



**ASSURANT**  
Employee  
Benefits

# Group Benefits

**Board of Education of Baltimore County**

**Long Term Disability**

Employees participating in the Sick Bank



**CERTIFICATE OF  
GROUP INSURANCE**

**Union Security Insurance Company** certifies that the insurance stated in this Certificate became effective on the Effective Date shown in your Schedule. This Certificate is subject to the provisions of the below numbered *policy* issued by Union Security Insurance Company to the *policyholder*.

Policyholder: Board of Education of Baltimore County

Group Policy Number: 4,029,738

Participation Number: 0

Type of Coverage:

**Group Long Term Disability Insurance**

This Certificate replaces any and all Certificates and Certificate Endorsements, if any, issued to you under the *policy*.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Peninger". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Executive Vice-President

## SCHEDULE

### Eligible Persons

To be eligible for insurance, a person must be a member of an Eligible Class. The person must also complete a period of continuous service (Service Requirement) with the *policyholder* (or any *associated company*).

**Eligible Class:** Each *full-time* permanent\*\* employee of the *policyholder* or an *associated company*,

- who is at *active work*,
  - who is over the age of 18,
  - who participates in the sick bank, and
  - who is working in the United States of America,
- except any (i) temporary or seasonal worker or (ii) employee participating in the TABCO plan.

\*\*Any *full-time* permanent employee who meets the eligibility requirements stated above, but works less than 12 months in a school year is eligible for coverage.

For the Eligible Classes above, the "Misstatements" provision will not apply. We will rely on the above information reported by the *policyholder*. We will be held harmless and completely discharged in acting on this information.

**Associated Companies:** None

**Service Requirement:** None

### Entry Date

Insurance will take effect on the later of (i) the date shown below, and (ii) the first of the month occurring on or after the day all the eligibility requirements are met.

### Effective Date of Insurance

July 1, 2006 (subject to Entry Date)

### Long Term Disability Insurance

**Schedule Amount:** The Schedule Amount is 66 2/3% of *monthly pay*, subject to a maximum Schedule Amount of \$10,000 per month.

Your annual enrollment period agreed upon by the *policyholder* and us, is typically each May 15 through July 15. Any new Schedule Amount resulting from a salary increase will be effective on the date of the change.

For each day of a period less than a full month, the Schedule Amount will be 1/30th of the amount determined above.

*Monthly pay* means your basic monthly rate of pay from the *policyholder* or an *associated company* and is determined on the day before the *period of disability* starts. Bonuses, overtime, and other compensation not considered by us as basic wages or salary are not included. If you are an hourly employee, *monthly pay* will be based on your hourly rate of pay, but not on more than 40 hours per week.

For *covered persons* who are paid on less than a 12-month basis, *monthly pay* means:

- for that part of the *period of disability* before the start of the next school year, the amount of *monthly pay* you would have been entitled to receive from the *policyholder* for that month if you had not become *disabled*, and
- for that part of a *period of disability* after the start of the next school year, 1/12th of the amount of annual pay you received or would have received from the *policyholder* for the school year in which the *period of disability* started.

**Minimum Benefit:** If you normally work at least 30 hours per week before your *period of disability* starts, the minimum monthly benefit will be \$100. For any part of a *period of disability* less than a full month, the Minimum

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## SCHEDULE (continued)

Benefit is 1/30th of \$100 for each day of *disability* after the *qualifying period* ends.

The Minimum Benefit will not be payable to a *covered person* paid on less than a 12-month basis during a summer recess:

- in which the person became *disabled*; or
- that follows the school year in which the person became *disabled*.

**Qualifying Period:** The greater of (i) 180 days, or (ii) the length of sick leave the *covered person* has been approved for by the *policyholder*, including personal sick leave and the sick leave bank.

**Maximum Interruption During Qualifying Period:** 30 days

This Maximum applies to all returns to *active work* during any one *qualifying period*.

**Maximum Benefit Period:** We will not pay benefits beyond the maximums stated below, based on the person's age on the day the *period of disability* started.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Maximum Benefit Period</u>
Before 60	the day before retirement age*
60 but before 65	the day before retirement age* or 36 months of <i>disability</i> ** , whichever is longer
65 but before 68	24 months of <i>disability</i> **
68 but before 70	18 months of <i>disability</i> **
70 but before 72	15 months of <i>disability</i> **
72 or more	12 months of <i>disability</i> **

\*"Retirement age" means the Social Security Normal Retirement Age as stated in the 1983 revision of the United States Social Security Act.

\*\*following the end of the *qualifying period*.

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## GENERAL DEFINITIONS

These terms have the meanings shown here when *italicized*. The pronouns "we", "us", "our", "you", and "your" are not *italicized*.

*Active work* means working *full-time* for the *policyholder* or an *associated company* at your usual place of business.

*Associated company* means any company shown in the *policy* which is owned by or affiliated with the *policyholder*.

*Contributory* means you pay part or all of the premium.

*Covered person* means an eligible employee or member of the *policyholder*, or an *associated company* who has become insured for a coverage.

*Doctor* means a person, other than you, acting within the scope of his or her license to practice medicine and perform surgery.

*Eligible class* means a class of persons eligible for insurance under the *policy*. This class is based on employment or membership in a group.

*Full-time* means having an equivalency of 0.500 or more, as provided by the *policyholder*.

For the "*Full-time*" definition above, the "Misstatements" provision will not apply. We will rely on the above information reported by the *policyholder*. We will be held harmless and completely discharged in acting on this information.

*Home office* includes our Home Office located in St. Paul, Minnesota, and our office in Kansas City, Missouri.

*Injury* means accidental bodily injury. It does not mean intentionally self-inflicted injury while sane or insane.

*No-fault motor vehicle coverage* means a motor vehicle plan that pays disability or medical benefits without considering who was at fault in any accident that occurs.

*Policy* means the group policy issued by us to the *policyholder* that describes the benefits for which you may be eligible.

*Policyholder* means the entity to whom the *policy* is issued.

*Proof of insurability* means evidence acceptable to us of the health of a person.

We, us, and our mean Union Security Insurance Company.

You and your mean an employee or member of the *policyholder* or an *associated company* who has met all the eligibility requirements for a coverage.

## DEFINITIONS FOR LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE

*Accommodation expense* means the costs your employer incurs to accommodate your *disability*, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act or similar legislation. It also means costs you incur for tools, equipment, furniture, computer software, or other items necessary for you to return to work. The amount of the *accommodation expense* will be limited to \$2,000 for each *period of disability*.

*Appropriate medical plan* means either an appropriate plan to arrive at a more accurate or more supported diagnosis of your medical condition(s), or an appropriate plan of treatment of your medical condition(s), or both.

*Disability* or *disabled* means that in a particular month, you satisfy either the Occupation Test or the Earnings Test, as described below. You may satisfy both the Occupation Test and Earnings Test, but you need only satisfy one Test to be considered *disabled*.

### Occupation Test

- During the first 24 months of a *period of disability* (following the *qualifying period*), an *injury*, sickness, or pregnancy requires that you be under the *regular care and attendance* of a *doctor*, and prevents you from performing at least one of the *material duties* of your regular occupation; and
- after 24 months of *disability*, an *injury*, sickness, or pregnancy prevents you from performing at least one of the *material duties* of each *gainful occupation* for which your education, training, and experience qualifies you.

### Earnings Test

You may be considered *disabled* in any month in which you are actually working, if an *injury*, sickness, or pregnancy, whether past or present, prevents you from earning more than 80% of your *monthly pay* in that month in any occupation for which your education, training or experience qualifies you. On each anniversary of the date your *disability* started, we will increase by 7.5% the *monthly pay* figure we use to decide whether you are *disabled* under this test. This increase will not affect the amount of benefit we pay.

If your actual earnings during any month are more than 80% of your *monthly pay*, you will not be considered *disabled* under the Earnings Test during that month. Salary, wages, partnership or proprietorship draw, commissions, bonuses, or similar pay, and any other income you receive or are entitled to receive will be included. However, sick pay and salary continuance for periods not at work will not be included. Any lump sum payment will be pro-rated, based on the time over which it accrued or the period for which it was paid.

You may still be considered *disabled* according to the Occupation Test, without regard to your level of current earnings, if you meet the requirements of that Test.

If you meet the Earnings Test, *full-time* work in which you are performing all of the *material duties* of your regular or some other occupation will not interrupt the *qualifying period* or the *period of disability*. If you meet the Occupation Test only, work on less than a *full-time* basis or work in which you are not doing all of the *material duties* of your regular occupation, will not interrupt the *qualifying period* or the *period of disability*.

*Education expense* means, in your *rehabilitation plan*, the reasonable costs you incur which are required for your education or training to return to work. These costs may include the cost of tuition, books, computers, and other equipment. In your spouse's *rehabilitation plan*, *education expense* means the reasonable costs your spouse incurs which are required for your spouse's education or training. These costs may include the cost of tuition, books, computers, and other equipment.

*Family care expense* means the amount you spend for care of a family member in order for you to work or be retrained under a *rehabilitation plan*. To qualify:

## DEFINITIONS FOR LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE (continued)

- your family member must be under age 13, or be physically or mentally incapable of caring for him or herself;
- your family member must be dependent on you for support and maintenance; and
- the person who cares for your family member cannot be a relative.

Not more than \$350 per family member per month will be included. A pro-rated amount will apply to any period shorter than a month.

*Gainful occupation* means an occupation in which you could reasonably be expected to earn at least as much as your Schedule Amount.

*Government plan* means the United States Social Security Act, the Railroad Retirement Act, the Canadian Pension Plan, similar plans provided under the laws of other nations, and any plan provided under the laws of a state, province, or other political subdivision. It also includes any public employee retirement plan or any teachers' employment retirement plan, or any plan provided as an alternative to any of the above acts or plans. It does not include any Workers' Compensation Act or similar law, or the Maritime Doctrine of Maintenance, Wages, or Cure.

*Hospital* means a facility supervised by 1 or more *doctors* and operated under state and local laws. It must have 24-hour nursing service by registered graduate nurses. It may specialize in treating alcoholism, drug addiction, chemical dependency, or mental disease, but it cannot be a rest home, convalescent home, or a home for the aged.

*Hospital confined* and *hospital confinement* mean staying in a *hospital* for 24 hours a day.

*Long term disability insurance* means the group long term disability insurance under the *policy* issued by us to the *policyholder*.

*Material duties* means the sets of tasks or skills required generally by employers from those engaged in a particular occupation. One *material duty* of your regular occupation is the ability to work for an employer on a *full-time* basis as defined in the *policy*.

*Medical expense* means the reasonable costs you incur for medical treatment, physical therapy, and adaptive equipment necessary for your vocational rehabilitation, in excess of amounts paid or payable by third parties and any amounts under a policy of major medical coverage.

*Mental illness* means neurosis, psychoneurosis, psychopathy, psychosis, depression, eating and sleeping disorders, or mental or emotional diseases or disorders of any kind including those caused by chemical imbalance.

*Moving expense* means the costs you incur to move more than 35 miles so that you can attend school or accept gainful work. In a spouse's *rehabilitation plan*, the costs are those incurred by the family so that the spouse can attend school or accept gainful work.

*Nationally recognized authorities* means the American Medical Association (AMA), the AMA Board of Medical Specialties, the American College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control, the Office of Technology Assessment, the National Institutes of Health, the Health Care Finance Administration, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, the Department of Health and Human Services, the National Cancer Institute, the American Psychiatric Association, and any additional organizations we choose which attain similar status.

*Other plan* means any group disability plan sponsored by your employer, the *policyholder*, or an *associated company*, except the one provided under the *policy*.

*Period of disability* means the time that begins on the day you become *disabled* and ends on the day before you return to *active work*. If you satisfy the *qualifying period* and then:

## DEFINITIONS FOR LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE (continued)

- return to *active work*;
- become *disabled* again; and
- remain insured under the *policy*;

the same *period of disability* may continue. Your return to *active work* must be for less than:

- 6 months, if the later *disability* results from the same cause, or a related one; or
- 1 day, if the later *disability* results from a different cause.

If your return to *active work* meets either of the above conditions, you do not have to satisfy the *qualifying period* again. The Maximum Benefit Period will continue on the day you become *disabled* again.

If you return to *active work* for more than the time shown above, and then become *disabled* again, you will start a new *period of disability*. You must satisfy the *qualifying period* again and the Maximum Benefit Period will start over.

Any day which is not a scheduled working day for a *covered person* will be considered a day of *active work* if the person would have been able to perform his or her normal duties on that day.

*Qualifying period* means the length of time during a *period of disability* that you must be *disabled* before benefits are payable. If you satisfy the Earnings Test during the entire *qualifying period*, the Maximum Interruption During Qualifying Period in the Schedule will not apply. If application of the Occupation Test and the Maximum Interruption During Qualifying Period would result in an earlier entitlement to benefits, we will apply those provisions instead of the Earnings Test. In satisfying the Occupation Test, if you:

- return to *active work* during the *qualifying period* for no more than the maximum number of days shown in the Schedule;
- remain insured under the *policy*; and
- become *disabled* again for the same cause or one related to it;

you will not have to satisfy again the part of the *qualifying period* that you have already fulfilled.

In any case, you cannot satisfy any part of the *qualifying period* by any *period of disability* that results from a cause for which we do not pay benefits.

Any days of *active work* (including weekends in between) will not count in satisfying the *qualifying period*.

*Quality of care services* means services which are designed to assist you in reaching and maintaining the functional capacity to work in a *gainful occupation* with reasonable continuity.

*Regular care and attendance* means care at a frequency medically appropriate for your condition. If your condition does not require frequent visits to your *doctor*, neither will we.

*Rehabilitation plan* means a written statement, developed by us, which describes:

- the vocational rehabilitation goals for you;
- our responsibilities, your responsibilities, and the responsibilities of any other parties to the plan; and
- the timing of the implementation and expected completion of the plan, to the extent that it can be established, assuming your full cooperation.

The *rehabilitation plan* will be designed to enable you to return to work in a *gainful occupation*.

## DEFINITIONS FOR LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE (continued)

A spouse's *rehabilitation plan* means a written agreement between you, your spouse, and us in which, at your request, we agree to provide, arrange or authorize appropriate vocational or physical rehabilitation services.

*Retirement plan* means a formal or informal retirement plan, whether or not under an insurance or annuity contract. It does not include:

- a plan you pay for entirely;
- a qualified profit-sharing plan;
- a thrift plan;
- an individual retirement account (IRA);
- a tax sheltered annuity (TSA);
- a stock ownership plan;
- a *government plan*; or
- a plan that qualifies under Internal Revenue Service Code 401(k).

*Social security plan* means:

- the United States Social Security Act;
- the Railroad Retirement Act;
- the Canadian Pension Plan; or
- any similar plan provided under the laws of any other nation.

It also means any public employee retirement plan, or teachers' employment retirement plan provided as an alternative to rather than a supplement for such plans.

*SSA representatives* are persons or organizations which specialize in assisting people to obtain disability benefits under the United States Social Security Act. If you appoint an *SSA representative*, and they agree you are a good candidate, they will help you pursue your Social Security claim.

*Special conditions* means:

- *mental illness* except
  - schizophrenia;
  - dementia;
  - organic brain syndromes;
  - delirium;
  - amnesia syndromes; or
  - organic delusional or hallucinogenic syndromes.
- musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders of the neck and back including any disease or disorder of the cervical, thoracic and lumbosacral back and its surrounding soft tissue including sprains and strains of joints and adjacent muscles, except
  - arthritis;

## DEFINITIONS FOR LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE (continued)

- ruptured intervertebral discs;
  - scoliosis;
  - spinal fractures;
  - osteopathies;
  - spinal tumors, malignancy, or vascular malformations;
  - radiculopathies, documented by electromyogram;
  - spondylolisthesis, grade II or higher;
  - myelopathies and myelitis;
  - demyelinating diseases; or
  - traumatic spinal cord necrosis.
- chronic fatigue syndrome;
  - environmental allergic illness; or
  - alcohol, drug or chemical abuse, dependency or addiction and resulting *mental illness*.

## ELIGIBILITY AND TERMINATION PROVISIONS

### Exception to Effective Date

If you are not at *active work* on the day you would otherwise become insured, your insurance will not take effect until you return to *active work*. If the day your coverage would normally take effect is not a regular work day for you, your coverage will take effect on that day if you are able to do your regular job.

### When Your Insurance Ends

Your insurance will end on the date:

- the *policy* ends;
- the *policy* is changed to end the insurance for your *eligible class*;
- you are no longer in an *eligible class*;
- you stop *active work*; or
- a required contribution was not paid.

## LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE

### Insurance Provided

If you become *disabled* while insured under the *policy*, we will pay long term disability benefits if you satisfy the *qualifying period*. We will continue to pay benefits during your *disability*, but not beyond the Maximum Benefit Period. Any benefits are subject to the provisions of the *policy*.

### Amount of Benefit

The amount of benefit we will pay is the Schedule Amount minus the Offset Amount. However, if the Schedule Amount plus the amount of benefits and payments from Other Sources is more than 70% of your *monthly pay*, your benefit will be further reduced by the excess.

### Proof of Insurability

If you are eligible for more than the Maximum Amount Without Proof of Insurability shown in the Schedule, you will be limited to that Maximum until you give us *proof of insurability*. If the proof is accepted, the additional amount of insurance will take effect on the date we approve your *proof of insurability*. Once insured for more than that Maximum, future increases will also require *proof of insurability*.

If both *noncontributory* and *contributory* insurance are provided under the *policy*, your *contributory* amount will be affected by this provision before your *noncontributory* amount.

### Offset Amount

If you are eligible for any of the following benefits, the total of all monthly benefits plus the pro-rated amount of any lump sum payments will be subtracted from the Schedule Amount:

- group disability benefits from any *other plan*.
- disability benefits from the United States Social Security Act, including dependent benefits, payable because of your *injury*, sickness, or pregnancy.
- disability benefits from a *government plan*, except Social Security.
- any benefits (except medical or death benefits) or any amount received in a settlement or compromise of your rights, under:
  - any Workers' Compensation Act (or a similar law); or
  - the Maritime Doctrine of Maintenance, Wages or Cure.
- retirement benefits, disability benefits, or similar benefits (not including your contributions) from a *retirement plan* sponsored by your employer, the *policyholder*, or an *associated company*.

Early retirement benefits from a *retirement plan* will be included only if:

  - you choose to receive them; or
  - they would not reduce the normal retirement benefit under the *retirement plan* sponsored by your employer.
- retirement benefits from a *government plan*.

### Other Sources

- If you are eligible to receive any salary, wages, partnership or proprietorship draw, commissions, or similar pay from any work you do, we will not consider such income for the 24 consecutive months starting on the day you become entitled to it, as long as the sum of:

## LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE (continued)

- the income described above,
- the Schedule Amount, and
- benefits from any source described in Other Sources,

is not more than 100% of your *monthly pay*. If the sum is more than 100% of your *monthly pay*, we will subtract the amount over 100% from the Schedule Amount when determining your benefit under the *policy*.

After 24 months, we will consider 70% of the amount determined after reducing any salary, wages, partnership or proprietorship draw, commissions or similar pay you earn from any work you do, by any *family care expense*.

- any group disability insurance contract, except one sponsored by your employer, the *policyholder*, or an *associated company*.
- personal injury protection benefits which applicable state or federal law requires to be afforded without regard to fault under motor vehicle insurance policies.

### Estimate of Benefits

If you:

- are eligible for benefits from any of the above sources; or
- would be paid such benefits if you had applied for them or had applied for them on time;

we will figure your monthly benefit as though you are receiving these other benefits, even if you are not.

We will:

- estimate the amount of your Social Security benefit; and
- offset that amount as described above;

until we receive notice of a denial of such benefits at the first level of appeal after an initial denial.

### Social Security Assistance

Your claim for Social Security disability benefits may be denied up to the reconsideration level. If it is, we will have it reviewed by an *SSA representative*, at your request.

If we consider you a good candidate, we will start this process. We will give you a list of *SSA representatives*. If you choose from this list, we will pay their fee.

Whether you use our help or not, we will reimburse you for the fee charged you by your *SSA representative*. You must become entitled to Social Security disability benefits while eligible for benefits under our *policy*. Our reimbursement is limited to the fee approved by the Social Security Administration. We may reduce any overpayment calculated in our claim.

### Adjustment of Benefits

If we find that the amount of benefits from any source should be different from the amount we used to figure your monthly benefit, we will adjust it.

If we paid you less than we should have, we will pay you the difference.

If we paid you more than we should have, you must pay us the difference. We may reduce your benefit or stop paying benefits until the overpayment is recovered. If we reduce your benefit, or stop paying benefits, the Minimum Benefit will not be payable.

## LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE (continued)

### Lump Sum Benefit

If you receive benefits from any source in a lump sum, we will pro-rate it over the time in which it accrued, based on information from the source of the payment. If we do not receive all the information we need, we will pro-rate the payment according to its nature and purpose.

### Benefit Freeze

We will not reduce your monthly benefit further if the amount of benefits from any source, other than the *policy*, changes because of a cost of living increase that occurs automatically or by law after you satisfy the *qualifying period*.

### Managed Rehabilitation Benefit

#### Rehabilitation Plan for You

You may be eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation services. In order to be eligible for such services you must have the functional capability to successfully complete a *rehabilitation plan*.

Vocational rehabilitation services will include the preparation of a *rehabilitation plan* for you, with input from you and your *doctor*. We, you, your *doctor*, or your employer can begin the process of developing a *rehabilitation plan*. Vocational rehabilitation services may include, at our sole discretion, payment of your *medical expense, education expense, moving expense, accommodation expense, or family care expense*.

While you are cooperating in pursuing your *rehabilitation plan*, we will increase your Schedule Amount by 5% of your *monthly pay* or \$1,000, whichever is less. During this period, your Schedule Amount may exceed the maximum Schedule Amount in the Schedule.

If you return to work as part of a *rehabilitation plan* while you are *disabled*, we will pay your employer:

- 50% of your salary, wages, partnership or proprietorship draw, commissions, or similar pay; or
- the Schedule Amount, if less;

for the first month after you return to work, or your remaining *period of disability*, if less.

If your *disability* ends while you are cooperating in pursuing your *rehabilitation plan*, and you are not able to find gainful work, we will:

- pay you the amount of benefit, other than rehabilitation benefits, that would have been payable to you if you had remained *disabled* until:
  - 3 months after your *disability* ends; or
  - the date you are able to find gainful work, if earlier; and
- provide or pay for reasonable job placement services for a period of up to 3 months after your *disability* ends.

Failure to cooperate in pursuing your *rehabilitation plan*, without good cause, after the first 12 months of a *period of disability*, will result in the reduction of your *long term disability insurance* benefits. Reduction of benefits will be based on your projected income if you had met the goals of the *rehabilitation plan*. Benefits will be figured as though you were:

- actually working in the occupation contemplated in the *rehabilitation plan*; and
- earning the projected income amount.

## LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE (continued)

If such work at the projected income amount would have resulted in the end of your *long term disability insurance* benefits, your benefits will end as of the expected completion of the *rehabilitation plan*. "Good cause" means a medical or financial reason preventing implementation of the *rehabilitation plan*.

We will make the final determination of any vocational rehabilitation services provided, of your eligibility for participation, and of any continued benefit payments.

### Rehabilitation Plan for Your Spouse

You and your spouse may ask to participate in a *rehabilitation plan* for your spouse while you are *disabled* if:

- you are receiving disability benefits from a *social security plan*; and
- your spouse's earnings in the six calendar months prior to your *disability* averaged less than 60% of your *monthly pay*.

We have the sole discretion to approve or deny your request. The terms and conditions of the *rehabilitation plan* must be mutually agreed by you, your spouse, and us.

The *rehabilitation plan* for your spouse may include, at our discretion, payment of your spouse's *education expense*, reasonable job placement expenses, and the family's *moving expense*, if any. It may also include *family care expense* incurred by your spouse, necessary in order for your spouse to be retrained under the *rehabilitation plan*.

We will reduce the amount of your benefit we pay you by 50% of any salary, wages, partnership or proprietorship draw, commissions, or similar pay from any work your spouse does as a result of participating in your spouse's *rehabilitation plan*. If your spouse is working when your spouse's *rehabilitation plan* begins, we will only reduce your benefit by 50% of the increase in income that results from your spouse's participation in your spouse's *rehabilitation plan*.

### Quality of Care Benefit

You may be eligible for *quality of care services*, while you are *disabled*. *Quality of care services* will be provided at our sole discretion. In providing *quality of care services*, we will help develop an *appropriate medical plan* for you. As part of the *appropriate medical plan*, we may:

- arrange any necessary second medical opinions or specialty consultations;
- recommend referral to therapeutic programs including, but not limited to, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, exercise programs, mental health programs, pain clinic programs, and other medical rehabilitation programs;
- identify durable medical equipment which might improve your ability to function;
- provide published medical materials for you or your *doctor*, and refer you to support groups for people with similar impairments;
- negotiate discounts for your benefit with providers of medical services, equipment, or prescription drugs;
- help you identify third parties who may pay for needed therapeutic programs, equipment, or services; or
- pay for reasonable costs you incur to participate in the plan, in excess of amounts paid or payable by third parties (including any amounts receivable under a policy of medical coverage). We may pay for such costs if you would not otherwise be able to undertake the necessary therapeutic program or receive the services. We will consider, among other things, the likelihood that such programs or services will result in an overall lowering of benefits payable to you under the *policy*.

## LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE (continued)

If we find that an *appropriate medical plan* for your condition has not yet been developed for you, we will develop and endorse such a plan, with input from you and your *doctor*. If we find that your *doctor* has devised an *appropriate medical plan* for you, but you have not followed that plan consistently, we will endorse that plan. In making our decision to endorse a plan, we will rely on the currently published guidelines with respect to your medical condition from *nationally recognized authorities*. If more than one *appropriate medical plan* exists, you and your *doctor* may choose the one most appropriate for you.

*Long term disability insurance* benefits and your coverage under the *policy* will both end, without regard for any other provisions of the *policy*, if:

- there is unreasonable failure on your part to undergo a scheduled examination for a second medical opinion or specialty consultation; or
- once we have endorsed an *appropriate medical plan* for you, you fail to comply with this plan without good cause. "Good cause" means a medical reason preventing implementation of the plan.

We will make the final determination of any *quality of care services* provided, of your eligibility for participation, and of any continued benefit payments.

### Exclusions

We will not pay benefits for any time you are confined to any facility because you were convicted of a crime or public offense.

We will not pay benefits for any *disability* caused by:

- war or any act of war, whether declared or not;
- intentionally self-inflicted injury, while sane or insane; or
- your taking part in or the result of your taking part in committing an assault or felony.

### Special Conditions

We pay only a limited benefit for *periods of disability* for *special conditions*. The Maximum Benefit Period for all such *periods of disability* is 24 months. This is not a separate maximum for each such condition, or for each *period of disability*, but a combined maximum for all *periods of disability* and for all of these conditions.

Benefits may be payable for more than 24 months, but not beyond the Maximum Benefit Period in the Schedule, if you

- are *hospital confined* at the end of the 24-month period above, and
- remain *disabled*.

Benefits will be payable for the length of your confinement and for up to 60 days following the end of your confinement.

If you are *hospital confined* again during the 60-day period for at least 10 consecutive days, benefits will be payable for the length of the second confinement and for up to 60 days following the end of the second confinement.

### Pre-existing Conditions

We will not pay benefits for any *disability* caused by a pre-existing condition (defined below) unless *disability* starts after the earlier of:

- 3 consecutive months, ending on or after the day you became insured under the *long term disability insurance policy*, during which you do not consult with or receive advice from a licensed

## LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE (continued)

medical or dental practitioner or receive medical or dental care, treatment or services, including taking drugs, medicine, insulin or similar substances, for that condition; or

- 12 consecutive months during which you are continuously insured under the *long term disability insurance policy*.

A "pre-existing condition" means an *injury*, sickness, or pregnancy or any related *injury*, sickness, or pregnancy for which you:

- consulted with or received advice from a licensed medical or dental practitioner, or
- received medical or dental care, treatment or services, including taking drugs, medicine, insulin, or similar substances

during the 3 months that end on the day before you became insured under the *long term disability insurance policy*.

A pre-existing condition does not include a condition admitted in the application.

### Extended Benefit

If you are *disabled* on the day your *long term disability insurance* ends, and if you remain *disabled* long enough to qualify, we will pay benefits according to the *policy*.

### Conversion Privilege

If your *long term disability insurance* ends, you may be able to convert to coverage provided under a conversion policy. You must have been insured under the *policy* for at least a year. This includes time insured under any similar group policy which the *policy* replaces.

Within 31 days after your insurance ends, you must:

- apply for coverage under the conversion policy; and
- pay the first premium.

*Proof of insurability* is not required.

You cannot convert if your *long term disability insurance* ends because:

- the *policy* ends;
- the *policy* is changed to end your coverage;
- you are *disabled*;
- a required premium is not paid; or
- you retire from your employer, the *policyholder*, or an *associated company*.

The benefits of the conversion policy will be those we offer for conversion at the time you apply. The premium will be based on rates in effect for conversion policies at that time. The effective date of coverage will be the day after your insurance under the *policy* ends.

### Survivor Benefit

If you die while entitled to benefits under the *policy*, we will pay a survivor benefit. We must receive proof of your death and proof that the person claiming the benefit is entitled to it. We will pay the survivor benefit only to your lawful spouse, if living, otherwise, to your children. Children must be unmarried, and under age 21 or, if a full-time student, age 25. "Children" include step-children or foster children that depended on you for support and maintenance. Adopted children are also included.

## LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE (continued)

The monthly survivor benefit equals the monthly benefit payable under the *policy* for your last full calendar month of *disability*. If no benefit was paid for a full calendar month, a survivor benefit for a full month will be determined.

The survivor benefit is payable on:

- the first of the month after your death; and
- the first of each of the next 2 months.

If no one entitled to the survivor benefit is living on the first of any month after your death, we will pay a survivor benefit to your estate.

Payment of the survivor benefit is subject to the other provisions of the *policy*.

## CLAIM PROVISIONS

### Payment of Benefits

We will pay benefits at the end of each month (or shorter period) for which we are liable, after we receive the required proof. If any amount is unpaid when *disability* ends, we will pay it when we receive the required proof.

### To Whom Payable

We will pay all benefits to you, if you are legally competent. If you are legally incompetent, we will pay benefits to the guardian of your estate. If any amount remains unpaid when you die, we will pay your estate.

### Authority

We have the sole discretionary authority to determine eligibility for participation or benefits and to interpret the terms of the Policy.

### Filing a Claim

1. You must send us notice of the claim. We must have written notice of any insured loss within 30 days after it occurs, or as soon as reasonably possible. You can send the notice to our *home office*, to one of our regional group claims offices, or to one of our agents. We need enough information to identify you as a *covered person*.
2. Within 15 days after the date of your notice, we will send you certain claim forms. The forms must be completed and sent to our *home office* or to one of our regional group claims offices. If you do not receive the claim forms within 15 days, we will accept a written description of the exact nature and extent of the loss.
3. The time limit for filing a claim is 90 days after the end of the first month (or shorter period) for which we are liable.
4. To decide our liability, we may require:
  - proof of benefits from other sources, and
  - proof that you have applied for all benefits from other sources, and that you have furnished any proof required to get them.

You must furnish whatever items we decide are necessary as proof of loss or to decide our liability. You must authorize the sources of medical and dental services to release your medical information. If you do not furnish any required information or authorize its release, we will not pay benefits.

If it is not reasonably possible to give proof on time, we will not deny or reduce your claim if you give us proof as soon as reasonably possible.

### Physical Exam

We may ask you to be examined as often as we require at any time we choose. We will pay for any exam we require.

### Limit on Legal Action

No action at law or in equity may be brought against the *policy* until at least 60 days after you file proof of loss. No action can be brought after 3 years from the date of loss.

### Incontestability

The validity of the *policy* cannot be contested after it has been in force for 2 years, except if premiums are not paid.

### CLAIM PROVISIONS (continued)

Any statement made by the *policyholder* or a *covered person* will be considered a representation. It is not considered a warranty or guarantee. A statement will not be used in a dispute unless it is written and signed, and a copy is given to the *covered person* or the *beneficiary*.

No statement, except fraudulent misstatement, made by a *covered person* about insurability will be used to deny a claim for a loss incurred or *disability* starting after coverage has been in effect for 2 years.

No claim for loss starting 2 or more years after the *covered person's* effective date may be reduced or denied because a disease or physical condition existed before the person's effective date, unless the condition was specifically excluded by a provision in effect on the date of loss.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Entire Contract

The *policy* and the *policyholder's* application attached to it are the entire contract. Any statement made by you or the *policyholder* is considered a representation. It is not considered a warranty or guarantee. A statement will not be used in a dispute unless it is written and signed, and a copy is given to you.

### Errors

An error in keeping records will not cancel insurance that should continue nor continue insurance that should end. We will adjust the premium, if necessary, but not beyond 3 years before the date the error was found. If the premium was overpaid, we will refund the difference. If the premium was underpaid, the difference must be paid to us.

### Misstatements

If any information about a person is misstated, the facts will determine whether insurance is in effect and in what amount. We will equitably adjust the premium.

### Individual Certificates

We will send certificates to the *policyholder* to give to each *covered person*. The certificate will state the insurance to which the person is entitled. It does not change the provisions of the *policy*.

### Workers' Compensation

The *policy* is not in place of, and does not affect any state's requirements for coverage by Workers' Compensation insurance.

### Agency

Neither the *policyholder*, any employer, any *associated company*, nor any administrator appointed by the foregoing is our agent. We are not liable for any of their acts or omissions.

## ENDORSEMENTS AND AMENDMENTS

Effective on or after its effective date, the *certificate* is changed as follows:

The “When a Person’s Insurance Ends” provision is changed for a *covered person* who renews his or her contract with the *policyholder* for the next school year. The *policyholder* may consider insurance to continue even though the person stops *active work* during the summer recess.





**ASSURANT**

Employee  
Benefits

2323 Grand Boulevard  
Kansas City, MO 64108

Policy 4,029,738  
Participant 0  
Booklet 1  
8/23/2006