Equitable's Employee Benefits Group 8501 IBM Dr., Ste. 150-B Charlotte, NC 28262

Monroe County School District 241 Trumbo Rd Key West, FL 33040

# WELCOME PACKET

important information about your benefits



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

(A stock insurance company, herein called The Company) will pay benefits according to the terms and conditions of The Policy.

Name of Policyholder: Monroe County School District

**Policy Number:** 021252

Policy Effective Date: January 01, 2025 Place of Delivery:

Florida

**Anniversary Date:** 

January 1 of each year, beginning in 2026

**Premium Due Dates:** 

Monthly, on the first of each policy month

Signed for The Company

Mark Pearson, Chairman of the Board and Chief

**Executive Officer** 

Jose Ramon Gonzalez.

Senior Executive Vice President, Secretary and General

Counsel

Countersigned by.....

Licensed Resident Agent or Registrar

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### **INSURER INFORMATION NOTICE**

Should you have any questions about your coverage or require assistance to resolve a complaint, contact:

Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company of America at (866) 274-9887

### **SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS**

The Schedule(s) of Benefits for The Policy benefits listed below are shown in the Certificate(s) of Insurance, as incorporated into The Policy.

1) Long Term Disability Insurance

Those Schedule(s) of Benefits will address the:

- 1) benefit amounts and maximum limits;
- 2) eligibility and effective date requirements; and
- 3) other schedule amounts and limits;

which apply to the employees of the Policyholder.

### PREMIUM PROVISIONS

### **Policy Premium**

The premium for The Policy is the sum of the Individual Premiums for each Insured Person.

### **Policy Premium Due Dates**

The Policy Premium is payable on:

- 1) the Policy Effective Date; and
- 2) the first day of each month thereafter.

Each Policy Premium is due on or in advance of the Premium Due Date. The Policy terminates on the last day of the period for which premium is paid.

### **Policy Premium Payment**

The Policy Premiums are to be paid to The Company by the Policyholder. However, they may be paid to The Company by any other person according to a mutual agreement among the other person, the Policyholder and The Company.

### **Change of Premiums**

The Company has the right to change the premium rate on the first Policy Anniversary and on any Premium Due Date thereafter. This includes the right to change premium rates for a benefit that applies to all individuals of the same class, age and sex.

The Company will give the Policyholder notice of any change at least 45 days before the Premium Due Date on which it is to become effective.

### PREMIUM PROVISIONS\_Continued

### **Initial Monthly Premium Rates**

The initial monthly premium rates to be charged are shown on the following page(s).

The first premium is due and payable on the effective date of The Policy. Subject to The Policy's grace period provision, all premiums after the first must be paid when or before they are due.

Premiums are based on the employee's:

- 1) age on his or her effective date and thereafter on the first day of the month following the month in which his or her birthday occurs; and
- 2) sex and occupational class.

For Long Term Disability Benefits, the amount of an employee's Pre-disability Earnings which is disregarded in determining his or her Monthly Benefit because of the Maximum Monthly Benefit limitation will also be disregarded in determining the amount of the total insured payroll.

The Initial Monthly Premium Rates may be converted as follows:

To Convert Rates to: Use a Conversion Factor of:

-- annual rates 11.8227
-- semi-annual rates 5.9557
-- quarterly rates 2.9852

#### **Grace Period**

The Company will allow the Policyholder a 31 day grace period for the payment of all premiums after the first. During this 31 day period, The Policy will stay in force. If the owed premium is not paid by the 31<sup>st</sup> day, The Policy will automatically terminate. If the Policyholder gives The Company written advance notice of an earlier cancellation date, The Policy will terminate on the earlier date. Premium is due for each day The Policy is in force.

### **Monthly Premium Rate Guarantee**

Initial Monthly Premium Rates are guaranteed as follows:

Benefit Rate Guarantee Period

Long Term Disability Benefits 24 months

Subject to the Rate Guarantee Period shown above, The Company has the right to change premium rates on any premium due date if:

- 1) written notice is delivered to the Policyholder's last address on record; and
- 2) the change is effective at least 45 days after the date of notice.

The Rate Guarantee Period supersedes only those provisions appearing elsewhere in this Policy which give The Company the right to change the premium rates, and then, only for the period of time for which the rates are guaranteed. However, The Company may change the premium rates during the Rate Guarantee Period if there is a change in The Policy, or if there is a 10% increase or decrease in the number of insured Employees, or if the Policyholder adds or deletes a subsidiary or affiliated business Entity. The Company may also change the premium rates during the Rate Guarantee Period if there has been a material misstatement in the experience reported to The Company by the Policyholder or any authorized representative thereof. The Rate Guarantee Period in no way affects, amends or supersedes any other provision in The Policy.

### PREMIUM PROVISIONS\_CONTINUED

### Calculation

Premiums may be calculated by multiplying the rate times the applicable number of units of coverage.

If any coverage under the Policy is added, increased or becomes effective after The Policy is in force, the premium charges for such coverage will begin on:

- 1) the day the coverage is effective, if it is also the first day of a policy month; or
- 2) the first day of the next policy month.

For coverage which is terminated, premium charges will stop as of the first day of the next policy month.

Premiums may be calculated by any other method which both The Company and the Policyholder agree to in writing.

### **Premium Payments**

Premium payments are due and payable in full to a place designated by The Company or, with respect to the initial premium payment, premium payments may be made to an authorized agent of The Company. The pre-payment of premiums for a particular period by the Policyholder is not a guarantee that The Policy will remain in force.

All premiums due under The Policy shall be remitted by the Policyholder or the Policyholder's designee to The Company on or before the due date.

## PREMIUM SCHEDULE

Premium Rates are on file at the offices of the Policyholder and The Company.

### **POLICY PROVISIONS**

#### **Entire Contract**

The contract between the parties consists of:

- 1) The Policy;
- 2) any Certificate(s) of Insurance incorporated and made a part of The Policy;
- 3) the Policyholder's application, if any, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of The Policy when issued;
- 4) any application submitted by the Eligible Person and accepted by The Company in connection with The Policy; and
- 5) The Participating Employer's application or agreement if any, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of The Policy when issued.

All statements made to the Company by the Policyholder, any Participating Entity, or any Insured Persons will be deemed representations and not warranties. No statement made to affect this coverage will be used in any contest unless it is in writing and a copy of it is given to the person who made it, or to his or her beneficiary or personal representative.

### Incontestability

Except for non-payment of premium, the coverage provided by The Policy cannot be contested after such coverage has been in effect for a period of 2 years.

### Changes

The Company reserves the right to make changes in The Policy, after The Policy has been in force for 12 months, subject to the Rate Guarantee Period. The Company will give the Policyholder 45 days advance written notice of any change. No agent has authority to change or waive any part of The Policy. To be valid, any change or waiver must be in writing, approved by one of our executive officers and made a part of The Policy.

#### **Clerical Error**

Clerical error (whether by the Policyholder or the Plan Administrator, or The Company) in keeping the records having to do with The Policy, or delays in making entries on the records, will not void the coverage of any person if that coverage would otherwise have been in effect. A clerical error will not extend the coverage of any person if that coverage would otherwise have ended or been reduced as provided by The Policy. When a clerical error is found, premiums and benefits will be adjusted based on the true facts and applicable terms and conditions of The Policy.

### **Conformity with Law**

If any provision of The Policy is contrary to the law of the jurisdiction in which it is delivered, such provision is hereby amended to conform to that law. If any change to state or federal law affects The Company's liability under The Policy, The Company may change The Policy, the premiums or both. Such change:

- 1) will be effective as of the date of the change to the state or federal law; and
- 2) will not be made until The Company gives the Policyholder 45 days notice.

### **Termination of Policy**

The Company may terminate The Policy for the following reasons by giving the Policyholder 45 days written notice:

- 1) the Policyholder fails to furnish any information which The Company may reasonably require;
- 2) the Policyholder fails to perform any of its other obligations pertaining to this Policy;
- 3) Less than 100% of the persons eligible for coverage on a Non-contributory basis are insured;
- 4) Less than 25% of the persons eligible for coverage on a Contributory basis are insured; or
- 5) Fewer than 10 persons are insured.

In addition, The Company may terminate this Policy on any premium due date after The Policy has been in force for 12 months by providing 45 days written notice.

### POLICY PROVISIONS\_ CONTINUED

### Certificate(s) of Insurance

The Company will give individual Certificate(s) of Insurance to:

- 1) the Policyholder; or
- 2) any other person according to a mutual agreement among the other person, the Policyholder, and The Company; for delivery to Insured Persons covered under The Policy and which will explain the important features of The Policy.

#### Data To Be Furnished

The Policyholder, or any other person designated by the Policyholder, will give The Company all information The Company needs regarding matters pertaining to the coverage under the Policy. At any reasonable time while The Policy is in force and for 12 months after that, The Company may inspect any of the Policyholder's documents, books, or records which may affect the coverage or premiums of The Policy.

The Policyholder will, upon request, give The Company:

- 1) the names of all persons initially eligible for coverage;
- 2) the names of all additional persons who become eligible for coverage;
- 3) the names of all persons whose amount of insurance is to be changed;
- 4) the names of all persons whose eligibility or insurance is terminated; and
- 5) any data necessary to administer the insurance provided by The Policy.

If the Policyholder gives The Company any incorrect information, the relevant facts will be determined to establish if coverage is in effect and in what amount.

No Eligible person will be deprived of coverage to which he is otherwise entitled or have coverage to which he/she is not entitled, because of any misstatement of fact by the Policyholder. Any required adjustment may be made in premiums or benefits.

### **Right to Audit**

The Company reserves the right to audit, once every 2 years, the Policyholder's billing records and premium accounting practices. If The Company discovers:

- 1) an underpayment of premium by the Policyholder, the Policyholder will be obligated to remit, in a timely manner, the underpayment amount; or
- 2) an overpayment of premium, The Company will return any overpayment amount in a timely manner; for the previous 2 year period.

### Not in Lieu of Worker's Compensation

This Policy is not intended to satisfy any requirement for worker's compensation insurance.

#### **Time Period**

All periods begin and end at 12:01 A.M., standard time, at the Policyholder's address.

### INCORPORATION PROVISION

The Certificate(s) of Insurance listed below are attached to, incorporated in and made a part of, The Policy.

Certificate(s) of InsuranceApplicable to:Effective Date of IncorporationTermination DateMOEBC 15 di - LTDAll Eligible PersonsJanuary 01, 2025

The provisions found in the Certificate(s) of Insurance will address the benefit plan, period of coverage, exclusions, claims and other general policy provisions pertaining to state insurance law requirements.

Attached are the certificates for the policies in the state of Florida

### **Group Disability Income Insurance**

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

(A stock insurance company)

### CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

Policyholder: Monroe County School District

Policy Number: 021252

Policy Effective Date: January 01, 2025

Policy Anniversary Date: January 1 of each year, beginning in 2026

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

Signed for the Company

Mark Pearson, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer Jose Ramon Gonzalez, Senior Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel

### **READ YOUR CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY**

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

### A note on capitalization in this certificate:

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

### **INSURER INFORMATION NOTICE**

Should	you have	any q	uestions	about yo	ur co	verage o	r require	assistance	to resolve a	complaint,	contact:

Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company of America at (866) 274-9887

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### FRAUD NOTICES

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

### **Fraud Warnings**

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

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

**California:** For your protection California law requires the following to appear on this form. Any person who knowingly presents false or fraudulent information to obtain or amend insurance coverage or to make a claim for the payment of a loss is guilty of a crime and may be subject to fines and confinement in state prison.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### FRAUD NOTICES\_CONTINUED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

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

The benefits described herein are those in effect as of January 01, 2025.

### **Cost of Coverage:**

You must contribute to the cost of the coverage.

### Eligible Class(es) For Coverage:

Class 1 All Active Full Time Employees working at least 37.50 hours weekly, who are citizens or legal residents of the United States, its territories and protectorates; excluding temporary, leased or seasonal employees.

### **Annual Enrollment Period:**

Annually as defined by your Employer

### **Eligibility Waiting Period for Coverage:**

If You are working for the Policyholder on the effective date - the waiting period is 15 continuous day(s). If You are working for the Policyholder after the effective date - the waiting period is 15 continuous day(s).

The time period(s) referenced above are continuous.

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

#### **Rehire Provision**

If You are a former employee with prior coverage under The Policy and You are rehired, and Your rehire date is within 6 months of Your date of termination, You will receive credit for time previously employed under an eligible class towards satisfying the Eligibility Waiting period.

Elimination Period: 90 days

**Benefit Percentage: 60%** 

Maximum Monthly Benefit: \$1,500

Minimum Monthly Benefit: \$150

#### **Maximum Duration of Benefits**

### **Maximum Duration of Benefits Table**

Age When Disabled	Benefits Payable			
Prior to Age 62	To Age 65 or 48 months, if greater			
Age 62	48 months			
Age 63	42 months			
Age 64	36 months			
Age 65	30 months			
Age 66	27 months			
Age 67	24 months			
Age 68	21 months			
Age 69 and over	18 months			

# SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS\_CONTINUED

### **Additional Benefits**

Family Care Deduction Benefit see Benefit

Survivor Income Benefit see Benefit

Workplace Modification Benefit see Benefit

### **DEFINITIONS**

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

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

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

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

**Any Occupation** means any occupation for which You are qualified by education, training or experience, and that has an earnings potential greater than the lesser of:

- 1) the product of Your Indexed Pre-disability Earnings and 60%; or
- 2) the Maximum Monthly Benefit

### **Current Monthly Earnings** means Monthly earnings You receive from:

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

while You are Disabled.

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

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

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

**Disability or Disabled** means You are prevented from performing one or more of the Essential Duties of:

- 1) Your Occupation during the Elimination Period;
- 2) Your Occupation, for the 24 month(s) following the Elimination Period, and as a result Your Current Monthly Earnings are less than 80% of Your Indexed Pre-disability Earnings; and
- 3) after that, Any Occupation.

If at the end of the Elimination Period, You are prevented from performing one or more of the Essential Duties of Your Occupation, but Your Current Monthly Earnings are equal to or greater than 80% of Your Pre-disability Earnings, Your Elimination Period will be extended for a total period of 12 months from the original date of Disability, or until such time as Your Current Monthly Earnings are less than 80% of Your Pre-disability Earnings, whichever occurs first. For the purposes of extending Your Elimination Period, Your Current Monthly Earnings will not include the pay You could have received for another job or a modified job if such job was offered to You by Your Employer, or another employer, and You refused the offer.

Your Disability must result from:

- 1) accidental bodily injury;
- 2) sickness;
- 3) Mental Illness:
- 4) Substance Abuse; or
- 5) Pregnancy.

Your failure to pass a physical examination required to maintain a license to perform the duties of Your Occupation, alone, does not mean that You are Disabled.

### **DEFINITIONS\_CONTINUED**

**Elimination Period** means the longer of the number of consecutive days at the beginning of any one period of Disability which must elapse before benefits are payable or the expiration of any Employer sponsored short term Disability benefits or salary continuation program, excluding benefits required by state law.

**Employer** means the Policyholder.

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

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

Your ability to work the number of hours in Your regularly scheduled workweek is an Essential Duty.

Indexed Predisability Earnings means Your Pre-disability Earnings adjusted annually by adding the lesser of:

- 1) 10%; or
- 2) the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W).

The percentage change in the CPI-W means the difference between the current year's CPI-W as of July 31, and the prior year's CPI-W as of July 31, divided by the prior year's CPI-W. The adjustment is made January 1st each year after You have been Disabled for 12 consecutive month(s), provided You are receiving benefits at the time the adjustment is made.

The term Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) means the index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers published by the United States Department of Labor. It measures on a periodic (usually monthly) basis the change in the cost of typical urban wage earners' and clerical workers' purchase of certain goods and services. If the index is discontinued or changed, We may use another nationally published index that is comparable to the CPI-W.

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

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

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

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

**Monthly Income Loss** means Your Pre-disability Earnings minus Your Current Monthly Earnings.

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

- 1) temporary, permanent disability, or impairment benefits under a Workers' Compensation Law, the Jones Act, occupational disease law, similar law or substitutes or exchanges for such benefits;
- 2) governmental law or program that provides disability or unemployment benefits as a result of Your job with Your Employer;
- 3) plan or arrangement of coverage including income from any accumulated sick time or salary continuation, whether insured or not, which is received from Your Employer as a result of employment by or association with Your Employer or which is the result of membership in or association with any group, association, union or other organization;
- 4) individual insurance policy where the premium is wholly or partially paid by the Employer;
- 5) mandatory "no-fault" automobile insurance plan;
- 6) disability benefits under:
  - a) the United States Social Security Act or alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government;

### **DEFINITIONS\_CONTINUED**

- b) the Railroad Retirement Act;
- c) the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Old Age Security Act, the Quebec Pension Plan or any provincial pension or disability plan; or
- d) similar plan or act;
- that You, Your spouse and/or children, are eligible to receive because of Your Disability; or
- 7) disability benefit from the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other foreign or domestic governmental agency:
  - a) that begins after You become Disabled; or
  - b) that You were receiving before becoming Disabled, but only as to the amount of any increase in the benefit attributed to Your Disability.

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

- 1) disability benefit under Your Employer's Retirement Plan;
- 2) temporary, permanent disability or impairment benefits under a Workers' Compensation Law, the Jones Act, occupational disease law, similar law or substitutes or exchanges for such benefits;
- 3) portion of a judgment or settlement, minus associated costs, of a claim or lawsuit that represents or compensates for Your loss of earnings; or
- 4) retirement benefit from a Retirement Plan that is wholly or partially funded by Employer contributions, unless:
  - a) You were receiving it prior to becoming Disabled; or
  - b) You immediately transfer the payment to another plan qualified by the United States Internal Revenue Service for the funding of a future retirement;

(Other Income Benefits will not include the portion, if any, of such retirement benefit that was funded by Your after-tax contributions.); or

- 5) retirement benefits under:
  - a) the United States Social Security Act or alternative plan offered by a state or municipal government;
  - b) the Railroad Retirement Act:
  - c) the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Old Age Security Act, the Quebec Pension Plan or any provincial pension or disability plan;
  - d) similar plan or act;

that You or Your family receive because of Your retirement, unless You were receiving them prior to becoming Disabled.

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Physician** means a person who is:

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

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

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

### **DEFINITIONS\_CONTINUED**

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

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

**Rehabilitation** means a process of Our working together with You in order for Us to plan, adapt, and put into use options and services to meet Your return to work needs. A Rehabilitation program may include, when We consider it to be appropriate, any necessary and feasible:

- 1) vocational testing:
- 2) vocational training:
- 3) alternative treatment plans such as:
  - a) support groups;
  - b) physical therapy;
  - c) occupational therapy; or
  - d) speech therapy;
- 4) workplace modification to the extent not otherwise provided;
- 5) job placement;
- 6) transitional work; and
- 7) similar services.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Substance includes alcohol and drugs but excludes tobacco and caffeine.

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

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

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

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

### **ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT**

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

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

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

You will become eligible for coverage on the later of:

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

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

To enroll for coverage You must:

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

Your Employer will provide instructions.

If You do not enroll within 31 days after becoming eligible under The Policy, or if You were eligible to enroll under the Prior Policy and did not do so, and later choose to enroll:

- 1) You must give Us Evidence of Insurability satisfactory to Us; and
- 2) You may only enroll:
  - a) during an Annual Enrollment Period designated by the Policyholder; or
  - b) within 31 days of the date You have a Change in Family Status.

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

Evidence of Insurability applies if you do not enroll when first eligible, as described in the Enrollment provision. Evidence of Insurability must be satisfactory to Us and may include:

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

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

If Your Evidence of Insurability is not satisfactory to Us, You will not be covered under The Policy if You enrolled more than 31 days after the date You were first eligible to enroll.

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

A Change in Family Status occurs when:

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

### PERIOD OF COVERAGE

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

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

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

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

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

If You are absent from work due to:

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

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

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

You may change Your benefit option only:

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

At such time You may decrease coverage, or increase coverage to a higher option.

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

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

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

If You enroll for a change in benefit option during an Annual Enrollment Period, the change will take effect on the first day of the month following the Annual Enrollment Period.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### What happens if the Employer changes The Policy?

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

1) the Deferred Effective Date provision; and

### PERIOD OF COVERAGE\_CONTINUED

2) Pre-existing Conditions Limitations.

# **Continuity From A Prior Policy:** *Is there continuity of coverage from a Prior* Policy? If You were:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Do I have to satisfy an Elimination Period under The Policy if I was Disabled under the Prior Policy? If You received monthly benefits for disability under the Prior Policy, and You returned to work as a Full-time Active Employee before the Policy Effective Date, then, if within 6 months of Your return to work:

- 1) You have a recurrence of the same disability while covered under The Policy; and
- 2) there are no benefits available for the recurrence under the Prior Policy:

the Elimination Period, which would otherwise apply, will be waived if the recurrence would have been covered without any further elimination period under the Prior Policy.

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

Your coverage will end on the earliest of the following:

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

unless continued in accordance with any of the Continuation Provisions.

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

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

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

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

<u>Family and Medical Leave</u>: If You are granted a leave of absence, in writing, according to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, or other applicable state or local law, Your coverage may be continued for up to 12 weeks, or 26 weeks if

### PERIOD OF COVERAGE\_CONTINUED

You qualify for Family Military Leave, or longer if required by other applicable law, following the date Your leave commenced. If the leave terminates prior to the agreed upon date, this continuation will cease immediately.

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

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

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

- 1) during the Elimination Period while You remain Disabled by the same Disability; and
- 2) after the Elimination Period for as long as You are entitled to benefits under The Policy.

### Waiver of Premium: Am I required to pay Premiums while I am Disabled?

No premium will be due for You:

- 1) after the Elimination Period; and
- 2) for as long as benefits are payable.

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

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

- 1) will continue as long as You remain Disabled by the same Disability; but
- 2) will not be provided beyond the date We would have ceased to pay benefits had the Policy remained in force. Termination of The Policy for any reason will have no effect on Our liability under this provision.

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

If:

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

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

The reinstated coverage will:

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

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

### **BENEFITS**

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

We will pay You a Monthly Benefit if You:

- 1) become Disabled while covered under The Policy;
- 2) are Disabled throughout the Elimination Period;
- 3) remain Disabled beyond the Elimination Period; and
- 4) submit Proof of Loss to Us.

Benefits accrue as of the first day after the Elimination Period and are paid monthly. However, benefits will not exceed the Maximum Duration of Benefits.

# **Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Benefits**: *Are benefits limited for Mental Illness or Substance Abuse?*

If You are Disabled because of:

- 1) Mental Illness that results from any cause;
- 2) any condition that may result from Mental Illness;
- 3) alcoholism which is under treatment; or
- 4) the non-medical use of narcotics, sedatives, stimulants, hallucinogens, or any other such substance; then, subject to all other provisions of The Policy, We will limit the Maximum Duration of Benefits.

### Benefits will be payable:

- for as long as You are confined in a hospital or other place licensed to provide medical care for the disabling condition; or.
- 2) if not confined, or after You are discharged and still disabled, for a total of 24 months for all such disabilities during Your lifetime.

### Special Conditions Limitation: Are benefits limited for Special Conditions?

If You are Disabled due to a Special Condition, then, subject to all other provisions of The Policy, We will limit the Maximum Duration of Benefits.

Benefits will be payable:

- 1) for as long as You are confined in a hospital or other place licensed to provide medical care for the disabling condition; or,
- 2) if not confined, or after you are discharged and still disabled, for a total of 24 months for all such disabilities during your lifetime.

After a period of Disability due to a Special Condition, if You again become Actively at Work and remain continuously insured under The Policy for a period of at least 24 months, then this Special Conditions Limitation may be reinstated.

**Special Condition** means musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders of the neck and back including any disease or disorder of the cervical, thoracic and lumbosacral back and its surrounding soft tissue including sprains and strains of the joints and adjacent muscles. Special Condition does not include:

- 1) Arthritis;
- 2) Herniated intervertebral discs;
- 3) Scoliosis:
- 4) Spinal fractures;
- 5) Osteopathies;
- 6) Spinal tumors, malignancy, or vascular malformations;
- 7) Radiculopathies, grade II or higher;
- 8) Spondylolisthesis, documented by electromyogram;
- 9) Myelopathies and myelitis;
- 10) Demyelinating disease;
- 11) Traumatic spinal cord neurosis;
- 12) Myofascial pain syndrome;
- 13) Shoulder sprains and strains;
- 14) Chronic fatigue syndrome:
- 15) Fibromyalgia;
- 16) Carpal tunnel syndrome;

17) Environmental allergic illness, including sick building syndrome and multiple chemical sensitivity.

### **Recurrent Disability:** What happens if I Recover but become Disabled again?

Periods of Recovery during the Elimination Period will not interrupt the Elimination Period, if the number of days You return to work as an Active Employee are less than one-half (1/2) the number of days of Your Elimination Period.

Any day within such Period of Recovery will not count toward the Elimination Period.

After the Elimination Period, if You return to work as an Active Employee and then become Disabled and such Disability is:

- 1) due to the same cause; or
- 2) due to a related cause; and
- 3) within 6 months of the return to work,

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

If You return to work as an Active Employee for 6 months or more, any recurrence of a Disability will be treated as a new Disability. The new Disability is subject to a new Elimination Period and a new Maximum Duration of Benefits.

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

**Recover or Recovery** means that You are no longer Disabled and have returned to work with The Employer and premiums are being paid for You.

### **Calculation of Monthly Benefit:**

### **Return to Work Incentive:** How are my Disability benefits calculated?

If You remain Disabled after the Elimination Period, but work while You are Disabled, We will determine Your Monthly Benefit for a period of up to 12 consecutive months as follows:

- 1) multiply Your Pre-disability Earnings by the Benefit Percentage;
- 2) compare the result with the Maximum Benefit; and
- 3) from the lesser amount, deduct Other Income Benefits.

The result is Your Monthly Benefit. Current Monthly Earnings will not be used to reduce Your Monthly Benefit. However, if the sum of Your Monthly Benefit and Your Current Monthly Earnings exceeds 100% of Your Pre-disability Earnings, We will reduce Your Monthly Benefit by the amount of excess.

The 12 consecutive month period will start on the last to occur of:

- 1) the day You first start work; or
- 2) the end of the Elimination Period.

If You are Disabled and not receiving benefits under the Return to Work Incentive, We will calculate Your Monthly Benefit as follows:

- 1) multiply Your Monthly Income Loss by the Benefit Percentage;
- 2) compare the result with the Maximum Benefit; and
- 3) from the lesser amount, deduct Other Income Benefits.

The result is Your Monthly Benefit.

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

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

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

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

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

Partial Monthly Payment: How is the benefit calculated for a period of less than a month?

If a Monthly Benefit is payable for a period of less than a month, We will pay 1/30 of the Monthly Benefit for each day You were Disabled.

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

Benefit payments will stop on the earliest of:

- 1) the date You are no longer Disabled;
- 2) the date You fail to furnish Proof of Loss:
- 3) the date You are no longer under the Regular Care of a Physician;
- 4) the date You refuse Our request that You submit to an examination by a Physician or other qualified medical professional;
- 5) the date of Your death;
- 6) the date You refuse to receive recommended treatment that is generally acknowledged by Physicians to cure, correct or limit the disabling condition:
- 7) the last day benefits are payable according to the Maximum Duration of Benefits Table; or
- 8) the date Your Current Monthly Earnings:
  - a) are equal to or greater than 80% of Your Indexed Pre-disability Earnings if You are receiving benefits for being Disabled from Your Occupation; or
  - b) are equal to or greater than 60% of Your Indexed Pre-disability Earnings if You are receiving benefits for being Disabled from Any Occupation;
- 9) the date no further benefits are payable under any provision in The Policy that limits benefit duration;
- 10) the date You refuse to participate in a Rehabilitation program, or refuse to cooperate with or try:
  - a) modifications made to the work site or job process to accommodate Your identified medical limitations to enable You to perform the Essential Duties of Your Occupation;
  - b) adaptive equipment or devices designed to accommodate Your identified medical limitations to enable You to perform the Essential Duties of Your Occupation:
  - modifications made to the work site or job process to accommodate Your identified medical limitations to enable You to perform the Essential Duties of Any Occupation, if You were receiving benefits for being disabled from Any Occupation; or
  - d) adaptive equipment or devices designed to accommodate Your identified medical limitations to enable You to perform the Essential Duties of Any Occupation, if You were receiving benefits for being disabled from Any Occupation;

provided a qualified Physician or other qualified medical professional agrees that such modifications, Rehabilitation program or adaptive equipment accommodate Your medical limitation.

# **Family Care Deduction Benefit:** What if I must incur expenses for Family Care Services in order to participate in a Rehabilitation program?

If You are working as part of a program of Rehabilitation, We will, for the purpose of calculating Your benefit, deduct the cost of Family Care from income received from Rehabilitative Employment, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) Family Care means the care or supervision of:
  - a) Your children under age 13; or
  - b) a member of Your household who is mentally or physically handicapped and dependent upon You for support and maintenance:
- 2) the maximum monthly deduction allowed for each qualifying child or family member is:
  - a) \$350 during the first 12 months of Rehabilitative Employment; and
  - b) \$175 thereafter;
  - but in no event may the deduction exceed the amount of Your monthly earnings;
- 3) Family Care deductions may not exceed a total of \$2,500 during a calendar year;
- 4) the deduction will be reduced proportionally for periods of less than a month;
- 5) the charges for Family Care must be documented by a receipt from the caregiver;
- 6) the deduction will cease on the first to occur of the following:
  - a) You are no longer working as part of a program of Rehabilitation; or
  - b) Family Care deductions for 24 months have been deducted during Your Disability; and
- 7) no Family Care provided by someone Related to the family member receiving the care will be eligible as a deduction under this provision.

Your Current Monthly Earnings after reduction for Your Family Care deduction will be used to determine Your Monthly Income Loss. In no event will You be eligible to receive a Monthly Benefit under The Policy if Your Current Monthly Earnings before the reduction for Your Family Care deduction exceed 80% of Your Indexed Pre-disability Earnings.

# **Survivor Income Benefit:** Will my survivors receive a benefit if I die while receiving Disability Benefits?

If You were receiving a Monthly Benefit at the time of Your death, We will pay a Survivor Income Benefit, when We receive proof satisfactory to Us:

- 1) of Your death; and
- 2) that the person claiming the benefit is entitled to it.

We must receive the satisfactory proof for Survivor Income Benefits within 1 year of the date of Your death.

The Survivor Income Benefit will only be paid:

- 1) to Your Surviving Spouse; or
- 2) if no Surviving Spouse, in equal shares to Your Surviving Children.

If there is no Surviving Spouse or Surviving Children, then no benefit will be paid.

However, We will first apply the Survivor Income Benefit to any overpayment which may exist on Your claim.

If a minor child is entitled to benefits, We may, at Our option, make benefit payments to the person caring for and supporting the child until a legal guardian is appointed.

The Survivor Income Benefit is calculated as 3 times the lesser of:

- 1) Your Monthly Income Loss multiplied by the Benefit Percentage in effect on the date of Your death; or
- 2) The Maximum Monthly Benefit.

**Surviving Spouse** means Your wife or husband who was not legally separated or divorced from You when You died. "Spouse" will include Your domestic partner, provided You:

- 1) have executed a domestic partner affidavit acceptable to Us, establishing that You and Your partner are domestic partners for purposes of The Policy; or
- 2) have registered as domestic partners with a government agency or office where such registration is available and provide proof of such registration unless requiring proof is prohibited by law.

You will continue to be considered domestic partners provided You continue to meet the requirements described in the Domestic Partner Affidavit or required by law.

**Surviving Children** means Your children, step children, and/or legally adopted children who, on the date You die, are primarily dependent on You for support and maintenance and who are under age 26.

The term Surviving Children will also include any other children related to You by blood or marriage or domestic partnership and who:

- 1) lived with You in a regular parent-child relationship at the time of Your death; and
- 2) were eligible to be claimed as dependents on Your federal income tax return for the last tax year prior to Your death.

# **Workplace Modification Benefit:** Will the Rehabilitation program provide for modifications to my workplace to accommodate my return to work?

We will reimburse Your Employer for the expense of reasonable Workplace Modifications to accommodate Your Disability and enable You to return to work as an Active Employee. You qualify for this benefit if:

- 1) Your Disability is covered by The Policy;
- 2) the Employer agrees to make modifications to the workplace in order to reasonably accommodate Your return to work and the performance of the Essential Duties of Your job; and
- 3) We approve, in writing, any proposed Workplace Modifications.

Benefits paid for such Workplace Modification shall not exceed the amount of the Maximum Monthly Benefit.

We have the right, at Our expense, to have You examined or evaluated by:

- 1) a Physician or other health care professional; or
- 2) a vocational expert or rehabilitation specialist:

of Our choice so that We may evaluate the appropriateness of any proposed Workplace Modification.

We will reimburse the Employer's costs for approved Workplace Modifications after:

1) the proposed modifications made on Your behalf are complete;

- 2) We have been provided written proof of the expenses incurred to provide such modification; and
- 3) You have returned to work as an Active Employee.

**Workplace Modification** means change in Your work environment, or in the way a job is performed, to allow You to perform, while Disabled, the Essential Duties of Your job. Payment of this benefit will not reduce or deny any other benefit You are eligible to receive under the terms of The Policy.

### **EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Pre-existing Condition** means:

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

for which You received Medical Care during the 3 consecutive month period that ends the day before:

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

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

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

### **Treatment** includes:

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

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

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

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

Proof of Loss may include the following:

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

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

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

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

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

Any such interview, meeting or examination will be:

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

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

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

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

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

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

### GENERAL PROVISIONS\_CONTINUED

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

When We determine that You:

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

We will pay accrued benefits at the end of each month that You are Disabled. Payments will begin no later than 45 calendar days after We determine benefits are payable. We may, at Our option, make an advance benefit payment based on Our estimate of the duration of Your Disability. If any payment is due after a claim is terminated, it will be paid as soon as Proof of Loss satisfactory to Us is received.

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

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

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

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

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

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

If a claim for benefits is wholly or partly denied, You will be furnished with written notification of the decision within 45 days from the date the claim was received. This written notification will:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1) You apply for Social Security disability benefits and pursue all required appeals in accordance with the Social Security provision; and

### GENERAL PROVISIONS\_CONTINUED

- 2) You have signed a form authorizing the Social Security Administration to release information about awards directly to Us; and
- 3) You have signed and returned Our reimbursement agreement, which confirms that You agree to repay all overpayments.

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

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

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

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

An overpayment occurs:

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

This includes overpayments resulting from:

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

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

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

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

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

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

If You:

- 1) suffer a Disability because of the act or omission of a Third Party;
- 2) become entitled to and are paid benefits under The Policy in compensation for lost wages as a result of such Disability; and
- 3) do not initiate legal action for the recovery of such lost wages from the Third Party in a reasonable period of time; then We will be subrogated to any rights You may have against the Third Party and may, at Our option, bring legal action against the Third Party to recover any lost wages which were replaced by payments made by Us in connection with the Disability.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS\_CONTINUED

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

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

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

If You recover such payment from a Third Party as:

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

You must reimburse Us for the lesser of:

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

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

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

Legal action cannot be taken against Us:

- 1) sooner than 60 days after the date Proof of Loss is given; or
- 2) after the date expiration of the applicable statute of limitations from the date Proof of Loss is required to be given according to the terms of The Policy.

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

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

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

If material facts about You were not stated accurately:

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

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

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

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



# **Privacy notice**

### What does Equitable do with your personal information?

### Why?

Financial companies choose how they share your personal information. Federal law gives consumers the right to limit some, but not all, sharing. Federal law also requires us to tell you how we collect, share and protect your personal information. Please read this notice carefully to understand what we do.

### What?

The types of personal information we collect and share depend on the product or service you have with us. When you open an account, we will use this information to verify your identity to comply with laws. This information can include:

- Social Security number and date of birth
- · Demographic information
- Financial information
- Contact information (e.g., residential address, phone number)
- i manciai imormatioi
- Other information specific to you (e.g., driver's license number, passport number, employment status)
- Medical information

in this notice.

When you are no longer our customer, we continue to share your information as described

### How?

All financial companies need to share customers' personal information to run their everyday business. In the section below, we list the reasons financial companies can share their customers' personal information, the reasons Equitable chooses to share and whether you can limit this sharing.

Reasons we can share your personal information	Does Equitable share?	Can you limit this sharing?
For our everyday business purposes, and those of your financial professional — such as processing your transactions, maintaining your account(s), responding to court orders and legal investigations, or reporting to credit bureaus	Yes	No
For our marketing purposes — to offer you our products and services	Yes	Yes
For joint marketing with other financial companies	No	We don't share
For our affiliates' everyday business purposes — information about your transactions and experiences	Yes	No
For our affiliates' everyday business purposes — information about your creditworthiness	No	We don't share
For our affiliates to market to you	Yes	Yes
For nonaffiliated companies to market to you	No¹	We don't share

<sup>1</sup> For clients of Equitable Advisors: If your financial professional (FP) moves to another brokerage or investment advisory firm, your FP is permitted to take certain basic contact information about you to the new firm so your FP may inform you of the move; you always have the option of keeping your investments at Equitable Advisors or moving them to another firm.

### Who we are...

# Who is providing this notice?

Equitable, on behalf of itself, and those of its affiliates listed in the **Other important information** section.

### What we do...

# How does Equitable protect my personal information?

To protect your personal information from unauthorized access and use, we use security measures that comply with federal law, including computer safeguards, and secured files and buildings.

We also comply with applicable state laws and regulations regarding protection of personal information.

# How does Equitable collect my personal

information?

We collect your personal information, for example, when you:

- Open an account
- · Make a financial transaction
- Purchase products
   Make a claim
- Request information about a product or marketing materials

Your personal information may be collected from persons other than you (e.g., credit bureaus, Medical Information Bureau, payment processors), and may be disclosed in certain circumstances to third parties without your authorization; however, you do have the right to access and correct any and all personal information we have collected about you.

# Why can't I limit all sharing?

Federal law gives you the right to limit only:

- Sharing for affiliates' everyday business purposes information about your creditworthiness
- · Affiliates from using your information to market to you
- Sharing for nonaffiliated companies to market to you

State laws and individual companies may give you additional rights to limit sharing.

### **Definitions**

#### **Affiliates**

Companies related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies (e.g., distribution entities, investment managers, reinsurers).

# Nonaffiliated companies

Companies not related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies (e.g., print vendors, payment processors, third-party administrators).

### Joint marketing

A formal agreement between nonaffiliated financial companies that together market financial products or services to you.

#### **Questions?**

Call (877) 806-4573 or visit equitable.com/ privacy-security-and-fraud.

#### Other important information:

This privacy notice applies to Equitable Holdings, Inc. and its following affiliates: Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company; Equitable Financial Life and Annuity Company (Equitable Financial Life Insurance and Annuity Company in CA); Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company of America; Equitable Advisors, LLC; Equitable Distributors, LLC; and Equitable Network, LLC (Equitable Network Insurance Agency of Utah, LLC in UT; Equitable Network Insurance Agency of California, LLC in CA; Equitable Network of Puerto Rico, Inc. in PR).

Equitable is the brand name of the retirement and protection subsidiaries of Equitable Holdings, Inc., including Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company (Equitable Financial) (NY, NY); Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company of America (Equitable America), an AZ stock company with an administrative office located in Charlotte, NC; and Equitable Distributors, LLC. (Equitable Advisors is the brand name of Equitable Advisors, LLC (member FINRA, SIPC) (Equitable Financial Advisors in MI & TN).

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### **Group Employee Benefits**

Producer Compensation Notice

Regular Mail: Equitable

Employee Benefits Group P.O. Box 4728 Syracuse, NY 13202

**Express Mail:** 

Equitable Employee Benefits Group (34-1) 100 Madison Street Syracuse, NY 13202



Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company\* Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company of America\*

For Assistance Call (866) 274-9887

#### PRODUCER COMPENSATION NOTICE

Equitable<sup>1</sup> utilizes the services of brokers, advisors, and consultants (collectively, "Producers") in connection with the sale of our Employee Benefits products. We believe that the expertise of these Producers is valuable to our customers, and so Equitable provides compensation to these Producers for their services. A Producer may receive one or more of the compensation types listed below in connection with the sale of Equitable Employee Benefits products to you and/or your employees.<sup>2</sup>

<u>Base Compensation</u> – this compensation, which varies by product, is payable as a percentage of annual premium on a predefined flat commission scale or on a graded schedule under which the commission percentage decreases as the annual premium increases.

<u>Supplemental Compensation</u> – this compensation, which is payable only in connection with sales of certain Equitable Employee Benefits products, is payable to all Producers other than advisors3 who meet certain pre-defined annual sales thresholds. This compensation is also payable as a percentage of annual premium on a pre-defined flat commission scale or on a graded schedule; however, unlike base compensation, under the supplemental compensation graded schedule, the commission percentage increases as the annual premium increases. Persistency Bonus – Producers may also qualify for an additional bonus payment based on the persistency of their in-force block. Persistency is the percentage of in-force business that is retained year over year.

The payment of supplemental compensation as to any particular sale does not affect the cost of the product purchased because the cost of supplemental compensation is considered part of the overhead expenses for all of Equitable's Employee Benefits products.

For more information about Equitable's Producer Compensation Program for its Employee Benefits products, please email EBAppointments@equitable.com.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Equitable is the brand name of Equitable Holdings, Inc. and its family of companies, including Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company (Equitable Financial) (NY, NY) and Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company of America (Equitable America), an AZ stock company. Equitable's Employee Benefits products are issued by either Equitable Financial or Equitable America. Equitable Financial or Equitable America are each responsible for their respective obligations, which are backed solely by each company's respective claims-paying abilities.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Note that Producers or their affiliates may have other relationships with Equitable unrelated to the sale of Equitable Employee Benefits products as to which those Producers may receive separate compensation from Equitable.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Advisors may be eligible to receive supplemental compensation on a case-by-case basis.

<sup>\*</sup> Equitable is the brand name of the retirement and protection subsidiaries of Equitable Holdings, Inc., including Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company (Equitable Financial) (NY, NY), Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company of America (Equitable America), an AZ stock company with an administrative office located in Charlotte, NC, and Equitable Distributors, LLC. Equitable Advisors is the brand name of Equitable Advisors, LLC (member FINRA, SIPC) (Equitable Financial Advisors in MI and TN). All group insurance products are issued either by Equitable Financial or Equitable America, which have sole responsibility for their respective insurance and backed solely by their claims-paying obligations. Some products are not available in all states.