

**Group Long Term Disability  
Insurance Certificate**

Aldine Independent School District



## IMPORTANT NOTICES

If you reside in one of the following states, please read the important notices below:

### Arizona, Florida and Maryland residents:

**The group policy is issued in the state of Texas and will be governed by its laws. If you reside in a state other than Texas, this certificate of insurance may not provide all of the benefits and protections provided by the laws of your state. PLEASE READ YOUR CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY.**

### Have a complaint or need help?

If you have a problem with a claim or your premium, call your insurance company or HMO first. If you can't work out the issue, the Texas Department of Insurance may be able to help.

Even if you file a complaint with the Texas Department of Insurance, you should also file a complaint or appeal through your insurance company or HMO. If you don't, you may lose your right to appeal.

### Life Insurance Company of North America

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

**Call: 1-888-842-4462 Toll-free**

Email: [gbsconsumeradvocacy@newyorklife.com](mailto:gbsconsumeradvocacy@newyorklife.com)

Mail: Complaint Manager  
2000 Park Lane Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

### The Texas Department of Insurance

To get help with an insurance question or file a complaint with the state:

Call with a question: 1-800-252-3439

File a complaint: [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)

Email: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov)

Mail: MC CO-CP, Texas Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 12030, Austin, TX 78711-2030

### ¿Tiene una queja o necesita ayuda?

Si tiene un problema con una reclamación o con su prima de seguro, llame primero a su compañía de seguros o HMO. Si no puede resolver el problema, es posible que el Departamento de Seguros de Texas (Texas Department of Insurance, por su nombre en inglés) pueda ayudar.

Aun si usted presenta una queja ante el Departamento de Seguros de Texas, también debe presentar una queja a través del proceso de quejas o de apelaciones de su compañía de seguros o HMO. Si no lo hace, podría perder su derecho para apelar.

### Life Insurance Company of North America

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

**Llame a: 1-888-842-4462 Telefonogratis**

electrónico: [gbsconsumeradvocacy@newyorklife.com](mailto:gbsconsumeradvocacy@newyorklife.com)

Dirección postal: Queja Gerente  
2000 Park Lane Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15275

### El Departamento de Seguros de Texas

Para obtener ayuda con una pregunta relacionada con los seguros o para presentar una queja ante el estado:

Llame con sus preguntas al: 1-800-252-3439



Presente una queja en: [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)

Correo electrónico: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov)

Dirección postal: MC CO-CP, Texas Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 12030, Austin, TX 78711-2030



## **FOREWORD**

Disability insurance provides individuals and their families with financial protection. The Disability Insurance Benefit described in this booklet will help secure your family's financial security in the event of your disability.

The need for disability insurance protection depends on individual circumstances and financial situations. Your Employer is offering you the opportunity to purchase this insurance to make your benefit program more comprehensive and responsive to your needs.

The following pages describe the main provisions of the group disability insurance plan available to you.

Any insurance benefit described in the following pages will apply to you only if you have elected that benefit and have authorized payroll deduction for the required premium.





**LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA**

1601 CHESTNUT STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19192-2235

(888) 842-4462      Dial 711 to access telecommunications relay services

**A STOCK INSURANCE COMPANY**

**GROUP INSURANCE  
CERTIFICATE**

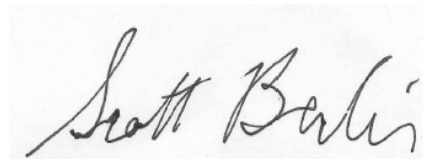
We, the LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA, certify that we have issued a Group Policy, SLH-100038, to Aldine Independent School District.

We certify that we insure all eligible persons, who are enrolled according to the terms of the Policy. Your coverage will begin and end according to the terms set forth in this certificate.

This certificate describes the benefits and basic provisions of your coverage. You should read it with care so you will understand your coverage.

This is not the insurance contract. It does not waive or alter any of the terms of the Policy. If questions arise, the Policy will govern. You may examine the Policy at the office of the Policyholder or the Administrator.

This certificate replaces any and all certificates which may have been issued to you in the past under the Policy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Berlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Berlin, President



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## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

**Policy Effective Date:** January 1, 2025

**Policy Anniversary Date:** January 1

**Policy Number:** SLH-100038

### **Eligible Class Definition:**

All active, Full-time Employees of the Employer regularly working a minimum of 30 hours per week in the United States, who are citizens or permanent resident aliens of the United States.

Eligible Employees who are in Active Service as of the last scheduled work day of the Employer's contract year shall remain eligible until the last day of the Employer's contract year, subject to payment of premium as required by the Policy.

### **Eligibility Waiting Period**

If you were hired on or before the Policy Effective Date: The first of the month following the date of hire

If you were hired after the Policy Effective Date: The first of the month following the date of hire

The *Eligibility Waiting Period* does not apply if a former Employee is rehired within 3 months after his or her termination from employment and the former Employee had satisfied the *Eligibility Waiting Period* prior to his or her termination date. If a former Employee did not fully satisfy the *Eligibility Waiting Period* prior to his or her termination date, credit will be given for any time that was satisfied.

### **Elimination Period**

	<u><b>Accident</b></u>	<u><b>Sickness</b></u>
Option 1:	0 days	7 days
Option 2:	14 days	14 days
Option 3:	30 days	30 days
Option 4:	60 days	60 days
Option 5:	90 days	90 days
Option 6:	180 days	180 days

For any selected Elimination Period of 30 days or less, the Elimination Period will be waived if the Employee is hospital confined as an inpatient.

Any Employee insured under the disability plan may enroll in a plan option with a shorter Elimination Period during a subsequent open enrollment. If an Employee becomes Disabled and is subject to the Pre-Existing Condition Limitation for any period of Disability caused or contributed by, or resulting from, a Pre-Existing Condition, benefits may be paid on a limited basis as outlined in the Pre-Existing Condition Waiver provision. Once benefits have been exhausted under the Pre-Existing Condition Waiver provision they may recommence if the Elimination Period of the previously elected option and all other provisions of the disability plan are satisfied.

**Gross Disability Benefit**

An amount elected by an Employee in multiples of \$100 subject to a maximum of \$8,000 per month. The amount elected cannot exceed 66.67% of an Employee's pre-disability income, rounded to the nearest \$100, if not already a multiple thereof.

The lesser of the percent of your monthly Covered Earnings listed above, rounded to the nearest dollar, or the Maximum Disability Benefit.

**Minimum Disability Benefit**

The greater of \$100 or 25% of your Monthly Benefit prior to any reductions for Other Income Benefits.

**Disability Benefit Calculation**

The Disability Benefit payable to you is figured using the Gross Disability Benefit, Other Income Benefits and the Return to Work Incentive. Monthly Benefits are based on a 30-day month. The Disability Benefit will be prorated if payable for any period less than a month.

During any month you have no Disability Earnings, the monthly benefit payable is the Gross Disability Benefit less Other Income Benefits. During any month you have Disability Earnings, benefits are determined under the Return to Work Incentive. Benefits will not be less than the minimum benefit shown in the Schedule of Benefits except as provided under the section Minimum Benefit.

"Other Income Benefits" means any benefits listed in the Other Income Benefits provision that you receive on your own behalf or for your dependents, or which your dependents receive because of your entitlement to Other Income Benefits.

*Return to Work Incentive*

During any month you have Disability Earnings, your benefits will be calculated as follows.

Your monthly benefit payable will be calculated as follows during the first 24 months disability benefits are payable and you have Disability Earnings:

1. Add your Gross Disability Benefit and Disability Earnings.
2. Compare the sum from 1. to your Indexed Earnings.
3. If the sum from 1. exceeds 100% of your Indexed Earnings, then subtract the Indexed Earnings from the sum in 1.
4. Your Gross Disability Benefit will be reduced by the difference from 3., as well as by Other Income Benefits.
5. If the sum from 1. does not exceed 100% of your Indexed Earnings, your Gross Disability Benefit will be reduced by Other Income Benefits.

After disability benefits are payable for 24 months, the monthly benefit payable is the Gross Disability Benefit reduced by Other Income Benefits and 50% of Disability Earnings.

No Disability Benefits will be paid, and insurance will end if we determine you are able to work under a modified work arrangement and you refuse to do so without Good Cause.

## **Maximum Benefit Period**

### Age When Disability Begins

Age 62 or under

Age 63

Age 64

Age 65

Age 66

Age 67

Age 68

Age 69 or older

TL-004774

### Maximum Benefit Period

Your 65th birthday or  
the date the 42nd Monthly Benefit is payable, if later.

The date the 36th Monthly Benefit is payable.

The date the 30th Monthly Benefit is payable.

The date the 24th Monthly Benefit is payable.

The date the 21st Monthly Benefit is payable.

The date the 18th Monthly Benefit is payable.

The date the 15th Monthly Benefit is payable.

The date the 12th Monthly Benefit is payable.

## **ENROLLING FOR INSURANCE**

### **Annual Enrollment Period**

During the Annual Enrollment Period, if you are insured for Core Benefits under this Policy, you may elect to be insured for Optional Benefits provided by this Policy without satisfying the Insurability Requirement.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE**

If you qualify under the Class Definition shown in the Schedule of Benefits you are eligible for coverage under the Policy on the Policy Effective Date, or the day after you complete the Eligibility Waiting Period, if later. The Eligibility Waiting Period is the period of time you must be in Active Service to be eligible for coverage. Your Eligibility Waiting Period will be extended by the number of days you are not in Active Service.

Except as noted in the Reinstatement Provision, if you terminate your coverage and later wish to reapply, or if you are a former Employee who is rehired as shown on the Schedule of Benefits, you must satisfy a new Eligibility Waiting Period. You are not required to satisfy a new Eligibility Waiting Period if as shown in the Schedule of Benefits your insurance ends because you no longer qualify under your Class Definition, but you continue to be employed, and within one year you qualify again.

TL-004710

## **WHEN COVERAGE BEGINS**

If you are required to contribute toward the cost of your insurance you may elect insurance for you only by authorizing payroll deduction in a form approved by the Employer and us. The effective date of your insurance depends on the date and amount of insurance elected.

If the coverage is elected within 31 days after the individual becomes eligible, during an Annual Enrollment Period or within 31 days after a Life Status Change, this insurance will be effective on the latest of the following dates.

1. The Policy Effective Date.
2. The date payroll deduction is authorized for this insurance.
3. The date the Employer or us receives the completed enrollment form.

If an enrollment form is received more than 31 days after an individual is eligible to elect coverage, this insurance will be effective on the date the Insurance Company agrees in writing to insure that eligible person. The Insurance Company will require the eligible person to satisfy the Insurability Requirement before it agrees to insure him or her.

If you are not in Active Service on the date insurance would otherwise be effective, it will be effective on the date you return to Active Service.

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## **WHEN COVERAGE ENDS**

Your coverage ends on the earliest of the following dates:

1. the date you are eligible for coverage under a plan intended to replace this coverage;
2. the date the Policy is terminated;
3. the date you are no longer in an eligible class;
4. the day after the end of the period for which premiums are paid;
5. the date you are no longer in Active Service;
6. the date benefits end because you did not comply with the terms and conditions of the insurance coverage.

If you are entitled to receive Disability Benefits when the Policy terminates, Disability Benefits will be payable to you if you remain disabled and meet the requirements for the insurance. Any later period of Disability, regardless of cause, that begins when you are eligible under another disability coverage provided by any employer, will not be covered.

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## WHEN COVERAGE CONTINUES

This provision modifies the When Coverage Ends provision to allow insurance to continue under certain circumstances if you are no longer in Active Service. Insurance that is continued under this provision is subject to all other terms of the When Coverage Ends provisions.

Your Disability Insurance will continue if your Active Service ends because of a Disability for which benefits under the Policy are or may become payable. Your premiums will be waived while Disability Benefits are payable. If you do not return to Active Service, this insurance ends when your Disability ends or when benefits are no longer payable, whichever occurs first.

If your Active Service ends due to an approved leave pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), insurance will continue up to the later of 6 months, the period of your approved FMLA leave or the leave period required by law in the state in which you are employed. Premiums are required for this coverage.

If your Active Service ends due to any other leave of absence approved in writing by the Employer prior to the date you cease work, insurance will continue for you for up to 30 days. Premiums are required for this coverage. An approved leave of absence does not include Furlough, Temporary Layoff or termination of employment.

If your Active Service ends due to any other excused short term absence from work that is reported to the Employer timely in accordance with the Employer's reporting requirements for such short term absence, your insurance will continue until the earlier of:

- a. the date your employment relationship with the Employer terminates;
- b. the date premiums are not paid when due;
- c. the end of the 30 day period that begins with the first day of such excused absence;
- d. the end of the period for which such short term absence is excused by the Employer.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, if your Active Service ends due to layoff, termination of employment or any other termination of the employment relationship, insurance will terminate and continuation of insurance under this provision will not apply.

If your insurance is continued pursuant to this When Coverage Continues provision, and you become Disabled during such period of continuation, Disability Benefits will not begin until the later of the date the Elimination Period is satisfied or the date you are scheduled to return to Active Service.

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## TAKEOVER PROVISION

This provision applies to you only if you are eligible under this Policy and were covered for long term disability coverage on the day prior to the effective date of this Policy under the Prior Plan provided by the Policyholder or by an entity that has been acquired by the Policyholder.

- A. This section A applies to you if you are not in Active Service on the day prior to the effective date of this Policy due to a reason for which the Prior Plan and this Policy both provide for continuation of insurance. If required premium is paid when due, we will insure an Employee to which this section applies against a disability that occurs after the effective date of this Policy for the affected employee group. This coverage will be provided until the earlier of the date: (a) you return to Active Service, (b) continuation of insurance under the Prior Plan would end but for termination of that plan; or (c) the date continuation of insurance under this Policy would end if computed from the first day you were not in Active Service. The Policy will provide this coverage as follows:
1. If benefits for a disability are covered under the Prior Plan, no benefits are payable under this Plan.
  2. If the disability is not a covered disability under the Prior Plan solely because the plan terminated, benefits payable under this Policy for that disability will be the lesser of: (a) the disability benefits that would have been payable under the Prior Plan; and (b) those provided by this Policy. Credit will be given for partial completion under the Prior Plan of Elimination Periods and partial satisfaction of pre-existing condition limitations.
- B. The Elimination Period under this Policy will be waived for a Disability which begins while you are insured under this Policy if all of the following conditions are met:
1. The Disability results from the same or related causes as a Disability for which monthly benefits were payable under the Prior Plan;
  2. Benefits are not payable for the Disability under the Prior Plan solely because it is not in effect;
  3. An Elimination Period would not apply to the Disability if the Prior Plan had not ended;
  4. The Disability begins within 6 months of your return to Active Service and your insurance under this Policy is continuous from this Policy's Effective Date.
- C. Except for any amount of benefit in excess of a Prior Plan's benefits, the Pre-existing Condition Limitation will not apply if you were covered under a Prior Plan and satisfied the pre-existing condition limitation, if any, under that plan. If you did not fully satisfy the pre-existing condition limitation of that plan, credit will be given for any time that was satisfied under the Prior Plan's pre-existing condition limitation.

Benefits will be determined based on the lesser of: (1) the amount of the Gross Disability Benefit under the Prior Plan and any applicable maximums; and (2) those provided by this Policy.

If benefits are payable under the Prior Plan for the Disability, no benefits are payable under this Policy.

## **DESCRIPTION OF BENEFITS WHAT IS COVERED**

### **Disability Benefits**

We will pay Disability Benefits if you become Disabled while covered under this Policy. You must satisfy the Elimination Period, be under the Appropriate Care of a Physician, and meet all the other terms and conditions of the Policy. You must provide to us, at your own expense, satisfactory proof of Disability before benefits will be paid. The Disability Benefit is shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

We will require continued proof of your Disability for benefits to continue.

### **Elimination Period**

The Elimination Period is the period of time you must be continuously Disabled before Disability Benefits are payable. The Elimination Period is shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

A period of Disability is not continuous if separate periods of Disability result from unrelated causes.

### **Disability Benefit Calculation**

The Disability Benefit Calculation is shown in the Schedule of Benefits. Monthly Disability Benefits are based on a 30 day period. They will be prorated if payable for any period less than a month. If you are working while Disabled, the Disability Benefit Calculation will be the Return to Work Incentive.

### **Return to Work Incentive**

The Return to Work Incentive is shown in the Schedule of Benefits. You may work for wage or profit while Disabled. In any month in which you work and a Disability Benefit is payable, the Return to Work Incentive applies.

We will, from time to time, review your status and will require satisfactory proof of earnings and continued Disability.

### **Minimum Benefit**

We will pay the Minimum Benefit shown in the Schedule of Benefits despite any reductions made for Other Income Benefits. The Minimum Benefit will not apply if benefits are being withheld to recover an overpayment of benefits.

### **Other Income Benefits**

If Disability Benefits are payable to you under this Policy, you may be eligible for benefits from Other Income Benefits. If so, we may reduce the Disability Benefits by the amount of such Other Income Benefits.

Other Income Benefits include:

- 1.1. any amounts received (or assumed to be received\*) by you or your dependents under:
  - the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans;
  - the Railroad Retirement Act;
  - any local, state, provincial or federal government disability, paid leave or retirement plan or law provided as a result of employment with the Employer, which are payable for an absence from work for which Disability Benefits are payable under this Policy;
  - any sick leave, salary continuation, or paid time off plan of the Employer.
- 1.2. any Social Security disability or retirement benefits you or any third party receive (or are assumed to receive\*) on your own behalf or for your dependents; or which your dependents receive (or are assumed to receive\*) because of your entitlement to such benefits.

- 1.3. any Retirement Plan benefits funded by the Employer, including any income available under a State Teacher Retirement System and union sponsored retirement plans. "Retirement Plan" means any defined benefit or defined contribution plan sponsored or funded by the Employer. It does not include an individual deferred compensation agreement; a profit sharing or any other retirement or savings plan maintained in addition to a defined benefit or other defined contribution pension plan, or any employee savings plan including a thrift, stock option or stock bonus plan, individual retirement account or 401(k) plan.
- 1.4. any proceeds payable under any group insurance or similar plan. If other insurance applies to the same claim for Disability, and contains the same or similar provision for reduction because of other insurance, we will pay for our pro rata share of the total claim. "Pro rata share" means the proportion of the total benefit that the amount payable under one policy, without other insurance, bears to the total benefits under all such policies.
- 1.5. any amounts received (or assumed to be received\*) by you or your dependents under any workers' compensation, occupational disease, unemployment compensation law or similar state or federal law payable for Injury or Sickness arising out of work with the Employer, including but not limited to the Jones Act, Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, maritime common law or any other law allowing for recovery by employees, as well as all permanent and temporary disability benefits. This includes any damages, compromises or settlement paid in place of such benefits, whether or not liability is admitted.
- 1.6. any amounts paid because of loss of earnings or earning capacity through settlement, judgment, arbitration or otherwise, where a third party may be liable, regardless of whether liability is determined. If you notify us before filing suit or settling a claim against such third party, the amount deducted as Other Income will be reduced by a pro rata share of your costs of recovery, including reasonable attorney fees.

Dependents include any person who receives (or is assumed to receive\*) benefits under any applicable law because of your entitlement to benefits.

\*See the Assumed Receipt of Benefits provision.

#### *Increases in Other Income Benefits*

Any increase in Other Income Benefits during a period of Disability due to a cost of living adjustment will not be considered in calculating your Disability Benefits after the first reduction is made for any Other Income Benefits. This section does not apply to any cost of living adjustment for Disability Earnings.

#### *Lump Sum Payments*

Other Income Benefits or earnings paid in a lump sum will be prorated over the period for which the sum is given. If no time is stated, the lump sum will be prorated over five years.

If no specific allocation of a lump sum payment is made, then the total payment will be an Other Income Benefit.

#### *Assumed Receipt of Benefits*

We will assume you (and your dependents, if applicable) are receiving benefits for which you are eligible from Other Income Benefits. We will reduce your Disability Benefits by the amount from Other Income Benefits we estimate are payable to you and your dependents.

We will waive Assumed Receipt of Benefits, except for Disability Earnings for work you perform while Disability Benefits are payable, if you:

1. provide satisfactory proof of application for Other Income Benefits;
2. sign a Reimbursement Agreement;
3. provide satisfactory proof that all appeals for Other Income Benefits have been made unless we determine that further appeals are not likely to succeed; and
4. submit satisfactory proof that Other Income Benefits were denied.

We will not assume receipt of any pension or retirement benefits that are actuarially reduced according to applicable law, until you actually receive them.

#### *Social Security Assistance*

We may help you in applying for Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) Benefits, and may require you to file an appeal if we believe a reversal of a prior decision is possible.

We will reduce Disability Benefits by the amount we estimate you will receive, if you refuse to cooperate with or participate in the Social Security Assistance Program.

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#### **Recovery of Overpayment**

We have the right to recover any benefits we have overpaid. We may use any or all of the following to recover an overpayment:

1. request a lump sum payment of the overpaid amount;
2. reduce any amounts payable under this Policy; and/or
3. take any appropriate collection activity available to us.

The Minimum Benefit amount will not apply when Disability Benefits are reduced in order to recover any overpayment.

If an overpayment is due when you die, any benefits payable under the Policy will be reduced to recover the overpayment.

#### **Successive Periods of Disability**

A separate period of Disability will be considered continuous:

1. if it results from the same or related causes as a prior Disability for which benefits were payable; and
2. if, after receiving Disability Benefits, you return to work in your Regular Occupation for less than 6 consecutive months; and
3. if you earn less than the percentage of Indexed Earnings that would still qualify you to meet the definition of Disability/Disabled during at least one month.

Any later period of Disability, regardless of cause, that begins when you are eligible for coverage under another group disability plan provided by any employer will not be considered a continuous period of Disability.

For any separate period of disability which is not considered continuous, you must satisfy a new Elimination Period.

## **LIMITATIONS**

### **Limited Benefit Periods for Mental or Nervous Disorders**

We will pay Disability Benefits on a limited basis for a Disability caused by, or contributed to by, any one or more of the following conditions. Once 24 monthly Disability Benefits have been paid, during your lifetime, no further benefits will be payable for any of the following conditions.

- 1) Anxiety disorders
- 2) Delusional (paranoid) disorders
- 3) Depressive disorders
- 4) Eating disorders
- 5) Mental illness
- 6) Somatoform disorders (psychosomatic illness)
- 7) Psychotic disorders
- 8) Bipolar affective disorder (manic depressive syndrome)
- 9) Schizophrenia
- 10) Chemical and environmental sensitivities
- 11) Subjective Symptom Conditions

Subjective Symptom Conditions means any physical or mental or emotional symptom, feeling or condition reported by you, or by your Physician, which cannot be verified using tests, procedures or clinical examinations that conform to generally-accepted medical standards. Subjective Symptom Conditions include, but are not limited to, headaches, pain, fatigue, stiffness, numbness, nausea, dizziness and ringing in ears.

If, before reaching your lifetime maximum benefit, you are confined in a hospital for more than 14 consecutive days, that period of confinement will not count against your lifetime limit. The confinement must be for the Appropriate Care of any of the conditions listed above.

### **Limited Benefit Periods for Alcoholism and Drug Addiction or Abuse**

We will pay Disability Benefits on a limited basis for a Disability caused by, or contributed to by, any one or more of the following conditions. Once 24 monthly Disability Benefits have been paid, during your lifetime, no further benefits will be payable for any of the following conditions.

- 1) Alcoholism
- 2) Drug addiction or abuse

If, before reaching your lifetime maximum benefit, you are confined in a hospital for more than 14 consecutive days, that period of confinement will not count against your lifetime limit. The confinement must be for the Appropriate Care of any of the conditions listed above.

### **Pre-Existing Condition Waiver**

The Insurance Company will waive the Pre-Existing Condition Limitation for the first 12 weeks Disability Benefits are payable even if the Employee has a Pre-Existing Condition. The Disability Benefits as shown in the Schedule of Benefits will continue beyond 12 weeks only if the Pre-Existing Condition Limitation does not apply.

### **Pre-Existing Condition Limitation**

We will not pay benefits for any period of Disability caused or contributed to by, or resulting from, a Pre-existing Condition. A "Pre-existing Condition" means any Injury or Sickness for which you incurred expenses, received medical treatment, care or services including diagnostic measures, or took prescribed drugs or medicines within 3 months before your most recent effective date of insurance.

The Pre-existing Condition Limitation will apply to any added benefits or increases in benefits. This limitation will not apply to a period of Disability that begins after you are covered for at least 12 months after your most recent effective date of insurance, or the effective date of any added or increased benefits.

If an Employee is insured for the maximum benefit amount allowed based on the Employee's Covered Earnings and the Employee receives an increase in Covered Earnings, the Pre-Existing Condition Limitation will not apply to the increased amount if the Employee elects, during the following Annual Enrollment, to increase his or her benefit to the new maximum amount.

TL-007500.44 (as modified by TL-010455c.TX)

## **ADDITIONAL BENEFITS**

### **Rehabilitation During a Period of Disability**

#### **Employee Benefit**

If you are Disabled, you may be eligible to participate in a Rehabilitation Plan or may be participating in a program that you desire to have approved by us as a Rehabilitation Plan. If you desire to participate in rehabilitation efforts or to have your program approved by us as a Rehabilitation Plan, you may request approval from us. We have the sole discretion to approve your participation in a Rehabilitation Plan and to approve a program as a Rehabilitation Plan.

If, while you are Disabled, we determine that you are a suitable candidate for rehabilitation, you may participate in a Rehabilitation Plan. The terms and conditions of the Rehabilitation Plan must be mutually agreed upon by you and us.

The Rehabilitation Plan may, at our discretion, allow for payment of your medical expense, education expense, moving expense, accommodation expense or family care expense while you participate in the program.

A "Rehabilitation Plan" is a written agreement between the Insured and the Insurance Company in which we agree to provide, arrange or authorize vocational or physical rehabilitation services.

TL-005105

#### **Survivor Benefit**

We will pay a Survivor Benefit if you die while Disability Benefits are payable to you for a continuous period of Disability. The Survivor Benefit will equal 100% of the sum of the last full Disability Benefit payable to you plus the amount of any Disability Earnings by which the benefit had been reduced for that month. A single lump sum payment equal to 3 monthly Survivor Benefits will be payable.

We will pay the Survivor Benefit to your Spouse. If you do not have a Spouse, we will pay your surviving Children in equal shares. If you do not have a Spouse or any Children, we will pay your estate.

"Spouse" means your lawful spouse. "Children" means your unmarried children under age 26 who are chiefly dependent upon you for support and maintenance. The term includes a stepchild living with you at the time of your death.

TL-005107

## **TERMINATION OF DISABILITY BENEFITS**

Benefits will end on the earliest of the following dates:

1. the date you earn from any occupation, more than the percentage of Indexed Earnings set forth in the definition of Disability applicable to you at that time;
2. the date we determine you are not Disabled;
3. the end of the Maximum Benefit Period;
4. the date you die;
5. the date you are no longer receiving Appropriate Care;
6. the date you fail to cooperate with us in the administration of the claim. Such cooperation includes, but is not limited to, providing any information or documents needed to determine whether benefits are payable or the actual benefit amount due.

TL-007502.00

## **WHAT IS NOT COVERED**

We will not pay any Disability Benefits for a Disability that results, directly or indirectly, from:

1. suicide, attempted suicide, or self-inflicted injury while sane or insane.
2. war or any act of war, whether or not declared.
3. active participation in a riot.
4. commission of a felony.
5. the revocation, restriction or non-renewal of your license, permit or certification necessary to perform the duties of your occupation unless due solely to Injury or Sickness otherwise covered by the Policy.

In addition, we will not pay Disability Benefits for any period of Disability during which you are incarcerated in a penal or correctional institution.

TL-007503.00

## **CLAIM PROVISIONS**

### **Notice of Claim**

Written notice of claim, or notice by any other electronic/telephonic means authorized by us, must be given to us within 31 days after a covered loss occurs or begins or as soon as reasonably possible. If written notice, or notice by any other electronic/telephonic means authorized by us, is not given in that time, the claim will not be invalidated or reduced if it is shown that notice was given as soon as was reasonably possible. Notice can be given at our home office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania or to our agent. Notice should include the Employer's name, the Policy Number and the claimant's name and address.

### **Claim Forms**

When we receive notice of claim, we will send claim forms for filing proof of loss. If we do not send claim forms within 15 days after notice is received by us, the proof requirements will be met by submitting, within the time required under the "Proof of Loss" section, written proof, or proof by any other electronic/telephonic means authorized by us, of the nature and extent of the loss.

### **Claimant Cooperation Provision**

If you fail to cooperate with us in our administration of your claim, we may terminate the claim. Such cooperation includes, but is not limited to, providing any information or documents needed to determine whether benefits are payable or the actual benefit amount due.



**Insurance Data**

The Employer is required to cooperate with us in the review of claims and applications for coverage. Any information we provide to the Employer in these areas is confidential and may not be used or released by the Employer if not permitted by applicable privacy laws.

**Proof of Loss**

You must provide written proof of loss to us, or proof by any other electronic/telephonic means authorized by us, within 90 days after the date of the loss for which a claim is made. If written proof of loss, or proof by any other electronic/telephonic means authorized by us, is not given in that 90 day period, the claim will not be invalidated nor reduced if it is shown that it was given as soon as was reasonably possible. In any case, written proof of loss, or proof by any other electronic/telephonic means authorized by us, must be given not more than one year after the 90 day period. If written proof of loss, or proof by any other electronic/telephonic means authorized by us, is provided outside of these time limits, the claim will be denied. These time limits will not apply due to lack of legal capacity.

Written proof that the loss continues, or proof by any other electronic/telephonic means authorized by us, must be furnished to us at intervals we require. Within 30 days of a request, written proof of continued Disability and Appropriate Care by a Physician must be given to us.

**Time of Payment**

Disability Benefits will be paid at regular intervals of not less frequently than once a month. Any balance, unpaid at the end of any period for which we are liable, will be paid at that time.

**To Whom Payable**

Disability Benefits will be paid to you. If any person to whom benefits are payable is a minor or, in our opinion is not able to give a valid receipt, such payment will be made to his or her legal guardian. However, if no request for payment has been made by the legal guardian, we may, at our option, make payment to the person or institution appearing to have assumed custody and support.

If you die while any Disability Benefits remain unpaid, we may, at our option, make direct payment to any of your following living relatives: your spouse, your mother, your father, your children, your brothers or sisters; or to the executors or administrators of your estate. We may reduce the amount payable by any indebtedness due.

Payment in the manner described above will release us from all liability for any payment made.

**Physical Examination and Autopsy**

We may, at our expense, exercise the right to examine any person for whom a claim is pending as often as we may reasonably require. Also, we may, at our expense, require an autopsy unless prohibited by law.

**Legal Actions**

No action at law or in equity may be brought to recover benefits under the Policy less than 60 days after written proof of loss, or proof by any other electronic/telephonic means authorized by us, has been furnished as required by the Policy. No such action shall be brought more than 3 years after the time satisfactory proof of loss is required to be furnished.

**Time Limitations**

If any time limit stated in the Policy for giving notice of claim or proof of loss, or for bringing any action at law or in equity, is less than that permitted by the law of the state in which you live when the Policy is issued, then the time limit provided in the Policy is extended to agree with the minimum permitted by the law of that state.

**Physician/Patient Relationship**

You have the right to choose any Physician who is practicing legally. We will in no way disturb the Physician/patient relationship.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

### **Premiums**

The premiums for this Policy will be based on the rates currently in force, the plan and the amount of insurance in effect.

### **Your Grace Period**

If your required premium is not paid on the Premium Due Date, there is a 31 day grace period after each premium due date after the first. If the required premium is not paid during the grace period, insurance will end on the last day for which premium was paid.

### **Reinstatement of Insurance**

Your insurance may be reinstated if it ends because you are on an unpaid leave of absence. If your Active Service ended due to an approved leave pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and Continuation of Insurance is not applicable, your insurance may be reinstated at the conclusion of the FMLA leave.

If your Active Service ends due to an Employer approved unpaid leave of absence, other than an approved FMLA leave, insurance may be reinstated only:

1. If the reinstatement occurs within 12 weeks from the date insurance ends, or
2. When returning from military service pursuant to the Uniformed Services Employment Act of 1994 (USERRA).

For insurance to be reinstated the following conditions must be met:

1. You must be in a Class of Eligible Employees.
2. The required premium must be paid.
3. We must receive a written request for reinstatement within 31 days from the date you return to Active Service.

Reinstated insurance will be effective on the date you return to Active Service. If you did not fully satisfy the Eligibility Waiting Period or the Pre-Existing Condition Limitation (if any) before insurance ended due to an unpaid leave of absence, credit will be given for any time that was satisfied.

TL-009960.00

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **Incontestability**

All statements made by the Employer or by an Insured are representations not warranties. No statement will be used to deny or reduce benefits or as a defense to a claim, unless a copy of the instrument containing the statement is signed by and has been furnished to the claimant. In the event of death or legal incapacity, the beneficiary or representative must receive the copy.

After two years from an Insured's effective date of insurance, or from the effective date of any added or increased benefits, the validity of an Insured's coverage will not be contested using such statements.

### **Misstatement of Age**

If an Insured's age has been misstated, we will adjust all benefits to the amounts that would have been purchased for the correct age.

### **Workers' Compensation Insurance**

The Policy is not in lieu of and does not affect any requirements for insurance under any Workers' Compensation Insurance Law.

### **Assignment of Benefits**

We will not be affected by the assignment of your certificate until the original assignment or a certified copy of the assignment is filed with us. We will not be responsible for the validity or sufficiency of an assignment. An assignment of benefits will operate so long as the assignment remains in force provided insurance under the Policy is in effect. This insurance may not be levied on, attached, garnished, or otherwise taken for a person's debts. This prohibition does not apply where contrary to law.

### **Clerical Error**

A person's insurance will not be affected by error or delay in keeping records of insurance under the Policy. If such an error is found, the premium will be adjusted fairly.

### **Ownership of Records**

All records maintained by the Insurance Company are, and shall remain, the property of the Insurance Company.

TL-004728a (TX)

## **DEFINITIONS**

Please note, certain words used in this document have specific meanings. These terms will be capitalized throughout this document. The definition of any word, if not defined in the text where it is used, may be found either in this Definitions section or in the Schedule of Benefits.

### **Active Service**

If you are an Employee, you are in Active Service on a day which is one of the Employer's scheduled work days if either of the following conditions are met.

1. You are performing your regular occupation for the Employer on a Full-time basis.
2. The day is a scheduled holiday or vacation day and you were performing your regular occupation on the preceding scheduled work day.

You are in Active Service on a day which is not one of the Employer's scheduled work days only if you were in Active Service on the preceding scheduled work day.

**Annual Enrollment Period**

The period in each calendar year agreed upon by your Employer and us when you may enroll for, or change benefit elections, under the Policy.

**Appropriate Care**

Appropriate Care means you:

1. Have received treatment, care and advice from a Physician who is qualified and experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of the conditions causing Disability. If the condition is of a nature or severity that it is customarily treated by a recognized medical specialty, the Physician is a practitioner in that specialty.
2. Continue to receive such treatment, care or advice as often as is required for treatment of the conditions causing Disability.
3. Adhere to the treatment plan prescribed by the Physician, including the taking of medications.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI-W)**

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers published by the U.S. Department of Labor. If the index is discontinued or changed, another nationally published index that is comparable to the CPI-W will be used.

**Covered Earnings**

Covered Earnings means your wage or salary as reported by the Employer for work performed for the Employer as in effect on September 1st just prior to the date Disability begins. It includes earnings from stipends, but not bonuses, commissions, overtime pay, or other extra compensation. Covered Earnings are determined initially on the date you apply for coverage. A change in the amount of Covered Earnings is effective September 1st following the change, if the Employer gives us written notice of the change and the required premium is paid.

Stipends will be averaged for 12 months just prior to the most recent September 1st prior to the date Disability begins, or the months employed if less than 12 months.

Any increase in your Covered Earnings will not be effective during a period of continuous Disability.

**Disability/Disabled**

You are considered Disabled if, solely because of Injury or Sickness, you are:

1. unable to perform the material duties of your Regular Occupation; and
2. unable to earn 80% or more of your Indexed Earnings from working in your Regular Occupation.

After Disability Benefits have been payable for 24 months, you are considered Disabled if, solely due to Injury or Sickness, you are:

1. unable to perform the material duties of any occupation for which you are, or may reasonably become, qualified based on education, training or experience; and
2. unable to earn 60% or more of your Indexed Earnings.

We will require proof of earnings and continued Disability.

**Disability Earnings**

Any wage or salary for any work performed for any employer during your Disability, including commissions, bonus, overtime pay or other extra compensation.

**Employee**

For eligibility purposes, you are an Employee if you work for the Employer and are in one of the "Classes of Eligible Employees." Otherwise, you are an Employee if you are an employee of the Employer who is insured under the Policy.

**Employer**

The Policyholder and any affiliates or subsidiaries covered under the Policy. The Employer is acting as your agent for transactions relating to this insurance. You shall not consider any actions of the Employer as actions of the Insurance Company.

**Full-time**

Full-time means the number of hours set by the Employer as a regular work day for Employees in your eligibility class.

**Furlough**

Furlough means a temporary suspension or alteration of Active Service initiated by the Employer, for a period of time specified in advance not to exceed 30 days at a time.

**Good Cause**

A medical reason preventing participation in the Rehabilitation Plan. Satisfactory proof of Good Cause must be provided to us.

**Indexed Earnings**

For the first 12 months Monthly Benefits are payable, your Indexed Earnings are equal to your Covered Earnings. After 12 Months Benefits are payable, your Indexed Earnings are your Covered Earnings plus an increase applied on each anniversary of the date Monthly Benefits became payable. The amount of each increase will be the lesser of:

1. 10% of your Indexed Earnings during your preceding year of Disability; or
2. the rate of increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) during the preceding calendar year.

**Injury**

Any accidental loss or bodily harm that results directly and independently from all other causes from an Accident.

**Insurability Requirement**

An eligible person satisfies the Insurability Requirement for an amount of coverage on the day we agree in writing to accept you as insured for that amount. To determine a person's acceptability for coverage, we will require you to provide evidence of good health and may require it be provided at your expense.

**Insurance Company**

The Insurance Company underwriting the Policy is named on your certificate cover page. References to the Insurance Company have been changed to "we", "our", "ours", and "us" throughout the certificate.

**Insured**

You are an Insured if you are eligible for insurance under the Policy, insurance is elected for you, the required premium is paid and your coverage is in force under the Policy.

**Life Status Change**

A Life Status Change is an event recognized by the Employer's Flexible Benefits Plan as qualifying you to make changes in benefit selections at a time other than an Annual Enrollment Period.

If the Employer does not sponsor a Flexible Benefits Plan or if it is no longer in effect, the following events are Life Status Changes.

1. Marriage
2. Divorce, annulment or legal separation
3. Birth or adoption of a child
4. Death of your spouse
5. Termination of your spouse's employment
6. A change in the benefit plan available to your spouse
7. A change in employment status for you or your spouse that affects your eligibility for benefits.

**Physician**

Physician means a licensed doctor practicing within the scope of his or her license and rendering care and treatment to an Insured that is appropriate for the condition and locality. The term does not include you, your spouse, your immediate family (including parents, children, siblings, or spouses of any of the foregoing, whether the relationship derives from blood or marriage), or a person living in your household.

**Prior Plan**

The Prior Plan refers to the plan of insurance providing similar benefits to you, sponsored by the Employer and in effect directly prior to the Policy Effective Date. A Prior Plan will include the plan of an employer in effect on the day prior to:

1. That employer's addition to this policy; or
2. With the approval of the Insurance Company, the addition of all employees, or all of a defined group of employees, of an employer, as a result of an agreement to which that employer (or a parent or shareholder of that employer) is a party.

To be covered under the Policy, required premium must be paid for all covered Employees.

TL-010650

**Regular Occupation**

The occupation you routinely perform at the time the Disability begins. In evaluating the Disability, we will consider the duties of the occupation as it is normally performed in the general labor market in the national economy. It is not work tasks that are performed for a specific employer or at a specific location.

**Sickness**

The term Sickness means a physical or mental illness.

**Temporary Layoff**

Temporary Layoff means a temporary suspension of Active Service for a period of time determined in advance by the Employer, other than a Furlough as defined. Temporary Layoff does not include the permanent termination of Active Service (including but not limited to a job elimination), which shall be treated as termination of employment.

TL-007500.44 as modified by TL-040019

**STATE MODIFYING PROVISIONS AMENDMENT RIDER  
Group Disability**

Policyholder Name: Aldine Independent School District

Policy No.: SLH-100038

Amendment Effective Date: January 1, 2025

This amendment is attached to and made part of the Policy/Certificate specified above. Its provisions are intended to conform this Policy/Certificate to the laws of the state in which the insured resides.

The Policy delivered under the Group Policy is amended as follows:

**IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR STATE REQUIREMENTS**

If an Employee resides in one of the following states, the provisions of the certificate are modified for residents of the following states. The modifications listed apply only to residents of that state.

**Louisiana residents:**

The percentage of Indexed Earnings, if any, that qualifies an insured to meet the definition of Disability/Disabled may not be less than 80%.

**Massachusetts residents:**

**Continuation of Insurance after leaving the group**

If you leave the group covered under the Policy, insurance for you will be continued until the earliest of the following dates:

1. 31 days from the date you leave the group;
2. The date you become eligible for similar benefits.

**Continuation of Insurance due to a Plant Closing or Partial Closing**

If you leave the group due to termination of employment resulting from a Plant Closing or Partial Closing, insurance for you will be continued until the earliest of the following dates:

1. 90 days from the date of the Plant Closing or Partial Closing;
2. The date you become eligible for similar benefits.

**Definitions :** For purposes of this provision:

**Plant Closing** means a permanent cessation or reduction of business at a facility which results or will result as determined by the director in the permanent separation of at least 90% of the employees of said facility within a period of six months prior to the date of certification or with such other period as the director shall prescribe, provided that such period shall fall within the six month period prior to the date of certification.

**Partial Closing** means a permanent cessation of a major discrete portion of the business conducted at a facility which results in the termination of a significant number of the employees of said facility and which affects workers and communities in a manner similar to that of Plant Closings.

**Minnesota residents:**

The Pre-existing Condition Limitation, if any, may not be longer than 24 months from the insured's most recent effective date of insurance.

**Oregon residents:****NOTICE: MUST PROVIDE DOMESTIC PARTNER COVERAGE FOR OREGON RESIDENTS**

If the Policy provides coverage/benefits to a Spouse, a *Domestic Partner* will be afforded the same coverage/benefits provided to a Spouse.

1. Domestic Partner means any of the following:

A person with whom the Employee has a registered domestic partnership under Oregon law which imposes legal obligations on the parties substantially similar to marriage. Such person will continue to be recognized as a Domestic Partner unless and until: (1) the domestic partnership is dissolved under applicable law; or (2) either the Employee or the Domestic Partner marries another person.

2. The Spouse Rehabilitation Benefit and Survivor Benefit (if any) are modified in the Policy and Certificate as follows:

All references to the term "Spouse" are replaced by "Spouse or Domestic Partner" except for the following references:

- a. The first reference to "Spouse" in the Survivor Benefit text is changed to "Spouse or Domestic Partner" if there is no Spouse".
- b. The text pertaining to the definition of "Spouse" remains unchanged.

3. Survivor benefits (if any) will be payable as follows: (1) to the Employee's spouse or Domestic Partner; (2) if there is none, in equal shares to the Employee's surviving Children; or (3) if there is none, to the Employee's estate.

4. A child of a Domestic Partner may only be eligible for benefits if:

- a. the child is primarily dependent on the Employee for financial support; or
- b. the Employee has a legal obligation of support of the child; or
- c. the Employee is the child's legal guardian.

**Vermont Residents:**

To the extent the Policy provides insurance coverage to a spouse, the identical consideration must be applied to same sex marriages and civil unions. The language is as follows:

1. Civil Union Partner means:

- a. A person with whom the Employee has a registered civil union under Vermont law which imposes obligations on the parties substantially similar to marriage. Such person will continue to be recognized as a Civil Union Partner unless and until:
  - (1) the civil union is dissolved under applicable law; or
  - (2) either the Employee or the Civil Union Partner marries another person.

2. Spouse means:

- a. "Lawful spouse" and includes a lawful spouse of the same sex.
- b. This also includes a partner to a civil union recognized under Vermont Law.

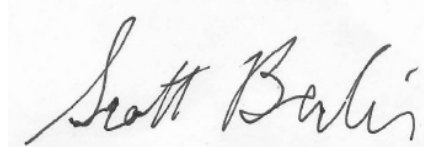


**Washington residents:**

NOTICE: Any domestic partner of an employee who is registered as a domestic partner under Washington state law, will be deemed to be eligible on the same basis as a Spouse.

PLEASE REFER TO YOUR CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE WHICH DESCRIBES THE BENEFIT PROVISIONS AND LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO YOU AS A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE.

**Life Insurance Company of North America**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Berlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Berlin, President

TL-01-3000.00









**UNDERWRITTEN BY:**  
**LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA**  
**a New York Life Insurance company**

Class 1  
10/2024

