

## Group Disability Income Insurance

Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company of America  
HOME OFFICE: 2999 North 44th Street, Suite 250, Phoenix, Arizona 85018  
(866) 274-9887

(A stock insurance company)

### CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

**Policyholder:** Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers & Trainmen Local 106 and 537

**Policy Number:** 015344

**Policy Effective Date:** February 01, 2023

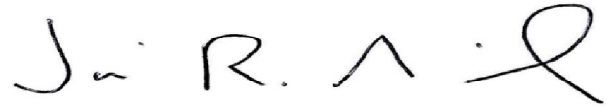
**Policy Anniversary Date:** February 1 of each year, beginning in 2024

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

Signed for the Company



Mark Pearson, Chairman of the Board and Chief  
Executive Officer



Jose Ramon Gonzalez,  
Senior Executive Vice President, Secretary and General  
Counsel

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#### READ YOUR CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY

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

#### *A note on capitalization in this certificate:*

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

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# FRAUD NOTICES

Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company of America  
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## Fraud Warnings

**Alabama:** Any person who knowingly presents a false or fraudulent claim for payment of a loss or benefit or who knowingly presents false information in an application for insurance is guilty of crime and may be subject to restitution fines or confinement in prison, or any combination thereof.

**Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and West Virginia:** Any person who knowingly presents a false or fraudulent claim for payment of a loss or benefit or knowingly presents false information in an application for insurance is guilty of a crime and may be subject to fines and confinement in prison.

**California:** Any person who knowingly presents false or fraudulent claim for the payment of a loss is guilty of a crime and may be subject to fines and confinement in state prison.

**Colorado:** It is unlawful to knowingly provide false, incomplete, or misleading facts or information to an insurance company for the purpose of defrauding or attempting to defraud the company. Penalties may include imprisonment, fines, denial of insurance and civil damages. Any insurance company or agent of an insurance company who knowingly provides false, incomplete, or misleading facts or information to a policyholder or claimant for the purpose of defrauding or attempting to defraud the policyholder or claimant with regard to a settlement or award payable from insurance proceeds shall be reported to the Colorado division of insurance within the department of regulatory agencies.

**District of Columbia:** WARNING: It is a crime to provide false or misleading information to an insurer for the purpose of defrauding the insurer or any other person. Penalties include imprisonment and/or fines. In addition, an insurer may deny insurance benefits, if false information materially related to a claim was provided by the applicant.

**Maine, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington:** WARNING: It is a crime to knowingly provide false, incomplete, or misleading information to an insurance company for the purpose of defrauding the company. Penalties may include imprisonment, fines or a denial of insurance benefits.

**Florida:** Any person who knowingly and with an intent to injure, defraud, or deceive any insurer files a statement of claim or an application containing any false, incomplete, or misleading information is guilty of a felony of the third degree.

**Kentucky:** Any person who knowingly and with intent to defraud any insurance company or other person files an application for insurance containing any materially false information or conceals, for the purpose of misleading information concerning any fact material thereto commits a fraudulent insurance act, which is a crime.

**Maryland:** Any person who knowingly or willfully presents a false or fraudulent claim for payment of a loss or benefit or knowingly or willfully presents false information in an application for insurance is guilty of a crime and may be subject to fines and confinement in prison.

**New Jersey:** Any person who includes any false or misleading information on an application for an insurance policy is subject to criminal and civil penalties.

**New York:** Any person who knowingly and with intent to defraud any insurance company or other person files an application for insurance or statement of claim containing any materially false information, or conceals for the purpose of misleading, information concerning any fact material thereto, commits a fraudulent insurance act, which is a crime, and shall also be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars and the stated value of the claim for each such violation.

## FRAUD NOTICES\_CONTINUED

**Ohio:** Any person who, with intent to defraud or knowing that he/she is facilitating a fraud against an insurer, submits an application or files a claim containing a false or deceptive statement is guilty of insurance fraud.

**Oklahoma:** Any person who knowingly, and with intent to injure, defraud or deceive any insurer, files a statement of claim containing any false, incomplete or misleading information is guilty of a felony.

**Oregon:** Any person who, with intent to defraud or knowing that he/she is facilitating a fraud against an insurer, submits an application or files a claim containing a false or deceptive statement that is material to the interests of an insurer may be guilty of insurance fraud.

**Pennsylvania:** Any person who knowingly and with the intent to defraud any insurance company or other person files an application for insurance or a statement of claim containing any materially false information, or conceals for the purpose of misleading, information concerning any fact material thereto, commits a fraudulent insurance act, which is a crime, and subjects such person to criminal and civil penalties.

**Puerto Rico:** Any person who knowingly and with the intention of defrauding presents false information in an insurance application, or presents, helps, or causes the presentation of a fraudulent claim for the payment of a loss or any other benefit, or presents more than one claim for the same damage or loss, shall incur a felony and, upon conviction, shall be sanctioned for each violation with the penalty of a fine of not less than five thousand (5,000) dollars and not more than ten thousand (10,000) dollars, or a fixed term of imprisonment for three (3) years, or both penalties. Should aggravating circumstances are present, the penalty thus established may be increased to a maximum of five (5) years, if extenuating circumstances are present, it may be reduced to a minimum of two (2) years.

**All Other States:** Any person who, with intent to defraud or knowing that he/she is facilitating a fraud against an insurer, submits an application or files a claim containing a false or deceptive statement may be guilty of insurance fraud.

## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

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

**The benefits described herein are those in effect as of February 01, 2023.**

**Cost of Coverage:**

You must contribute to the cost of the coverage.

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

Class 1 All Union Members in good standing with the Policyholder working at least 30 hours weekly, who are citizens or legal residents of the United States, its territories and protectorates; excluding temporary, leased or seasonal employees.

**Annual Enrollment Period:**

Annually as defined by your Employer.

**Eligibility Waiting Period for Coverage:**

If You are working for the Policyholder on the effective date - the waiting period is the first of the month following 30 continuous day(s).

If You are working for the Policyholder after the effective date - the waiting period is the first of the month following 30 continuous day(s).

The time period(s) referenced above are continuous.

The Eligibility Waiting Period for Coverage will be reduced by the period of time You were an Active Member with the Employer immediately preceding the Policy effective date.

**Benefits Commence on the latest of:**

- 1) for Disability caused by Injury: on the 31<sup>th</sup> consecutive day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working;
- 2) for Disability caused by Sickness: on the 31<sup>th</sup> consecutive day of Total Disability or Disabled and Working.

**Weekly Benefit:** The lesser of:

- 1) 60% of Your Pre-disability Earnings; or
- 2) \$1,200;

reduced by Other Income Benefits.

**Minimum Weekly Benefit:**

\$25

**Maximum Duration of Benefits Payable:**

- 1) 104 weeks if caused by Injury; or
- 2) 104 weeks if caused by Sickness

**Additional Benefits:**

**Disabled and Working Benefit**

See Benefit

**Rehabilitative Employment Benefit**

See Benefit

## DEFINITIONS

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

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

We will consider You Actively at Work on a day that is not a scheduled work day only if You were Actively at Work on the preceding scheduled work day.

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

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

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

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

However, if the other employment is a job You held at the time You became Disabled in addition to Your job with Your Employer, then during any period that You are entitled to benefits for being Disabled from Your Occupation, only the portion of Your earnings from other employment that exceeds Your average earnings from such other employment over the 12 month period just before You became Disabled will count as Current Weekly Earnings.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Employer** means the Policyholder.

**Essential Duty** means a duty that, in Our determination:

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

Your ability to work the number of hours in Your regularly scheduled workweek is an Essential Duty. However, working more than 50 hours per week is not an Essential Duty.

**Injury** means bodily injury resulting:

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

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

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

## DEFINITIONS\_CONTINUED

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

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

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

- 1) temporary, permanent disability, or impairment benefits under, the Jones Act, occupational disease law, similar law or substitutes or exchanges for such benefits;
- 2) governmental law or program that provides disability or unemployment benefits as a result of Your job with Your Employer;
- 3) any income You received from Your Employer as a result of any accumulated sick time or salary continuation, which causes the Weekly Benefit, plus Other Income Benefits to exceed 100% of Your Pre-disability Earnings. The amount in excess of 100% of Your Pre-disability Earnings will be used to reduce the Weekly Benefit;
- 4) individual insurance policy where the premium is wholly or partially paid by the Employer;
- 5) mandatory "no-fault" automobile insurance plan;
- 6) disability benefits under:
  - a) the United States Social Security Act or alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government;
  - b) the Railroad Retirement Act;
  - c) the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Old Age Security Act, the Quebec Pension Plan or any provincial pension or disability plan; or
  - d) similar plan or act;that You, Your spouse and/or children, are eligible to receive because of Your Disability; or
- 7) disability benefit from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other foreign or domestic governmental agency:
  - a) that begins after You become Disabled; or
  - b) that You were receiving before becoming Disabled, but only as to the amount of any increase in the benefit attributed to Your Disability.

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

- 1) disability benefit under Your Employer's Retirement Plan;
- 2) temporary, permanent disability or impairment benefits under a Workers' Compensation Law, the Jones Act, occupational disease law, similar law or substitutes or exchanges for such benefits;
- 3) portion of a judgment or settlement, minus associated costs, of a claim or lawsuit that represents or compensates for Your loss of earnings; or
- 4) retirement benefit from a Retirement Plan that is wholly or partially funded by Employer contributions, unless:
  - a) You were receiving it prior to becoming Disabled; or
  - b) You immediately transfer the payment to another plan qualified by the United States Internal Revenue Service for the funding of a future retirement;(Other Income Benefits will not include the portion, if any, of such retirement benefit that was funded by Your after-tax contributions.); or
- 5) retirement benefits under:
  - a) the United States Social Security Act or alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government;
  - b) the Railroad Retirement Act;
  - c) the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Old Age Security Act, the Quebec Pension Plan or any provincial pension or disability plan;
  - d) similar plan or act;that You or Your family receive because of Your retirement, unless You were receiving them prior to becoming Disabled.

## DEFINITIONS\_CONTINUED

If You are paid Other Income Benefits in a lump sum or settlement, You must provide proof satisfactory to Us of:

- 1) the amount attributed to loss of income; and
- 2) the period of time covered by the lump sum or settlement.

We will pro-rate the lump sum or settlement over this period of time. If You cannot or do not provide this information, We will assume the entire sum to be for loss of income, and the time period to be 24 month(s). We may make a retroactive allocation of any retroactive Other Income Benefit. A retroactive allocation may result in an overpayment of Your claim.

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

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

**Physician** means a person who is:

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

**Pre-disability Earnings** means Your regular weekly rate of pay from Your Employer in effect on the date immediately prior to the date You became Disabled. Pre-disability Earnings includes any deductions made for pre-tax contributions to a qualified deferred compensation plan, Section 125 plan or flexible spending account and does not include commissions, bonuses, tips and tokens, overtime pay or any other fringe benefits or extra compensation.

**Prior Policy** means the short term disability insurance carried by the Employer on the day before the Policy Effective Date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Sickness** means a Disability or loss which is:

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

## DEFINITIONS\_CONTINUED

- 2) caused or contributed to by any medical or surgical treatment for a condition shown in item 1) above.

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

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

Substance includes alcohol and drugs but excludes tobacco and caffeine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

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

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

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

You will become eligible for coverage on the later of:

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

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

You must enroll. To enroll for coverage You must:

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

Your Employer will provide instructions.

If You do not enroll within 90 days after becoming eligible under The Policy, or if You were eligible to enroll under the Prior Policy and did not do so, and later choose to enroll or if You enroll for a Weekly Benefit Amount greater than the Guaranteed Issue Amount:

- 1) You must give Us Evidence of Insurability satisfactory to Us; and
- 2) You may only enroll:
  - a) during an Annual Enrollment Period designated by the Policyholder; or
  - b) within 90 days of the date You have a Change in Family Status.

### **Evidence of Insurability:** *What is Evidence of Insurability and what happens if Evidence of Insurability is not satisfactory to Us?*

Evidence of Insurability must be satisfactory to Us and may include, but will not be limited to:

- 1) a completed and signed application approved by Us;
- 2) a medical examination;
- 3) attending Physicians' statements; and
- 4) any additional information We may require.

All Evidence of Insurability will be furnished at Your expense. We will then determine if You are insurable under The Policy.

If Your Evidence of Insurability is not satisfactory to Us:

- 1) Your Maximum Weekly Benefit will equal the amount for which You were eligible without providing Evidence of Insurability, provided You enrolled within 90 days of the date You were first eligible to enroll; and
- 2) You will not be covered under The Policy if You enrolled more than 90 days after the date You were first eligible to enroll.

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

A Change in Family Status occurs when:

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

## PERIOD OF COVERAGE

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

If You are not required to contribute toward The Policy's cost, Your coverage will start on the date You become eligible.

If You must contribute toward The Policy's cost, Your coverage will start on the earliest of:

- 1) the date You become eligible, for benefit amounts not requiring Evidence of Insurability, if You enroll or have enrolled by then;
- 2) the date on which You enroll, for benefit amounts not requiring Evidence of Insurability, if You do so within 30 days after the date You are eligible;
- 3) the date We approve Your Evidence of Insurability, for benefit amounts requiring Evidence of Insurability; or
- 4) the first day of the month following the Annual Enrollment Period if You enroll, for benefit amounts not requiring Evidence of Insurability, during an Annual Enrollment Period.

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

If You are absent from work due to:

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

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

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

You may change Your benefit option only:

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

At such time You may decrease coverage, or increase coverage to a higher option. An increase in coverage will be subject to Your submission of an application that meets Our approval.

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

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

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

If You enroll for a change in benefit option during an Annual Enrollment Period, the change will take effect on the later of:

- 1) the first day of the month following the Annual Enrollment Period; or
- 2) the date We approve Your Evidence of Insurability if You are required to submit Evidence of Insurability.

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

- 1) the date You enroll for the change; or
- 2) the date We approve Your Evidence of Insurability if You are required to submit Evidence of Insurability.

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

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

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

Your coverage may increase or decrease on the date there is a change in Your class or Pre-disability Earnings. However, no increase in coverage will be effective unless on that date You:

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

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

## PERIOD OF COVERAGE\_CONTINUED

*What happens if the Employer changes The Policy?*

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

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

**Continuity From A Prior Policy:** *Is there continuity of coverage from a Prior Policy?*

If You were:

- 1) insured under the Prior Policy; and
- 2) not eligible to receive benefits under the Prior Policy;

on the day before the Policy Effective Date, the Deferred Effective Date provision will not apply.

*Is my coverage under The Policy subject to the Pre-existing Condition Limitation?*

If You become insured under The Policy on the Policy Effective Date and were covered under the Prior Policy on the day before the Policy Effective Date, the Pre-existing Conditions Limitation will end on the earliest of:

- 1) the Policy Effective Date, if Your coverage for the Disability was not limited by a pre-existing condition restriction under the Prior Policy; or
- 2) the date the restriction would have ceased to apply had the Prior Policy remained in force, if Your coverage was limited by a pre-existing condition limitation under the Prior Policy.

The amount of the Weekly Benefit payable for a Pre-existing Condition in accordance with the above paragraph will be the lesser of:

- 1) the Weekly Benefit which was paid by the Prior Policy; or
- 2) the Weekly Benefit provided by The Policy.

The Pre-existing Conditions Limitation will apply after the Policy Effective Date to the amount of a benefit increase which results from a change from the Prior Policy to The Policy, a change in benefit options, a change of class or a change in The Policy.

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

Your coverage will end on the earliest of the following:

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

unless continued in accordance with any of the Continuation Provisions.

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

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

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

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

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

## PERIOD OF COVERAGE\_CONTINUED

Military Leave of Absence: If You enter active military service and are granted a military leave of absence in writing, Your coverage may be continued for up to 8 weeks, or longer if required by other applicable law. If the leave ends prior to the agreed upon date, this continuation will cease immediately.

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

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

- 1) while You remain Disabled; and
- 2) until the end of the period for which You are entitled to receive short term Disability Benefits; provided premiums for Your coverage continued to be paid.

After Short Term Disability Benefit payments have ceased, Your insurance will be reinstated, provided:

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

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

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

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

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

### **Reinstatement after Military Service:** *Can my coverage be reinstated after return from active military service?*

If:

- 1) Your coverage terminates because You enter active military service; and
- 2) You are rehired within 12 months of the date You return from active military service;

then coverage for You may be reinstated, provided You request such reinstatement within 31 days of the date You return to work.

The reinstated coverage will:

- 1) be the same coverage amounts in force on the date coverage terminated; and
- 2) not be subject to any Waiting Period for Coverage, Evidence of Insurability or Pre-existing Conditions Limitations; and

be subject to all other terms and provisions of The Policy.

## BENEFITS

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

If, while covered under this Benefit, You:

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

We will pay the Weekly Benefit.

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

- 1) the total amount of all Other Income Benefits, including any amount for which You are eligible to apply but have not done so; and
- 2) any income received from the Employer for the period You are Disabled.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Calculation of Weekly Benefit:** *What happens if the sum of my Weekly Benefit, Current Weekly Earnings, and Other Income Benefits exceeds 100% of my Pre-disability Earnings?*

If the sum of Your Weekly Benefit, Current Weekly Earnings, and Other Income Benefits exceeds 100% of Your Pre-disability Earnings, We will reduce Your Weekly Benefit by the amount of the excess. However, Your Weekly Benefit will not be less than the Minimum Weekly Benefit.

If an overpayment occurs, We may recover all or any portion of the overpayment, in accordance with the Overpayment Recovery provision.

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

Benefit payments will stop on the earliest of:

- 1) the date You are no longer Disabled;
- 2) the date You fail to furnish Proof of Loss;
- 3) the date You are no longer under the Regular Care of a Physician;
- 4) the date You refuse Our request that You submit to an examination by a Physician or other qualified medical professional;
- 5) the date of Your death;

## BENEFITS\_CONTINUED

- 6) the date You refuse to receive recommended treatment that is generally acknowledged by Physicians to cure, correct or limit the disabling condition;
- 7) the last day benefits are payable according to the Maximum Duration of Benefits;
- 8) the date Your Current Weekly Earnings are equal to or greater than 80% of Your Indexed Pre-disability Earnings;
- 9) the date no further benefits are payable under any provision in The Policy that limits benefit duration.

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

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

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

Where

**A** = Your Weekly Predisability Earnings.

**B** = Your Current Weekly Earnings.

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

If You are participating in a program of Rehabilitative Employment approved by Us, We will determine Your Weekly Benefit in accordance with the terms of the Policy's Rehabilitative Employment Benefit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We reserve the right to review, at the end of every 6 month period, any Rehabilitative Employment You participate in while benefits are being paid under The Policy.

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

## EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS

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

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

- 1) unless You are under the Regular Care of a Physician;
- 2) that is caused or contributed to by war or act of war, whether declared or not;
- 3) caused by Your commission of or attempt to commit a felony;
- 4) caused or contributed to by Your being engaged in an illegal occupation;
- 5) caused or contributed to by an intentionally self-inflicted Injury;

If You are receiving or are eligible for benefits for a Disability under a prior disability plan that:

- 1) was sponsored by Your Employer; and
- 2) was terminated before the Effective Date of The Policy;

no benefits will be payable for that Disability under The Policy.

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

We will not pay any benefit, or any increase in benefits, under The Policy for any Disability that results from, or is caused or contributed to, by a Pre-existing Condition, unless, at the time You become Disabled, You have been continuously covered under The Policy for 12 consecutive months.

**Pre-existing Condition** means:

- 1) any accidental bodily injury, sickness, Mental Illness, pregnancy, or episode of Substance Abuse; or
- 2) any manifestations, symptoms, findings, or aggravations related to or resulting from such accidental bodily injury, sickness, Mental Illness, pregnancy, or Substance Abuse;

for which You received Medical Care during the 6 consecutive month period that ends the day before:

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

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

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

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

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

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1) documentation of:
  - a) the date Your Disability began;
  - b) the cause of Your Disability;
  - c) the prognosis of Your Disability;
  - d) Your Pre-disability Earnings, Current Weekly Earnings or any income, including but not limited to copies of Your filed and signed federal and state tax returns; and
  - e) evidence that You are under the Regular Care of a Physician;
- 2) any and all medical information, including x-ray films and photocopies of medical records, including histories, physical, mental or diagnostic examinations and treatment notes;
- 3) the names and addresses of all:
  - a) Physicians or other qualified medical professionals You have consulted;
  - b) hospitals or other medical facilities in which You have been treated; and
  - c) pharmacies which have filled Your prescriptions within the past three years;
- 4) Your signed authorization for Us to obtain and release:
  - a) medical, employment and financial information; and
  - b) any other information We may reasonably require;
- 5) Your signed statement identifying all Other Income Benefits; and
- 6) proof that You and Your dependents have applied for all Other Income Benefits which are available.

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

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

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

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

Any such interview, meeting or examination will be:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## GENERAL PROVISIONS\_CONTINUED

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

When We determine that You;

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

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

Benefits are not payable for any period during which You are confined to a penal or correctional institution if the period of confinement exceeds 30 days. Benefits may be subject to interest payments as required by applicable law.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Benefit Estimates:** *How does the Company estimate Disability benefits under the United States Social Security Act?*

We reserve the right to reduce Your Weekly Benefit by estimating the Social Security disability benefits You or Your spouse and children may be eligible to receive.

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

Your Weekly Benefit will not be reduced by estimated Social Security disability benefits if:

- 1) You apply for Social Security disability benefits and pursue all required appeals in accordance with the Social Security provision; and
- 2) You have signed a form authorizing the Social Security Administration to release information about awards directly to Us; and

## GENERAL PROVISIONS\_CONTINUED

- 3) You have signed and returned Our reimbursement agreement, which confirms that You agree to repay all overpayments.

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

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

If Your Social Security benefits were lower than We estimated, and We owe You a refund, We will make such refund in a lump sum. If Your Social Security Benefits were higher than We estimated, and if Your Weekly Benefit has been overpaid, You must make a lump sum refund to Us equal to all overpayments, in accordance with the Overpayment Recovery provision.

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

An overpayment occurs:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Subrogation:** *What are the Company's subrogation rights?*

If You:

- 1) suffer a Disability because of the act or omission of a Third Party;
- 2) become entitled to and are paid benefits under The Policy in compensation for lost wages as a result of such Disability; and
- 3) do not initiate legal action for the recovery of such lost wages from the Third Party in a reasonable period of time;

then We will be subrogated to any rights You may have against the Third Party and may, at Our option, bring legal action against the Third Party to recover any lost wages which were replaced by payments made by Us in connection with the Disability.

**Third Party** as used in this provision, means any person or legal entity whose act or omission, in full or in part, causes You to suffer a Disability for which benefits are paid or payable under The Policy.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS\_CONTINUED

### **Reimbursement:** *What are the Company's Reimbursement Rights?*

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

If You recover such payment from a Third Party as:

- a) a legal judgment;
- b) an arbitration award; or
- c) a settlement or otherwise;

You must reimburse Us for the lesser of:

- a) the amount of payment made or required to be made by Us under the Policy; or
- b) the amount recovered from the Third Party less any reasonable legal fees incurred by You associated with the recovery.

**Third Party** as used in this provision, means any person or legal entity whose act or omission, in full or in part, causes You to suffer a Disability for which benefits are paid or payable under The Policy.

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

Legal action cannot be taken against Us:

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

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

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

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

If material facts about You were not stated accurately:

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

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

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

We have full discretion and authority to determine eligibility for benefits and to construe and interpret all terms and provisions of The Policy. This provision applies where the interpretation of The Policy is governed by the Member Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA).