

## **Summary of the Louisiana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act and Notice Concerning Coverage Limitations and Exclusions**

Residents of Louisiana who purchase life insurance, annuities, or health insurance should know that the insurance companies licensed in this state to write these types of insurance are required by law to be members of the Louisiana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association (LLHIGA). The purpose of LLHIGA is to assure that policyholders will be protected, within limits, in the unlikely event that a member insurer becomes financially unable to meet its obligations. If this happens, LLHIGA will assess its other member insurance companies for the money to pay the claims of insured persons who live in this state, and in some cases, to keep coverage in force. However, the valuable extra protection provided by these insurers through LLHIGA is limited. As noted in the disclaimer below, this protection is not a substitute for consumers' care in selecting companies that are well-managed and financially stable. Except as provided in R.S. 22:2098(D), when an insurer delivers a policy or contract described in R.S. 22:2083(B)(1), then prior to or at the time of delivery, the disclaimer notice described in R.S. 22:2098(C) and approved by the commissioner, shall be given separately to the policy or contract holder.

### **Disclaimer**

The Louisiana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association provides coverage of claims under some types of policies if the insurer becomes impaired or insolvent. *COVERAGE MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR POLICY.* Even if coverage is provided, there are significant limits and exclusions. Coverage is generally conditioned upon residence in this state. Other conditions may also preclude coverage.

Insurance companies and insurance agents are prohibited by law from using the existence of the association or its coverage to sell you an insurance policy.

You should not rely on the availability of coverage under the Louisiana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association when selecting an insurer.

The Louisiana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association or the Department of Insurance will respond to any questions you may have which are not answered by this document.

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The state law that provides for this safety-net coverage is called the Louisiana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Law (the Law), and is set forth at R.S. 22:2081 *et seq.* The following is a brief summary of this Law's coverages, exclusions and limits. This summary does not cover all provisions of the Law; nor does it in any way change any person's rights or obligations under the law or the rights or obligations of LLHIGA.

### **COVERAGE**

Generally, individuals will be protected by the Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association if they live in this state and hold a direct non-group life, health, or annuity policy or contract, a certificate under a direct group policy or contract for a supplemental contract to any of these, or an unallocated annuity contract, issued by an insurer authorized to conduct business in Louisiana.

The beneficiaries, payees or assignees of insured persons may also be protected as well even if they live in another state unless they are afforded coverage by the guaranty association of another state, or other circumstances described under the law are applicable.

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## **EXCLUSIONS FROM COVERAGE**

(1) A person who holds a direct non-group life, health, or annuity policy or contract, a certificate under a direct group policy or contract for a supplemental contract to any of these, or an unallocated annuity contract is not protected by LLHIGA if:

- (a) He is eligible for protection under the laws of another state (This may occur when the insolvent insurer was incorporated in another state whose guaranty association protects insureds who live outside that state.);
- (b) The insurer was not authorized to do business in this state;
- (c) His policy was issued by a profit or nonprofit hospital or medical service organization, an HMO, a fraternal benefit society, a mandatory state pooling plan, a mutual assessment company or similar plan in which the policyholder is subject to future assessments, an insurance exchange, an organization that issues charitable gift annuities as is defined in R.S. 22:952(A)(3), or any entity similar to any of these.

(2) LLHIGA also does not provide coverage for:

- (a) Any policy or portion of a policy which is not guaranteed by the insurer or for which the individual has assumed the risk, such as a variable contract sold by prospectus;
- (b) Any policy of reinsurance (unless an assumption certificate was issued);
- (c) Interest rate or crediting rate yields, or similar factors employed in calculating changes in value, that exceed an average rate;
- (d) Dividends, premium refunds, or similar fees or allowances described under the Law;
- (e) Credits given in connection with the administration of a policy by a group contract holder;
- (f) Employers', associations' or similar entities' plans to the extent they are self-funded (that is, not insured by an insurance company, even if an insurance company administers them) or uninsured;
- (g) Unallocated annuity contracts (which give rights to group contract holders, not individuals), except unallocated annuity contracts and defined contribution government plans qualified under section 403(b) of the United States *Internal Revenue Code* (26 U.S.C. §403(b)).
- (h) An obligation that does not arise under the express written terms of the policy or contract issued by the insurer to the policy owner or contract owner, including but not limited to, claims described under the law;
- (i) A policy or contract providing any hospital, medical, prescription drug or other health care benefits pursuant to "Medicare Part C coverage" or "Medicare Part D coverage" and any regulations issued pursuant to those parts;
- (j) Interest or other changes in value to be determined by the use of an index or other external references but which have not been credited to the policy or contract or as to which the policy or contract owner's rights are subject to forfeiture, as of the date the member insurer becomes an impaired or insolvent insurer, whichever is earlier.

## **LIMITS ON AMOUNTS OF COVERAGE**

(1) The Louisiana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Law also limits the amount that LLHIGA is obligated to pay out.

(2) The benefits for which LLHIGA may become liable shall in no event exceed the lesser of the following:

- (a) LLHIGA cannot pay more than what the insurance company would owe under a policy or contract if it were not an impaired or an insolvent insurer.
- (b) For any one insured life, regardless of the number of policies or contracts there are with the same company, LLHIGA will pay a maximum of \$300,000 in life insurance death benefits, but not more than \$100,000 in net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values for life insurance.
- (c) For any one insured life, regardless of the number of policies or contracts there are with the same company, LLHIGA will pay a maximum of \$500,000 in health insurance benefits, and LLHIGA will pay a maximum of \$250,000 in present value of annuities, including net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values.

(3) In no event, regardless of the number of policies and contracts there were with the same company, and no matter how many different types of coverages, LLHIGA shall not be liable to expend more than \$500,000 in the aggregate with respect to any one individual.