your legal representative fail to bring suit or action promptly against such third party, we may institute such suit or action in our name or in your name. We are entitled to retain from any judgment recovered the amount of LTD Benefits paid or to be paid to you or on your behalf, together with our costs of recovery, including attorney fees. The remainder of such recovery, if any, shall be paid to you or as the court may direct.

LT.SG.OT.1

SPECIAL DISMEMBERMENT PROVISION

If you suffer a Loss as a result of an accident, you will be considered Disabled for the applicable Minimum Benefit Period, even if this causes LTD Benefits to be paid beyond the end of the Maximum Benefit Period.

A. Definition Of Loss

Loss means loss of hand, foot, or sight which:

1. Is caused solely and directly by an accident;
2. Occurs independently of all other causes;
3. Occurs within 90 days after the accident; and
4. Occurs while you are insured under the Group Policy, unless the Group Policy terminates after the accident and you are continuously Disabled from the date the Group Policy terminates to the date of the Loss.

With respect to a hand or foot, Loss means actual and permanent severance from the body at or above the wrist or ankle joint. With respect to sight, Loss means entire and irrecoverable loss of sight.

B. Minimum Benefit Period

The Minimum Benefit Period for a Loss of one hand, one foot, or sight of one eye is 6 months. The Minimum Benefit Period for two or more of the above Losses is 30 months.

You will not be considered Disabled for more than the longer Minimum Benefit Period described above with respect to all Losses from the same accident.

The Minimum Benefit Period begins on the date of Loss. The Minimum Benefit Period counts as part of the Maximum Benefit Period.

During the Minimum Benefit Period your LTD Benefit will not be reduced by sick pay or other salary continuation paid to you by your Employer or by your Work Earnings.

C. Exclusions

No LTD Benefit is payable under this provision if the Loss is caused or contributed to by any of the exclusions listed in the section entitled **Disabilities Excluded From Coverage** or any of the following:

1. War or any act of War. War means declared or undeclared war, whether civil or international, and any substantial armed conflict between organized forces of a military nature.
2. Attempted suicide or other intentionally self-inflicted Injury, while sane or insane.
3. Committing or attempting to commit an assault or felony, or actively participating in a violent disorder or riot. Actively participating does not include being at the scene of a violent disorder or riot while performing your official duties.
4. The voluntary use or consumption of any poison, chemical compound or drug, unless used or consumed according to the directions of a Physician.
5. Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder existing at the time of the accident.
6. Heart attack or stroke.
7. The use or consumption of alcohol or your alcoholism.
8. Medical or surgical treatment for any of the above.

LT.SD.OT.1

FIRST DAY HOSPITAL BENEFIT

If you are Hospital Confined for at least four hours during the Benefit Waiting Period and you have elected Option 1, 2 or 3, 1 through 4 below will apply.

1. The remainder of your Benefit Waiting Period will be waived.
2. LTD Benefits will become payable on the first day you are Hospital Confined.
3. Your Maximum Benefit Period will begin on the date LTD Benefits become payable.
4. You must be under the ongoing care of a Physician while you are Hospital Confined.

Hospital Confined means you are admitted to a Hospital as an in-patient, and for which you are charged for room and board.

(CHOICE) LT.FH.OT.1

SURVIVORS BENEFIT

If you die while LTD Benefits are payable, and on the date you die you have been continuously Disabled for at least 180 days, we will pay a Survivors Benefit according to 1 through 3 below.

1. The Survivors Benefit is a lump sum equal to 3 times your LTD Benefit without reduction by Deductible Income.
2. The Survivors Benefit will first be applied to reduce any overpayment of your claim.
3. The Survivors Benefit will be paid at our option to any one or more of the following:
 - a. Your surviving Spouse;
 - b. Your surviving unmarried children, including adopted children, under age 25;
 - c. Your surviving Spouse's unmarried children, including adopted children, under age 25; or
 - d. Any person providing the care and support of any person listed in a., b., or c. above.
 - e. Your estate, if you are not survived by any person listed in a., b., or c. above.

(MULTPL_EST_DOM) LT.SB.OT.1

BENEFITS AFTER INSURANCE ENDS OR IS CHANGED

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

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

LT.BA.OT.1

EFFECT OF NEW DISABILITY

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

1. LTD Benefits will not continue beyond the end of the original Maximum Benefit Period.
2. The **Disabilities Excluded From Coverage, Disabilities Subject To Limited Pay Periods, and Limitations** sections will apply to the new cause of Disability.

LT.ND.OT.1

DISABILITIES EXCLUDED FROM COVERAGE

A. War

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

B. Intentionally Self-Inflicted Injury

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

C. Loss Of License Or Certification

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

D. Violent Or Criminal Conduct

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

(CHOICE) LT.XD.OT.1

DISABILITIES SUBJECT TO LIMITED PAY PERIODS

A. Mental Disorders, Substance Abuse and Other Limited Conditions

Payment of LTD Benefits is limited to 24 months during your entire lifetime for a Disability caused or contributed to by any one or more of the following, or medical or surgical treatment of one or more of the following:

1. Mental Disorders;
2. Substance Abuse; or
3. Other Limited Conditions.

However, if you are confined in a Hospital solely because of a Mental Disorder at the end of the 24 months, this limitation will not apply while you are continuously confined.

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

Substance Abuse means use of alcohol, alcoholism, use of any drug, including hallucinogens, or drug addiction.

Other Limited Conditions means chronic fatigue conditions (such as chronic fatigue syndrome, chronic fatigue immunodeficiency syndrome, post viral syndrome, limbic encephalopathy, Epstein-Barr virus infection, herpes virus type 6 infection, or myalgic encephalomyelitis), any allergy or sensitivity to chemicals or the environment (such as environmental allergies, sick building syndrome, multiple chemical sensitivity syndrome or chronic toxic encephalopathy), chronic pain conditions (such as fibromyalgia, reflex sympathetic dystrophy or myofascial pain), carpal tunnel or repetitive motion syndrome, temporomandibular joint disorder, or craniomandibular joint disorder.

However, Other Limited Conditions does not include neoplastic diseases, neurologic diseases, endocrine diseases, hematologic diseases, asthma, allergy-induced reactive lung disease, tumors, malignancies, or vascular malformations, demyelinating diseases, or lupus.

B. Rules For Disabilities Subject To Limited Pay Periods

1. If you are Disabled as a result of a Mental Disorder or any Physical Disease or Injury for which payment of LTD Benefits is subject to a limited pay period, and at the same time are Disabled as a result of a Physical Disease, Injury, or Pregnancy that is not subject to such limitation, LTD Benefits will be payable first for conditions that are subject to the limitation.
2. No LTD Benefits will be payable after the end of the limited pay period, unless on that date you continue to be Disabled as a result of a Physical Disease, Injury, or Pregnancy for which payment of LTD Benefits is not limited.

LT.LP.OT.1

LIMITATIONS

A. Care Of A Physician

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

B. Return To Work Responsibility

During the Own Occupation Period no LTD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are able to work in your Own Occupation and able to earn at least 20% of your Indexed Predisability Earnings, but you elect not to work.

During the Any Occupation Period, no LTD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are able to work in Any Occupation and able to earn at least 20% of your Indexed Predisability Earnings, but elect not to work.

C. Rehabilitation Program

No LTD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are not participating in good faith in a plan, program or course of medical treatment or vocational training or education approved by us unless your Disability prevents you from participating.

D. Foreign Residency

Payment of LTD Benefits is limited to 12 months for each period of continuous Disability while you reside outside of the United States or Canada.

E. Imprisonment

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

F. Preexisting Condition:

Payment for your LTD Benefit will be limited as shown in the Schedule Of Insurance portion of the **Coverage Features** if your Disability is caused or contributed to by a Preexisting Condition or medical or surgical treatment of a Preexisting Condition unless, on the date you become Disabled you have been continuously insured under the Group Policy for 12 months.

With respect to an Insurance Increase, you are not covered for the Insurance Increase if your Disability is caused or contributed to by a Preexisting Condition, unless, on the date you become Disabled you have been continuously insured for the Insurance Increase for 12 months.

(CHOICE) LT.LM.TX.1

CLAIMS

A. Filing A Claim

Claims should be filed on our forms. If we do not provide our forms within 15 days after they are requested, you may submit your claim in a letter to us. The letter should include the date disability began, and the cause and nature of the disability.

B. Time Limits On Filing Proof Of Loss

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

C. Proof Of Loss

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

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

D. Documentation

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

E. Investigation Of Claim

We may investigate your claim at any time.

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

F. Time Of Payment

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

LTD Benefits will be paid to you at the end of each month you qualify for them. LTD Benefits remaining unpaid at your death will be paid to the person(s) receiving the Survivors Benefit. If no Survivors Benefit is paid, the unpaid LTD Benefits will be paid to your estate.

G. Notice Of Decision On Claim

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

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

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

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

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

H. Review Procedure

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I. Assignment

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

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

TIME LIMITS ON LEGAL ACTIONS

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

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

LT.TL.OT.1

INCONTESTABILITY PROVISIONS

A. Incontestability Of Insurance

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

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

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

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

B. Incontestability Of The Group Policy

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

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

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

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

LT.IN.OT.1

CLERICAL ERROR, AGENCY, AND MISSTATEMENT

A. Clerical Error

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

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

B. Agency

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

C. Misstatement Of Age

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

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

LT.CE.OT.1

TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT OF THE GROUP POLICY

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

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

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

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

LT.TA.OT.1

DEFINITIONS

Benefit Waiting Period means the period you must be continuously Disabled before LTD Benefits become payable. No LTD Benefits are payable for the Benefit Waiting Period. See **Coverage Features**.

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

CPI-W means the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers published by the United States Department of Labor. If the CPI-W is discontinued or changed, we may use a comparable index. Where required, we will obtain prior state approval of the new index.

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

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

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

Indexed Predisability Earnings means your Predisability Earnings adjusted by the rate of increase in the CPI-W. During your first year of Disability, your Indexed Predisability Earnings are the same as your

Predisability Earnings. Thereafter, your Indexed Predisability Earnings are determined on each anniversary of your Disability by increasing the previous year's Indexed Predisability Earnings by the rate of increase in the CPI-W for the prior calendar year. The maximum adjustment in any year is 10%. Your Indexed Predisability Earnings will not decrease, even if the CPI-W decreases.

Injury means an injury to the body.

L.L.C. Owner-Employee means an individual who owns an equity interest in an Employer and is actively employed in the conduct of the Employer's business.

LTD Benefit means the monthly benefit payable to you under the terms of the Group Policy.

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

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

P.C. Partner means the sole active employee and majority shareholder of a professional corporation in partnership with the Policyholder.

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

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

Preexisting Condition means a mental or physical condition:

- a. For which you have done any of the following:
 - i. Consulted a physician or other licensed medical professional;
 - ii. Received medical treatment, services or advice;
 - iii. Undergone diagnostic procedures; including self-administered procedures;
 - iv. Taken prescribed drugs or medications;
- b. Which, as a result of any medical examination, was discovered or suspected;
at any time during the 90-day period just before the date your insurance becomes effective.

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

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

Spouse means:

- 1 A person to whom you are legally married and from whom you are not legally separated; or
- 2 Your Domestic Partner. Domestic Partner means an individual with whom you have completed an affidavit of declaration of domestic partnership, submitted that affidavit to the Employer, and filed that affidavit for public record if required by law.

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POLICYHOLDER PROVISIONS

A. Premiums

The premium due on each Premium Due Date is the sum of the premiums for all persons then insured. Premium Rates are shown in **Coverage Features**.

B. Contributions From Members

The Policyholder determines the amount, if any, of each Member's contribution toward the cost of insurance.

C. Changes In Premium Rates

We may change Premium Rates whenever:

1. A change or clarification in law or governmental regulation affects the amount payable under the Group Policy. Any such change in Premium Rates will reflect only the change in our obligations.
2. Factors material to underwriting the risk we assumed under the Group Policy with respect to an Employer, including, but not limited to, number of persons insured, age, Predisability Earnings, gender, and occupational classification, changes by 25% or more.
3. The premium contribution arrangement for Members is changed or varies from that stated in the Group Policy when issued or last renewed.
4. We and the Policyholder or the Employer mutually agree to change Premium Rates.

Except as provided above, Premium Rates will not be changed during the Initial Rate Guarantee Period shown in **Coverage Features**. Thereafter, except as provided above, we may change Premium Rates upon 180 days advance written notice to the Policyholder. Any such change in Premium Rates may be made effective on any Premium Due Date, but no such change will be made more than once in any contract year. Contract years are successive 12 month periods computed from the end of the Initial Rate Guarantee Period.

D. Payment Of Premiums

All premiums are due on the Premium Due Dates shown in **Coverage Features**.

Each premium is payable on or before its Premium Due Date directly to us at our home office. The payment of each premium by the Policyholder as it becomes due will maintain the Group Policy in force until the next Premium Due Date.

E. Grace Period And Termination For Nonpayment

If a premium is not paid on or before its Premium Due Date, it may be paid during the following Grace Period of 60 days. The Group Policy or an Employer's coverage under the Group Policy will remain in force during the Grace Period.

If the premium is not paid during the Grace Period, the Group Policy will terminate automatically at the end of the Grace Period.

The Policyholder is liable for premium for coverage during the Grace Period. We may charge interest at the legal rate for any premium which is not paid during the Grace Period, beginning with the first day after the Grace Period.

F. Termination For Other Reasons

The Policyholder may terminate the Group Policy by giving us written notice. The effective date of termination will be the later of:

1. The date stated in the notice; and
2. The date we receive the notice.

We may terminate the Group Policy as follows:

1. On any Premium Due Date if the number of persons insured is less than the Minimum Participation shown in **Coverage Features**.
2. On any Premium Due Date if we determine that the Policyholder has failed to promptly furnish any necessary information requested by us, or has failed to perform any other obligations relating to the Group Policy.

The minimum advance notice of termination by us is 180 days.

G. Premium Adjustments

Premium adjustments involving a return of unearned premiums to the Policyholder will be limited to the 12 months just before the date we receive a request for premium adjustment.

H. Certificates

We will issue certificates to the Policyholder showing the coverage under the Group Policy. The Policyholder will distribute a certificate to each insured Member. If the terms of the certificate differ from the Group Policy, the terms stated in the Group Policy will govern.

I. Records And Reports

The Policyholder will furnish on our forms all information reasonably necessary to administer the Group Policy. We have the right at all reasonable times to inspect the payroll and other records of the Policyholder which relate to insurance under the Group Policy.

J. Agency And Release

Individuals selected by the Policyholder or by any Employer to secure coverage under the Group Policy or to perform their administrative function under it, represent and act on behalf of the person selecting them, and do not represent or act on behalf of Standard. The Policyholder, Employer and such individuals have no authority to alter, expand or extend our liability or to waive, modify or compromise any defense or right we may have under the Group Policy. The Policyholder and each Employer hereby release, hold harmless and indemnify Standard from any liability arising from or related to any negligence, error, omission, misrepresentation or dishonesty of any of them or their representatives, agents or employees.

K. Notice Of Suit

The Policyholder or Employer shall promptly give us written notice of any lawsuit or other legal proceedings arising under the Group Policy.

L. Entire Contract, Changes

The Group Policy and the applications of the Policyholder constitute the entire contract between the parties. A copy of the Policyholder's application is attached to the Group Policy when issued.

The Group Policy may be changed in whole or in part. No change in the Group Policy will be valid unless it is approved in writing by one of our executive officers and given to the Policyholder for attachment to the Group Policy. No agent has authority to change the Group Policy, or to waive any of their provisions.

M. Effect On Workers' Compensation, State Disability Insurance

The coverage provided under the Group Policy is not a substitute for coverage under a workers' compensation or state disability income benefit law and does not relieve the Employer of any obligation to provide such coverage.

N. Nonassessable Policy

This Group Policy, like all group insurance policies issued by us, is nonassessable.

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