# YOUR GROUP LONG-TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS



FOR EMPLOYEES OF	
FOR EMPLOYEES OF:	
SterlingRisk	
5	
CLASS(ES):	
All Eligible Employees	
REVISION EFFECTIVE DATE:	
January 1, 2025	
PUBLICATION DATE:	
December 3 2024	

# NOTICE(S)

THIS CERTIFICATE DESCRIBES THE BENEFITS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU. PLEASE READ YOUR CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY. BENEFITS ARE PROVIDED THROUGH A GROUP POLICY ISSUED IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

The insurance evidenced by this certificate provides DISABILITY INCOME insurance only. It does NOT provide basic hospital, basic medical or major medical insurance as defined by the New York State Department of Financial Services.

## **FRAUD WARNING**

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.

Group Number: G000402K

## **HOW TO OBTAIN PLAN BENEFITS**

To obtain benefits see the Payment of Claims provision.

Forward your completed claim form to:

Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company Group Disability Management Services Mutual of Omaha Plaza Omaha, Nebraska 68175

# **CLAIM ASSISTANCE**

If You need assistance with filing Your claim, or an explanation of how Your claim was paid, contact the:

Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company Group Disability Management Services Mutual of Omaha Plaza Omaha, Nebraska 68175 Call Toll Free: 1-800-877-5176

When contacting the Company please have your Policy number available. Your Policy number is GMTD-402K.

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	PAGE
CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE	1
SCHEDULE	2
EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY  DEFINITIONS  ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES  WHEN INSURANCE BEGINS  EVIDENCE OF GOOD HEALTH  WHEN YOUR CLASSIFICATION OR AMOUNT OF INSURANCE CHANGES  REINSTATEMENT OF INSURANCE  WHEN YOUR INSURANCE ENDS  CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE DURING DISABILITY  CONTINUITY OF COVERAGE UPON TRANSFER OF INSURANCE CARRIER	
RIDER FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE	10
LONG-TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS	12
ENHANCED DISABILITY BENEFIT	14
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROVISION	15
PAYMENT OF CLAIMS	16
CLAIM REVIEW AND APPEAL PROCEDURES	18
STANDARD PROVISIONS	20
LONG-TERM DISABILITY DEFINITIONS	21

ADDITIONAL SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION INFORMATION



## **CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE**

## **MUTUAL OF OMAHA INSURANCE COMPANY**

Home Office: Mutual of Omaha Plaza Omaha, Nebraska 68175

Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company certifies that Group Policy No(s). GMTD-402K (Policy) has been issued to SterlingRisk (Policyholder).

Insurance is provided for certain Employees as described in the Policy.

The benefits described in this Certificate are subject to the terms and conditions of the Policy. Benefits are effective only if You are eligible for the insurance, become insured and remain insured as described in this Certificate.

Corporate Secretary

This Certificate replaces any certificate previously issued under the Policy.

Annes T. Blackledge Chief Executive Officer

7000CI-M-EZ Page 1

## **SCHEDULE**

THIS SCHEDULE DESCRIBES THE AMOUNT OF BENEFITS AND CERTAIN OTHER REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO BENEFITS FOR DISABILITY. OUR OBLIGATION TO CONSIDER BENEFITS DESCRIBED IN THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO ALL TERMS OF THE POLICY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, ALL DEFINITIONS, GENERAL EXCLUSIONS AND RIDERS. PLEASE REFER TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS IN THE CERTIFICATE TO LOCATE THE PROVISIONS OF THE POLICY.

The amount of insurance for You will be in accordance with Your classification in this Schedule.

#### **CLASSIFICATION**

All Eligible Employees

## LONG-TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS

#### **ELIMINATION PERIOD**

The Elimination Period is the later of:

- a) 90 calendar days; or
- b) the date Your short-term Disability benefits end.

For accumulating days of Disability to satisfy the Elimination Period, the following will apply:

- a) a period of Disability will be treated as continuous during the Elimination Period unless Disability stops for more than 90 accumulated days during the Elimination Period; and
- b) days You are not Disabled will not be used to satisfy the Elimination Period.

### **DEFINITIONS**

Basic Monthly Earnings means Your average monthly earnings received from the Policyholder and verified by premium we have received during the tax year immediately prior to the year in which Your Disability began, as reported on Your K-1, W-2 or S-Corporation Federal Tax Return, or, if employed for a period less than one year, Your average earnings received from the Policyholder for the number of months worked during that period. It includes Your regular income plus any guaranteed payments or compensation received from the Policyholder.

Other Income Benefits has the meaning set forth in the Other Income Benefits provision of this Schedule.

### **MONTHLY BENEFIT**

## **Total Disability**

If You are Disabled and earning less than 20% of Your Basic Monthly Earnings, the Monthly Benefit while Disabled is the lesser of:

- a) 60% of Your Basic Monthly Earnings, less Other Income Benefits; or
- b) the Maximum Monthly Benefit. The Maximum Monthly Benefit is \$10,000, less any Other Income Benefits.

## **Partial Disability**

You may work for wage or profit while Disabled. As a work incentive, You will receive the Monthly Benefit, unless the sum of:

- a) the Gross Monthly Benefit while You are Disabled; plus
- b) Current Earnings;

exceeds 100% of Your Basic Monthly Earnings. If this sum exceeds 100% of Your Basic Monthly Earnings, the Monthly Benefit will be reduced by that excess amount.

Your Monthly Benefit will never be less than \$50.

When less than one month of Disability benefits is due, a pro rata benefit will be paid for each day of Disability. This pro rata benefit will be equal to 1/30th of Your Monthly Benefit as calculated above.

While You are participating in a plan of vocational rehabilitation approved by Us, Your Monthly Benefit, as calculated above, will be increased by 5%.

## **MAXIMUM BENEFIT PERIOD**

If You are Disabled because of an Injury or Sickness, We will pay benefits as follows. However, benefits for Disabilities resulting from a Mental Disorder or Alcohol or Drug Abuse and/or Substance Abuse will be paid in accordance with any Mental Disorder Limitation or Alcohol and Drug Abuse and/or Substance Abuse Limitation shown in this Schedule.

Age at Disability	Maximum Benefit Period
61 or less	to age 65 or to Your Social
	Security Normal Retirement Age,
	or 3 years and 6 months,
	whichever is longer;
62	to Your Social Security Normal
	Retirement Age or 3 years and
	6 months, whichever is longer;
63	to Your Social Security Normal
	Retirement Age or 3 years,
	whichever is longer;
64	to Your Social Security Normal
	Retirement Age or 2 years and
	6 months, whichever is longer;
65	
66	
67	
68	
65	

Social Security Normal Retirement Age means Your normal retirement age under the United States Social Security Act determined as follows:

Year of Birth	Social Security Normal Retirement Age
1937 or earlier	
1938	65 years and 2 months;
1939	65 years and 4 months;
1940	65 years and 6 months;
1941	65 years and 8 months;
1942	65 years and 10 months;
1943 through 1954	
1955	
1956	66 years and 4 months;
1957	66 years and 6 months;
1958	
1959	66 years and 10 months;
1960 or later	67 years.

**Note:** Your Social Security Normal Retirement Age may change subject to any changes to the United States Social Security Act.

#### MENTAL DISORDER LIMITATION

If You are Disabled because of a Mental Disorder, Your benefits will be limited to a total of 24 months while insured under the Policy, unless You are confined as a resident inpatient in a Hospital at the end of that 24-month period. The Monthly Benefit will continue to be paid during such confinement.

If You are still Disabled when You are discharged, the Monthly Benefit will be paid for a recovery period of up to 90 additional days.

If You become re-confined as a resident inpatient in a Hospital during the recovery period for at least 14 consecutive days, benefits will be paid for the duration of the second confinement.

In no event will benefits payable due to Mental Disorders be payable beyond the Maximum Benefit Period as shown above in the Maximum Benefit Period section.

#### ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE AND/OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE LIMITATION

If You are Disabled because of Alcohol or Drug Abuse and/or Substance Abuse, Your benefits will be limited to a total of 24 months while insured under the Policy, unless You are confined as a resident inpatient in a Hospital at the end of that 24-month period. The Monthly Benefit will continue to be paid during such confinement.

If You are still Disabled when You are discharged, the Monthly Benefit will be paid for a recovery period of up to 90 additional days.

If You become re-confined as a resident inpatient in a Hospital during the recovery period for at least 14 consecutive days, benefits will be paid for the duration of the second confinement.

In no event will benefits payable due to Alcohol and Drug Abuse and/or Substance Abuse be payable beyond the Maximum Benefit Period as shown above in the Maximum Benefit Period section.

#### OTHER INCOME BENEFITS

We take into account the total of all Your income from other sources of income in determining the amount of Your Monthly Benefit. Your Other Income Benefits are any of the following amounts that you receive or are eligible to receive as a result of Your Disability:

- 1. Any amounts under:
  - a) a workers' compensation law;
  - b) an occupational disease law;
  - c) the Jones Act, (46 U.S.C Statue 688 (a) (1920)); or
  - d) any other act or law of like intent to the laws described in 1. a), b) or c) above.
- 2. Amount under another group short-term or long-term disability insurance policy or plan for which the Policyholder has paid any part of the cost or for which the Policyholder has made payroll deductions, except any group short-term or long-term disability insurance policy or plan underwritten by Us. Any benefits payable by a group short-term or long-term disability policy underwritten by Us will not be considered as Other Income Benefits.
- 3. Any amounts as disability income payments under any:
  - a) state compulsory benefit act or law;
  - b) government retirement system as a result of Your job with the Policyholder; or
  - c) work loss provision in a no-fault motor vehicle insurance plan, unless state law or regulation does not allow group disability income benefits to be reduced by benefits from no-fault motor vehicle coverage.
- 4. Any amount of Retirement Benefits under the Policyholder's Retirement Plan. Benefits payable before the plan's normal retirement age are considered Other Income Benefits only if You voluntarily elect to receive these benefits.
- 5. Any benefits for You or Your spouse and child(ren) under:

- a) the U.S. Social Security Act
- b) the Canada Pension Plan;
- c) the Ouebec Pension Plan;
- d) the Railroad Retirement Act;
- e) the Public Employee Retirement Plan;
- f) the Teachers Employment Retirement Plan; or
- g) any similar plan or act that provides:
  - 1. Disability benefits; or
  - 2. Retirement Benefits (except this will not apply if Your Disability begins after Your Social Security Normal Retirement Age and You were already receiving Social Security retirement benefits. This exception only applies to U.S. Social Security Benefits).
- 6. Any amount payable as salary continuance, sick leave or severance allowance.
- 7. Any amount from a third party (after subtracting attorneys' fees) by judgment, settlement or otherwise.
- 8. Any amounts from any unemployment insurance law or program.

## SOCIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

In order to be eligible for assistance from Our Social Security claimant advocacy program, You must be receiving Monthly Benefits from Us. We can arrange for advice regarding Your claim and assist You with Your application or appeal.

Receiving Social Security benefits may enable:

- a) You to receive Medicare after 24 months of disability payments;
- b) You to protect Your retirement benefits; and
- c) Your family to be eligible for Social Security benefits.

We can arrange assistance in obtaining Social Security disability benefits by:

- a) helping You find appropriate representation;
- b) obtaining medical and vocational evidence; and
- c) reimbursing pre-approved case management expense.

## **EXPLANATION OF OTHER INCOME BENEFITS**

You must apply for Other Income Benefits for which You are or may become eligible and do what is needed to obtain them. If Your Social Security application is denied, You must appeal the decision by Social Security to a level that is satisfactory to Us and provide written proof of all levels of appeal.

As part of Your proof of Disability, We require that You furnish evidence to Us that You have applied for Other Income Benefits for which You are or may become eligible.

After the first reduction for each of the Other Income Benefits, We will not further reduce Your Monthly Benefit due to any cost of living increases payable under these Other Income Benefits.

Other Income Benefits that are paid in a lump sum will be prorated on a monthly basis over a period for which the sum is given. If no time period is stated, the sum will be prorated on a monthly basis over the lesser of the following:

- a) The Policy's Maximum Benefit Period; or
- b) 60 equal payments.

If Other Income Benefits which are paid in a lump sum are paid on a retroactive basis, then we may adjust the Monthly Benefit to recover any overpayment.

Until You have signed Our Reimbursement Agreement and have given written proof to Us that application has been made or all available appeals have been exhausted for Other Income Benefits, We may:

- a) estimate Your Other Income Benefits; and
- b) reduce Your Monthly Benefit by that amount.

If We reduce Your benefit on this basis, and if all of Your appeals are denied, We will restore the reduced amounts to You in one payment.

## **EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY**

## **Disability Insurance**

#### **DEFINITIONS**

Terms defined in this provision may be used in, or apply to, other provisions throughout the Policy, Certificate and any Riders. Definitions of other terms may be found in other provisions. Any singular word shall include any plural of the same word.

Active Employment or Actively Employed means Actively Working on a regular and consistent basis for the Policyholder 30 or more hours each week. A Disabled Employee will not be considered actively employed.

Actively Working or Active Work means performing the normal duties of a regular job for the Policyholder at:

- a) the Policyholder's usual place of business;
- b) an alternative work site at the direction of the Policyholder; or
- c) a location to which one must travel to perform the job.

An Employee will be considered actively working on any day that is:

- a) a regular paid holiday or day of vacation; or
- b) a regular or scheduled non-working day;

provided the Employee was actively working on the last preceding regular work day.

If an Employee's customary place of employment is at home, the Employee will be considered actively working if not confined on that day as described in the Confinement Rule.

## Confinement Rule

- 1. If an eligible Employee is confined due to an Injury or Sickness:
  - a) in a Hospital as an inpatient;
  - b) in any institution or facility other than a Hospital; or
  - c) at home and under the supervision of a Physician;

insurance will begin on the day the Employee returns to Active Employment.

- 2. If an eligible Employee is Actively Employed and is not:
  - a) confined; and
  - b) available for work because of an Injury or Sickness;

insurance will begin on the day the Employee returns to Active Employment.

*Employee* means a person who receives compensation from the Policyholder for work performed for the Policyholder. An employee will not include a person who is unauthorized to work in the United States pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act and related rules and regulations.

The term Employee does not include any person performing services for the Policyholder:

- a) pursuant to an independent contractor relationship with the Policyholder;
- b) subject to the terms of a leasing agreement between the Policyholder and a leasing organization;
- c) who receives income which is reported by the Policyholder on IRS form 1099;
- d) while outside the United States for any period in excess of 12 consecutive months, unless approval has been received from the Home Office;
- e) on a seasonal basis; or
- f) on a temporary basis.

## **ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES**

An Employee who has completed 30 days of continuous Active Employment on or before December 1, 2010 becomes eligible for insurance under this Policy on December 1, 2010.

An Employee who is not eligible for insurance under this Policy on December 1, 2010, or an Employee who is hired after December 1, 2010, becomes eligible for insurance under this Policy on the day following completion of 30 days of continuous Active Employment.

#### WHEN INSURANCE BEGINS

An Employee will become insured on the first day of the Policy month which coincides with or follows the day the Employee becomes eligible, provided the Employee is Actively Working on that day. If the Employee is not Actively Working on that day, insurance will begin on the day the Employee returns to Active Work.

## **EVIDENCE OF GOOD HEALTH**

If an Employee was eligible for group disability coverage under a plan maintained by the Policyholder immediately prior to the effective date of this Policy but did not elect coverage under such plan, the Employee may enroll for insurance under this Policy if the Employee is otherwise eligible and provides Us with evidence of good health. If such evidence is acceptable to Us, We will determine the day insurance begins.

## WHEN YOUR CLASSIFICATION OR AMOUNT OF INSURANCE CHANGES

Any change in Your classification, coverage or amount of Your insurance as shown in the Schedule will take effect on the day of the change, provided You are Actively Working on that day. If You are not Actively Working, the following conditions will apply:

- a) If the change involves an increase in amount of insurance, the change will not take effect until the day You return to Active Work.
- b) If the change involves a decrease in amount of insurance, the change will take effect on the day of the change.

In no event will any change take effect during a period of Disability.

#### REINSTATEMENT OF INSURANCE

If an eligible Employee wants to reinstate insurance after insurance has ended, the following will apply:

Rehire: If insurance ended because the Employee ceased to be eligible under this Policy and the Employee becomes eligible again within 90 days after insurance ended, the waiting period will be waived. All other Policy provisions, except Pre-existing Conditions, will apply.

#### WHEN YOUR INSURANCE ENDS

Your insurance will end at midnight at the main office of the Policyholder on the earliest of:

- a) the day this Policy ends;
- b) the day any premium contribution for Your insurance is due and unpaid;
- the day before You enter the Armed Forces on active duty (except for temporary active duty of two weeks or less);
   or
- d) the day You are no longer eligible. You will no longer be eligible when the earliest of the following occurs:
  - 1. You are not in an eligible classification described in the Schedule;
  - 2. Your employment with the Policyholder ends;
  - 3. You are not Actively Employed; or
  - 4. You do not satisfy any other eligibility condition described in this Policy.

We will provide benefits for a payable claim which occurs while you are covered under this Policy.

## CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE DURING DISABILITY

If You become Disabled, Your insurance will continue without payment of premium for as long as You are entitled to receive Monthly Benefits, provided the premium is paid during the Elimination Period.

## CONTINUITY OF COVERAGE UPON TRANSFER OF INSURANCE CARRIER

If you are not Actively Employed on the effective date of this Policy due to Injury or Sickness, upon payment of the premium, You will be insured under this Policy if You:

- a) were covered under a group disability plan maintained by the Policyholder immediately prior to the effective date of this Policy; and
- b) You resume Active Employment.

# RIDER FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

(As Federally Mandated)

This Rider is made a part of Group Policy GMTD-402K.

This Rider is effective on the latest of:

- a) the effective date of the Policy;
- b) the day You become insured under the Policy; or
- c) the date required by Federal law.

In the event of a conflict between this Rider and any other provision of the Policy, including the Certificate, this Rider shall control.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Serious Health Condition has the meaning set forth in the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) (including any amendments to the FMLA).

## **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE**

If You become eligible for a family or medical leave of absence in accordance with the FMLA, Your insurance coverage may be continued on the same basis as if You were Actively at Work for up to 12 weeks during a 12 month period, as defined by the Policyholder, for any of the following reasons:

- a) to care for Your child after the birth or placement of a child with You for adoption or foster care; so long as such leave is completed within 12 months after the birth or placement of the child;
- b) to care for Your spouse, child, foster child, adopted child, stepchild, or parent who has a Serious Health Condition; or
- c) for Your own Serious Health Condition.

In the event You or Your spouse are both insured as employees of the Policyholder, the continued coverage under a) may not exceed a combined total of 12 weeks. In addition, if the leave is taken to care for a parent with a Serious Health Condition, the continued coverage may not exceed a combined total of 12 weeks.

## **CONDITIONS**

- 1. If, on the day Your insurance is to begin, You are already on an FMLA leave of absence for any reason other than Your own Serious Health Condition, You will be considered Actively at Work.
- 2. If You begin an FMLA leave of absence after You have been insured under this Policy, the amount of Your insurance benefits will be the same as that which was in effect on the day before Your FMLA leave started, subject to any reductions in benefits in accordance with the terms of the Policy.
- 3. You are eligible to continue coverage under FMLA if:
  - a) You have worked for the Policyholder for at least one (1) year;
  - b) You have worked at least 1,250 hours over the previous 12 months;
  - c) The Policyholder employs at least 50 employees within 75 miles from Your worksite; and
  - d) You continue to pay any required premium for Yourself in a manner determined by the Policyholder.
- 4. In the event You choose not to pay any required premium during Your leave, Your insurance coverage will not be continued during the leave. You will be able to reinstate Your coverage on the day You return to work, subject to any changes that may have occurred in the Policy during the time You were not insured. You will not be subject to any evidence of good health requirement provided under the Policy. Any partially-satisfied waiting periods, including any limitations for a

pre-existing condition, which are interrupted during the period of time premium was not paid will continue to be applied once coverage is reinstated.

- 5. You are subject to all conditions and limitations of the Policy during Your leave, except that anything in conflict with the provisions of the FMLA will be construed in accordance with the FMLA.
- 6. If requested by Us, You or the Policyholder must submit proof acceptable to Us that Your leave is in accordance with FMLA.
- 7. This FMLA continuation is concurrent with any other continuation option.
- 8. FMLA continuation ends on the earliest of:
  - a) the day You return to work;
  - b) the day You notify the Policyholder that You are not returning to work;
  - c) the day Your coverage would otherwise end under the Policy; or
  - d) the day coverage has been continued for 12 weeks.

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Contact the Policyholder for additional information regarding FMLA eligibility.

MUTUAL OF OMAHA INSURANCE COMPANY

Corporate Secretary

Page 11

## LONG-TERM DISABILITY BENEFITS

#### **BENEFITS**

If, while insured under this provision, You become Disabled due to Injury or Sickness, We will pay the Monthly Benefit shown in the Schedule. Benefits will begin after You satisfy the Elimination Period shown in the Schedule.

#### PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS

We will not provide benefits for any Disability caused by, contributed to by, or resulting from a Pre-existing Condition until the day after a 12-month period, from the effective date of Your coverage under the Policy, has been passed during which You were continuously insured, if any required Elimination Period has been satisfied. After such 12-consecutive month period has passed, You must still be considered Disabled in accordance with the provisions of the Policy for benefits to be payable. Any benefits payable that are attributed to Your Disability prior to the 12-consecutive month period will be payable in accordance with the provisions of the Policy.

If You become Disabled and have not been insured under the Policy for 12 consecutive months from the effective date of Your coverage, and You have not satisfied the Elimination Period, We will give credit towards satisfaction of the Elimination Period for the time You were continuously insured under the Policy.

If the 12-consecutive months period of coverage is completed during satisfaction of a required Elimination Period, You must still satisfy the remainder of the Elimination Period before benefits are payable.

A Pre-existing Condition means any Injury or Sickness for which You received medical treatment, advice or consultation, care or services including diagnostic measures, or had drugs or medicines prescribed or taken in the 3 months prior to the day You become insured under this Policy.

In determining whether this Pre-existing Condition provision applies, We will credit the time You were covered under a previous group or blanket disability plan or policy or employer-provided disability benefit arrangement, if the previous coverage was continuous to a date not more than 60 days prior to the effective date of this plan. This credit will apply to the extent that the previous coverage or level of benefits was substantially similar to this plan.

## RECURRENT DISABILITY

A Recurrent Disability will be treated as part of Your prior claim and You will not be required to satisfy another Elimination Period if:

- a) You were continuously insured under the Policy for the period between Your prior claim and Your Recurrent Disability; and
- b) Your Recurrent Disability occurs within six months of the end of Your prior claim.

In order to prevent over-insurance because of duplication of benefits, benefits payable under this Recurrent Disability provision will cease if benefits are payable to You under any other group disability income policy or plan.

## **SURVIVOR BENEFIT**

We will pay a survivor benefit to Your Eligible Survivor when We receive proof that You died:

- a) after being Disabled; and
- b) while receiving or eligible to receive a Monthly Benefit under this Policy.

However, if there are no Eligible Survivors, the survivor benefit will be paid to Your estate.

Beneficiary means the person(s) or legal entity You name to receive the survivor benefit.

*Eligible Survivor* means Your designated Beneficiary. In the event no Beneficiary is named or living, eligible survivor means Your spouse, if living; otherwise, it means Your natural and/or adopted children who are living and under age 25. An Eligible Survivor must be living at the time of Your death.

Your eligible dependent child will also include an unmarried child who is incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental illness, developmental disability, mental retardation or physical handicap, who is chiefly dependent upon You for support and maintenance and who became incapable prior to the limiting age shown above.

The survivor benefit will be an amount equal to 3 times Your Monthly Benefit payable for the month immediately prior to Your death.

If a survivor benefit is payable to Your child and, if there is more than one such child, then the survivor benefit will be divided equally among such children.

If payment becomes due to Your child or children, the payment will be made to:

- a) Your child or children; or
- b) a person named by Us to receive payments on the child's or children's behalf. This payment will be valid and effective against all claims by the child or children or by others representing or claiming to represent said child or children.

#### WHEN BENEFITS END

Benefits will be paid during a period of Disability until the earliest of:

- a) the day You are no longer Disabled;
- b) the day You die;
- c) the end of the Maximum Benefit Period shown in the Schedule;
- d) the day You fail to provide Us satisfactory proof of continuous Disability and/or Current Earnings;
- e) the day You fail to comply with Our request to be examined by a Physician and/or vocational rehabilitation expert of Our choice;
- f) the day You are not under Regular Care for the Injury or Sickness that caused the Disability;
- g) the day You are able to return to work on a part-time or full-time basis and do not do so; or
- h) the day Monthly Benefits have been paid to You for a cumulative period of 12 months, when You are outside the United States or Canada on such day. If You are in the United States or Canada on such day, Monthly Benefits are payable to the end of the Maximum Benefit Period shown in the Schedule, subject to all other Policy provisions.

## **GENERAL EXCLUSIONS**

We will not pay benefits for any Disability which is caused by, contributed to by, or resulting from:

- a) declared or undeclared war or any act of war;
- b) Your participation in a riot or insurrection;
- c) Your commission of a felony for which You have been charged under state or federal law;
- d) an intentionally self-inflicted Injury or Sickness;
- e) attempted suicide;
- f) Alcohol and Drug Abuse and/or Substance Abuse, except as specifically provided in the Schedule; or
- g) Mental Disorders, except as specifically provided in the Schedule.

We also will not pay benefits for any Disability:

- a) with respect to Alcohol and Drug Abuse and/or Substance Abuse, while You are not being actively supervised by and receiving continuing treatment from a rehabilitation center or designated institution approved for such treatment by an appropriate body in the governing jurisdiction, or if none, by Us; or
- b) that is solely a result of a loss of a professional license, occupational license or certification.

## **ENHANCED DISABILITY BENEFIT**

## **DEFINITIONS**

For purposes of this provision and other provisions of the Policy, the following terms have the following meanings:

Activities of Daily Living mean:

- a) Bathing the ability to wash oneself in the tub or shower or by sponge bath from a basin without Direct Assistance;
- b) Dressing the ability to change clothes without Direct Assistance, including, but not limited to fastening and unfastening any medically necessary braces or artificial limbs;
- c) Eating/Feeding the ability to eat without Direct Assistance, once food has been prepared and made available;
- d) Transferring the ability to move in and out of a chair or bed without Direct Assistance, except with the aid of equipment (including support and other mechanical devices); and
- e) Toileting the ability to get to and from and on and off the toilet, to maintain a reasonable level of personal hygiene and to adjust clothing without Direct Assistance.

Cognitively Impaired means You will be eligible for the Earnings Freeze for Progressive Illness Benefit if confusion or disorientation resulting from deterioration or loss in intellectual capacity as measured and confirmed by cognitive tests satisfactory to Us. Evidence or indications of being Cognitively Impaired include, but are not limited to, wandering, abusive or assaultive behavior, poor judgment or uncooperativeness which poses a danger to self or others, and extreme bizarre personal hygiene.

Direct Assistance means that continuous assistance or verbal direction is required to be able to perform.

#### **BENEFITS**

If you become Disabled and unable to earn 20% of Your Basic Monthly Earnings due to Injury or Sickness, We will pay an Enhanced Disability Benefit if You are receiving a Monthly Benefit and We determine that You are:

- a) unable to safely and completely perform two or more Activities of Daily Living; or
- b) Cognitively Impaired and need Direct Assistance for Your protection or for the protection of others.

The Enhanced Disability Benefit is in addition to the Monthly Benefit You receive under this Policy. To be eligible to receive the Enhanced Disability Benefit, You must incur Expense for a service or supply that assists You in performing Your Activities of Daily Living.

The Enhanced Disability Benefit will not be subject to reduction by Other Income Benefits. This benefit will not be included in the calculation of any other benefits under the Policy.

The Enhanced Disability Benefit is equal to 20% of Your Basic Monthly Earnings up to the lesser of:

- a) the Maximum Monthly Benefit shown in the Schedule; or
- b) \$3,000.

We will pay the Enhanced Disability Benefit during the Maximum Benefit Period shown in the Schedule as long as:

- a) We continue to receive satisfactory proof that You are eligible to receive such benefit in accordance with the requirements of this provision;
- b) You remain Disabled and unable to earn 20% of Your Basic Monthly Earnings; and
- c) You continue receiving a Monthly Benefit.

12198GI-EZ Page 14

## **VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROVISION**

## **DEFINITIONS**

Good Cause means documented physical or mental impairments not identified in Your existing disability claim that:

- a) renders You incapable of rehabilitation;
- b) interferes with a medical program You are currently participating in; or
- c) conflicts with any other program You are participating in that will allow You to return to active employment.

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

The definition of Disability will not apply during the term of the vocational rehabilitation program but will be reapplied after such program ends.

#### **BENEFITS**

If You are disabled and are receiving disability benefits as provided by the Policy, You may be eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation services. These services include, but are not limited to:

- a) job modification;
- b) job placement;
- c) retraining; and
- d) other activities reasonably necessary to help You return to work.

Eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services is based on Your education, training, experience and physical/mental capabilities. Before vocational rehabilitation services will be considered:

- a) Your disability must not allow You to perform Your regular occupation;
- b) You must not have the necessary skills to allow You to perform another occupation;
- c) You must have the physical and mental capability for successful completion of a rehabilitation program; and
- d) there must be reasonable expectation that rehabilitation services will help You return to active employment.

All vocational rehabilitation programs will be developed with input from You, Your physician, Your employer and Us and described on an Individual Written Rehabilitation Plan (IWRP), which states:

- a) the vocational rehabilitation goals;
- b) the responsibilities of Us, You and any third parties associated with the IWRP;
- c) the times and dates of the vocational rehabilitation services; and
- d) all costs associated with the services.

Either We, Your Physician, or You may initiate consideration for Your Participation in vocational rehabilitation.

## **PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

#### **HOW TO FILE CLAIMS**

It is important for You to notify Us of Your claim as soon as possible so that a claim decision can be made in a timely manner. Before Your claim can be considered, We must be given a written proof of loss, as described below. In the event of Your death or incapacity, Your beneficiary or someone else may give Us the proof.

## **PROOF OF LOSS REQUIREMENTS**

1. First, request a claim form from the Plan Administrator or from us.

This request should be made:

- a) within 20 days after a loss occurs; or
- b) as soon as reasonably possible.

When We receive the request, We will send a claim form for filing proof of loss. If You do not receive the form within 15 days of Your request, You can meet the proof of loss requirement by giving Us a written statement of what happened. Such statement should include:

- a) that You are under the Regular Care of a Physician;
- b) the appropriate documentation of Your job duties at Your regular occupation and Your Basic Monthly Earnings;
- c) the date Your Disability began;
- d) the cause of Your Disability;
- e) any restrictions and limitations preventing You from performing Your regular occupation;
- f) the name and address of any Hospital or institution where You received treatment, including attending Physicians.
- 2. Next, You and Your employer must complete and sign Your sections of the claim form, and then give the claim form to the Physician. Your Physician should fill out his or her section of the form, sign it, and send it directly to Us.
- 3. The claim form should be sent to Us within 120 days after the end of Your Elimination Period. Failure to furnish proof within such time shall not invalidate or reduce any claim if it shall be shown not to have been reasonably possible to furnish proof within such time, provided proof was furnished as soon as reasonably possible.

## **HOW CLAIMS ARE PAID**

Benefits will be paid monthly after We receive acceptable proof of loss.

Benefits will be paid to You, except benefits due but unpaid at Your death may be paid, at Our option, to:

- a) any member of Your family; or
- b) Your estate.

This provision does not apply to any Survivor Benefits payable under the Policy.

### **EXAMINATION**

We sometimes require that a claimant be examined by a Physician or vocational rehabilitation expert of our choice. We will pay for these examinations. We will not require more than a reasonable number of examinations.

#### **OVERPAYMENTS**

We have the right to recover any overpayments due to:

- a) fraud
- b) any error We make in processing a claim; and
- c) Your receipt of Other Income Benefits.

You must reimburse Us in full. We will determine the method by which the repayment is to be made.

We will not recover more money than the amount We paid You.

## **CLAIM REVIEW AND APPEAL PROCEDURES**

Capitalized terms used in this section have the meanings assigned to them in this section or in other sections of this Certificate.

## **DEFINITIONS**

The definitions set forth below shall apply to both the singular and plural versions of the defined term.

Adverse Benefit Determination means a denial, reduction, or termination of a benefit or a failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit. This includes, without limitation, any such denial, reduction or termination of a benefit, or failure to provide or make payment, that is based upon ineligibility for insurance under the Policy.

*Claimant* means the person who submits a claim for benefits under the Policy, including the authorized representative of such person.

## **CLAIM REVIEW PROCEDURES**

Once We receive information necessary to evaluate the claim, We will make a decision within the time periods set forth below. In the event an extension is necessary due to matters beyond Our control, We will notify the Claimant of the extension and the circumstances requiring the extension.

Except when the Claimant voluntarily agrees to provide Us with additional time, extensions are limited as set forth below. If an extension is necessary due to the Claimant's failure to submit complete information, We will notify the Claimant of the additional information required. Such notice of incomplete information will be sent within the time periods set forth below.

In order for Us to continue processing the claim, the missing information must be provided to Us within the time periods set forth below. The Claimant may contact Us at any time for additional details about the processing of the claim.

# **INITIAL CLAIM DECISION**

The period of time within which a claim decision will be made begins at the time the claim is filed, without regard to whether all the information necessary to make a claim decision accompanies the filing. The applicable time periods are shown below:

- a) initial claim decision period: 45 days unless additional information is requested as set forth below;
- b) extension period: 30 days; and
- c) maximum number of extensions: two.

If additional information is needed, We will notify the Claimant within 10 days of Our receipt of the claim. Once the Claimant receives Our request for additional information, the Claimant will be given no less than 45 days to submit the additional information to Us. We will make Our determination within 15 days of Our receipt of the additional information. If We do not receive the additional information within the specified time period, We will make Our determination based upon the available information.

### **CLAIM DENIALS**

If a request for a claim is denied, in whole or in part, the Claimant will receive notice of the denial, which will include:

- a) the specific reason(s) for the denial;
- b) reference to the specific Policy provisions on which the denial is based;
- c) a description of the appeal procedures and time limits applicable to such procedures, including the right to request an appeal within 180 days and the right to bring a civil action following the appeal process; and
- d) any other information which may be required under state or federal laws and regulations.

Additionally, if an internal rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the Adverse Benefit Determination, the Claimant has the right to request information about such internal rule, guideline, protocol or other similar criterion that was used in making the Adverse Benefit Determination, free of charge.

## **OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST AN APPEAL**

The Claimant shall have a reasonable opportunity to appeal a claim review decision. As part of the appeal, there will be a full and fair review of the claim review decision.

The Claimant will have no later than 180 days from the Claimant's receipt of notification of Our claim review decision to submit a request for an appeal. The request for an appeal should include:

- a) the Claimant's name;
- b) the name of the person filing the appeal if different from the Claimant;
- c) the Policy number; and
- d) the nature of the appeal.

The request for an appeal can be submitted in any manner and should include any additional information that may have been omitted from Our review or that should be considered by Us. The notification regarding Our claim review decision will include instructions on how and where to submit an appeal.

By requesting an appeal, the Claimant has authorized Us, or anyone designated by Us, to review any and all records (including, but not limited to, medical records) which We determine may be relevant to the appeal.

A document, record, or other information will be considered relevant to a claim if it:

- a) was relied upon in making the claim decision;
- b) was submitted, considered, or generated in the course of making the claim decision, without regard to whether it was relied upon in making the claim decision; or
- c) demonstrates compliance with administrative processes and safeguards designed to ensure and verify that claim decisions are made in accordance with the Policy and that, where appropriate, Policy provisions have been applied consistently with respect to similarly situated claimants.

#### **RESPONSE TO APPEALS**

We will respond no later than 45 days from Our receipt of the request for an appeal. However, if We determine that an extension is required, We will notify the Claimant in writing of the extension prior to the termination of the initial appeal period. In no event will the extension exceed 45 days from the end of the initial appeal period. The extension notice will indicate the special circumstances requiring the extension and the date by which We expect to render the appeal decision.

When We make Our determination, the Claimant will be provided with:

- a) information regarding the decision; and
- b) information regarding other internal or external appeal or dispute resolution alternatives, including any required state mandated appeal rights.

The period of time within which an appeal decision is required to be made will begin at the time an appeal is filed, without regard to whether all the information necessary to make an appeal decision accompanies the filing. If a period of time is extended as described above due to the Claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide a claim, the period for making the appeal decision shall be "tolled" or suspended from the date on which the extension notice is sent until the earlier of (1) the date on which We receive the response; or (2) the date established by Us in the notice of extension for the furnishing of the requested information.

## STANDARD PROVISIONS

## **INSURANCE CONTRACT**

The insurance contract consists of:

- a) the Policy;
- b) the Policyholder's application attached to the Policy; and
- c) Your application, if required.

## **CHANGES IN THE INSURANCE CONTRACT**

The insurance contract may be changed (including reducing or terminating benefits or increasing premium costs) any time We and the Policyholder both agree to a change. No one else has the authority to change the insurance contract. A change in the insurance contract:

- a) does not require You or Your beneficiary's consent; and
- b) must be:
  - 1. in writing;
  - 2. made a part of the Policy; and
  - 3. signed by one of Our officers.

A change may affect any class of Insured Persons, including retirees if retiree coverage is included in the Policy.

## **APPLICATIONS**

We may use misstatements or omissions in Your application to contest the validity of insurance, reduce coverage or deny a claim, but We must first furnish You or Your beneficiary with a copy of that application. We will not use Your application to contest or reduce insurance which has been in force for two years or more during Your lifetime. However, if You are not eligible for insurance, there is no time limit on Our right to contest insurance or deny a claim.

## **LEGAL ACTIONS**

No legal action can be brought until at least 60 days after We have been given written proof of loss. No legal action can be brought more than three years after the date written proof of loss is required.

## LONG-TERM DISABILITY DEFINITIONS

Terms defined in this provision are used in, or apply to, other provisions throughout the Policy, Certificate and any Riders. Definitions of other terms may be found in other provisions. Any singular word shall include any plural of the same word.

Appropriate Care and Treatment means medical care and treatment that meet all of the following:

- a) It is received from a Physician whose expertise, medical training and clinical experience are suitable for treating Your Injury or Sickness;
- b) It is Medically Necessary;
- c) It is consistent in type, frequency and duration of treatment with relevant guidelines based on national medical research or published by health care organizations and government agencies;
- d) It is consistent with the diagnosis of Your condition; and
- e) Its purpose is to improve Your medical condition and thereby aid in Your ability to return to work.

Current Earnings means any actual pre-tax monthly income You receive while You are working and eligible to receive a Monthly Benefit, or the pre-tax earnings You could receive if You were working at Your Maximum Capacity. If Your current earnings fluctuate, We reserve the option to average Your current earnings over the most recent three-month period and continue Your claim provided the average does not exceed the percentage of Indexed Pre-Disability Earnings allowed by the Policy. A Monthly Benefit will not be payable for any month during which Your current earnings exceed that percentage.

Deferred Compensation means contributions You make through a salary reduction agreement with Your employer to a plan or arrangement under Internal Revenue Code (IRC):

- a) 401(k);
- b) 403(b);
- c) 408(k);
- d) 457 Deferred Compensation arrangement; or
- e) any other deferred compensation agreement or arrangement defined under the Internal Revenue Code.

Disability and Disabled mean that because of an Injury or Sickness, a significant change in Your mental or physical functional capacity has occurred in which You are:

- a) prevented from performing at least one of the Material Duties of Your Regular Occupation on a part-time or full-time basis; and
- unable to generate Current Earnings which exceed 99% of Your Basic Monthly Earnings due to that same Injury or Sickness.

Disability is determined relative to Your ability or inability to work. It is not determined by the availability of a suitable position with Your employer.

*Elimination Period* means the number of days of Disability which must be satisfied before You are eligible to receive benefits. The elimination period is shown in the Schedule. The elimination period begins on the first day of Disability. If You are not continuously Disabled, the elimination period must be satisfied within a period of time which does not exceed two times the length of the elimination period; otherwise, a new elimination period will apply.

*Gross Monthly Benefit* means Your Monthly Benefit amount before any reduction for Other Income Benefits and Current Earnings.

Hospital means an accredited facility licensed by the proper authority of the area in which it is located to provide care and treatment for the condition causing Your Disability. A hospital does not include a facility or institution or part of a facility or institution which is licensed or used principally as a clinic, convalescent home, rest home, nursing home or home for the aged, halfway house or board and care facilities.

*Injury* means an accidental bodily injury which is the direct result of a sudden, unexpected and unintended external force or element, such as a blow or fall, that requires treatment by a Physician. It must be independent of Sickness or any other cause, including, but not limited to, complications from medical care. Disability due to such injury must begin while You are insured under the Policy. Injury does not include cosmetic surgery or procedures, or complications resulting therefrom.

*Material Duties* means the essential tasks, functions, and operations relating to an occupation that cannot be reasonably omitted or modified. In no event will We consider working an average of more than 40 hours per week in itself to be a part of

material duties. One of the material duties of Your Regular Occupation is the ability to work for an employer on a full-time basis.

*Maximum Capacity* means, based on Your medical restrictions and limitations the greatest extent of work You are able to do in Your Regular Occupation.

*Medically Necessary* means care that is ordered, prescribed or rendered by a Physician or Hospital and is determined by Us, or a qualified party or entity selected by Us, to be:

- a) provided for the diagnosis or direct treatment of Your Injury or Sickness;
- b) appropriate and consistent with the symptoms and findings or diagnosis and treatment of Your Injury or Sickness; and
- c) provided in accordance with generally accepted professional standards and/or medical practice.

Mental Disorder/Alcohol and Drug Abuse and/or Substance Abuse means any condition or disease, regardless of its cause, listed in the most recent edition of the International Classification of Diseases as a mental disorder.

The Policy may include limited benefits for any one or more of the conditions or diseases included in this definition. If it does, only those limited benefits relating to those conditions or diseases will be available.

*Physician* means any of the following licensed practitioners:

- a) a doctor of medicine (MD), osteopathy (DO), podiatry (DPM) or chiropractic (DC);
- b) a licensed doctoral clinical psychologist; or
- c) where required by law, any other licensed practitioner who is acting within the scope of his/her license.

A physician does not include You or a person who is a part of Your family (Your spouse; or a child, brother, sister or parent of You or Your spouse).

Policyholder's Retirement Plan means any retirement plan:

- a) which is part of any federal, state, county, municipal or association retirement system; and
- b) for which You are eligible as a result of employment with the Policyholder.

*Recurrent Disability* means a Disability which is related to or due to the same cause(s) of a prior Disability for which You received a Monthly Benefit under this Policy.

Regular Care means:

- a) You visit a Physician as frequently as is medically required, according to standard medical practice, to effectively manage and treat Your disabling condition; and
- b) You receive Appropriate Care and Treatment.

Regular Occupation means the occupation You are routinely performing when Your Disability begins. Your regular occupation is not limited to the specific position You held with the Policyholder, but will instead be considered to be a similar position or activity based on job descriptions included in the most current edition of the U.S. Department of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT). We have the right to substitute or replace the DOT with a service or other information that We determine of comparable purpose, with or without notice. To determine Your regular occupation, We will look at Your occupation as it is normally performed in the national economy, instead of how work tasks are performed for a specific employer, at a specific location, or in a specific area or region.

Retirement Benefit means money which:

- a) is payable under a Retirement Plan either in a lump sum or in the form of periodic payments;
- b) does not represent contributions made by You; and
- c) is payable upon the later of:
  - 1. early or normal retirement as defined in the Policyholder's Retirement Plan or under the U.S. Social Security Act; or
  - 2. Disability, if the payment does not reduce the amount of money which would have been paid at the normal retirement age under the plan if the Disability had not occurred.

**Note**: Regardless of how the retirement funds from the Retirement Plan are distributed, We will consider Your contributions and Your employer's contributions to be distributed simultaneously during Your lifetime.

Retirement Plan means a plan which provides Your Retirement Benefits and which is not funded wholly by Your contributions. The term shall not include a profit-sharing plan or a plan such as a 401(k), a thrift plan, an individual retirement account (IRA), a tax sheltered annuity (TSA), a stock ownership plan, or a non-qualified plan of Deferred Compensation.

Rider means a provision added to the Policy or Your Certificate to expand or limit benefits or coverage.

Sickness means a disease, disorder or condition, including pregnancy, for which you are under the care of a Physician. Disability must begin while you are insured under the Policy. Sickness does not include cosmetic surgery or procedures, or complications resulting therefrom. Cosmetic surgery does not include reconstructive surgery when such service is incidental to or follows surgery resulting from trauma, infection or other diseases of the involved part.

We, Our, Us means the Insurance Company shown on Your Certificate of Insurance.

You, Your and Insured Person means an insured employee or member.

#### ADDITIONAL SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION INFORMATION

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) requires that certain information be furnished to eligible participants in an employee benefits plan. The employee benefits plan maintained by the Policyholder shall be referred to herein as the "Plan."

This document, in conjunction with Your Certificate, is Your ERISA Summary Plan Description for the insurance benefits described herein.

Contributions are made solely by the Policyholder. Contributions are based on the amount of insurance premiums necessary to provide Plan coverage.

The benefits under the Plan are fully insured by Us under a group insurance policy issued by Us. Benefits under the Policy are guaranteed to the extent all Policy provisions are met and subject to all terms and conditions of the Policy (including, but not limited to, all exclusions, limitations and exceptions in the Policy). Our home office is located at Mutual of Omaha Plaza, Omaha, NE 68175.

## **EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND PLAN NUMBER**

The Employer Identification Number (EIN) is: 11-1957801

The Plan Number is: 501

## **PLAN ADMINISTRATOR**

The Plan is provided through and administered by:

SterlingRisk 135 Crossways Park Drive Suite 300 Woodbury, NY 11797 Phone: (516) 773-8644

## AGENT FOR SERVICE OF LEGAL PROCESS

The agent for service of legal process upon the Plan is:

SterlingRisk 135 Crossways Park Drive Suite 300 Woodbury, NY 11797 Phone: (516) 773-8644

## **PLAN YEAR**

Each 12-month period beginning on January 1 is a "plan year" for the purposes of accounting and all reports to the U.S. Department of Labor and other regulatory bodies.

#### STATEMENT OF ERISA RIGHTS

As a participant in the Plan, You are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides that all Plan participants shall be entitled to:

## a) Receive Information About Your Plan and Benefits

- 1. Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, all documents governing the Plan, including insurance contracts and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
- 2. Obtain, upon written request to the Plan Administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the Plan, including insurance contracts and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated Summary Plan Description. The Plan Administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.
- 3. Receive a summary of the Plan's annual financial report. The Plan Administrator is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report.

## b) Prudent Actions by Plan Fiduciaries

In addition to creating rights for plan participants ERISA imposes duties upon the people who are responsible for the operation of the employee benefit plan. The people who operate Your Plan, called "fiduciaries" of the Plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of You and other Plan participants and beneficiaries. No one, including Your employer, or any other person, may fire You or otherwise discriminate against You in any way to prevent You from obtaining a benefit or exercising Your rights under ERISA.

## c) Enforce Your Rights

If Your claim for a benefit is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, You have a right to know why this was done, to obtain copies of documents relating to the decision without charge, and to appeal any denial, all within certain time schedules.

Under ERISA, there are steps You can take to enforce the above rights. For instance, if You request a copy of Plan documents or the latest annual report from the Plan and do not receive them within 30 days, You may file suit in a Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the Plan Administrator to provide the materials and pay You up to \$110 a day until You receive the materials, unless the materials were not sent because of reasons beyond the control of the Administrator. If You have a claim for benefits which is denied or ignored, in whole or in part, You may file suit in a state or Federal court. In addition, if You disagree with the Plan's decision or lack thereof concerning the qualified status of a domestic relations order or a medical child support order, You may file suit in Federal court. If it should happen that Plan fiduciaries misuse the Plan's money, or if You are discriminated against for asserting Your rights, You may seek assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor, or You may file suit in a Federal court. The court will decide who should pay court costs and legal fees. If You are successful the court may order the person You have sued to pay these costs and fees. If You lose, the court may order You to pay these costs and fees, for example, if it finds Your claim is frivolous.

## d) Assistance with Your Questions

If You have any questions about Your Plan, You should contact the Plan Administrator. If You have any questions about this statement or about Your rights under ERISA, or if You need assistance in obtaining documents from the Plan Administrator, You should contact the nearest office of the Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, listed in Your telephone directory or the Division of Technical Assistance and Inquiries, Employee Benefits Security Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210. You may also obtain certain publications about Your rights and responsibilities under ERISA by calling the publications hotline of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

## **PLAN DISCLOSURES**

You are entitled to request from the Plan Administrator, without charge, information applicable to the Plan's benefits and procedures. In addition, Your Certificate includes, as applicable, a description of:

- a) employee eligibility requirements;
- b) when insurance ends;
- c) state or federal continuation rights; and
- d) claims procedures.

## **PLAN CHANGES**

The persons with authority to change, including the authority to terminate, the Plan on behalf of the Policyholder are the Policyholder's Board of Directors or other governing body, or any person or persons authorized by resolution of the Board or other governing body to take such action. Please refer to the provision in Your Certificate entitled "Changes in the Insurance Contract" for information about how the Policy can be changed. The Policyholder's benefits area is authorized to apply for and accept the Policy and any changes to the Policy on behalf of the Policyholder.

# **Group Long-Term Disability Benefits**

SterlingRisk

Group Number: G000402K

**Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company** 

Home Office: Mutual of Omaha Plaza Omaha, Nebraska 68175

