

# RELIANCE STANDARD

Life Insurance Company


Home Office: Chicago, Illinois • Administrative Office: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania


## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS .....                        | 1.0  |
| DEFINITIONS.....                                  | 2.0  |
| TRANSFER OF INSURANCE COVERAGE .....              | 3.0  |
| GENERAL PROVISIONS.....                           | 4.0  |
| CLAIMS PROVISIONS.....                            | 5.0  |
| ELIGIBILITY, EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION ..... | 6.0  |
| BENEFIT PROVISIONS.....                           | 7.0  |
| EXCLUSIONS .....                                  | 8.0  |
| LIMITATIONS.....                                  | 9.0  |
| SPECIFIC INDEMNITY BENEFIT.....                   | 10.0 |
| SURVIVOR BENEFIT - LUMP SUM.....                  | 11.0 |
| WORK INCENTIVE AND CHILD CARE BENEFITS.....       | 12.0 |
| FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE BENEFIT ..... | 13.0 |
| MILITARY SERVICES LEAVE OF ABSENCE COVERAGE ..... | 13.1 |
| EXTENDED DISABILITY BENEFIT .....                 | 14.0 |
| REHABILITATION BENEFIT.....                       | 15.0 |

We certify that you (provided you belong to a class described on the Schedule of Benefits and your completed enrollment card is attached) are insured, for the benefits which apply to your class, under Group Policy No. LTD 115854 issued to Northwestern Michigan College, the Policyholder.

This Certificate is not a contract of insurance. It contains only the major terms of insurance coverage and payment of benefits under the Policy. It replaces all certificates that may have been issued to you earlier.

  
Secretary

  
President

## GROUP LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE CERTIFICATE



## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2007

**ELIGIBLE CLASSES:** Each active, Full-time and Part-time Employee, except any person employed on a temporary or seasonal basis, who:

- (1) is engaged in a non-hazardous occupation; and
- (2) functions primarily in an office environment.

"Part-time" means working for the Policyholder for a minimum of 18 hours during your regular work week.

**YOUR EFFECTIVE DATE:** The first of the Policy month coinciding with or next following the day you become eligible.

**INDIVIDUAL REINSTATEMENT:** Not Applicable

### LONG TERM DISABILITY BENEFIT

**ELIMINATION PERIOD:** 180 consecutive days of Total Disability.

### **MONTHLY BENEFIT:**

CORE: The Monthly Benefit is an amount equal to 60% of Covered Monthly Earnings.

BUY-UP 1 The Monthly Benefit is an amount equal to 60% of Covered Monthly Earnings.

BUY-UP 2: The Monthly Benefit is an amount equal to 70% of Covered Monthly Earnings.

To figure this benefit amount payable:

- (1) multiply your Covered Monthly Earnings by the benefit percentage(s) shown above;
- (2) take the lesser of the amount:
  - (a) of step (1) above; or
  - (b) the Maximum Monthly Benefit shown below; and
- (3) subtract Other Income Benefits, as shown below, from step (2), above.

We will pay at least the Minimum Monthly Benefit as follows.

**OTHER INCOME BENEFITS:** Other Income Benefits are:

- (1) disability income benefits you are eligible to receive because of your Total Disability under any group insurance plan(s);
- (2) disability income benefits you are eligible to receive because of your Total Disability under any governmental retirement system, except benefits payable under a federal government employee pension benefit;
- (3) all benefits (except medical or death benefits) including any settlement made in place of such benefits (whether or not liability is admitted) you are eligible to receive because of your Total disability under:
  - (a) Workers' Compensation Laws;
  - (b) occupational disease law;
  - (c) any other laws of like intent as (a) or (b) above; and
  - (d) any compulsory benefit law;
- (4) any of the following that you are entitled to receive:
  - (a) wages, salary or other compensation, excluding the amount allowable under the Rehabilitative Provision; and
  - (b) commissions or monies from the Policyholder, including vested renewal commissions, but, excluding commissions or monies that you earned prior to Total Disability which are paid after Total Disability has begun;
- (5) that part of disability benefits paid for by the Policyholder which you are eligible to receive because of your Total disability under a group retirement plan; and
- (6) that part of Retirement Benefits paid for by the Policyholder which you are eligible to receive under a group retirement plan; and
- (7) disability or Retirement Benefits under the United States Social Security Act, the Canadian pension plans, or any other government plan for which:
  - (a) you are eligible to receive because of your Total Disability or eligibility for Retirement Benefits; and
  - (b) your dependents are eligible to receive due to (a) above.

Disability and early Retirement Benefits will be offset only if such benefits are elected by you or do not reduce the amount of your accrued normal Retirement Benefits then funded.

Retirement Benefits under number 7 above will not apply to disabilities which begin after age 70 if you are already receiving Social Security Retirement Benefits while continuing to work beyond age 70.

**MINIMUM MONTHLY BENEFIT:** In no event will the Monthly Benefit payable to you be less than \$100.

**MAXIMUM MONTHLY BENEFIT:**

- CORE: \$1,500 (this is equal to a maximum Covered Monthly Earnings of \$2,500).
- BUY-UP 1: \$5,000 (this is equal to a maximum Covered Monthly Earnings of \$8,333).
- BUY-UP 2: \$5,000 (this is equal to a maximum Covered Monthly Earnings of \$7,143).

**MAXIMUM DURATION OF BENEFITS:** Benefits will not accrue beyond the longer of: the Duration of Benefits; or Normal Retirement Age; specified below:

| <u>Age at Disablement</u> | <u>Duration of Benefits (in years)</u> |
|---------------------------|--|
| 61 or less                | To Age 65                              |
| 62                        | 3 ½                                    |
| 63                        | 3                                      |
| 64                        | 2 ½                                    |
| 65                        | 2                                      |
| 66                        | 1 ¾                                    |
| 67                        | 1 ½                                    |
| 68                        | 1 ¼                                    |
| 69 or more                | 1                                      |

OR

Normal Retirement Age as defined by the 1983 Amendments to the United States Social Security Act and determined by your year of birth, as follows:

| <u>Year of Birth</u> | <u>Normal Retirement Age</u> |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1937 or before       | 65 years                     |
| 1938                 | 65 years and 2 months        |
| 1939                 | 65 years and 4 months        |
| 1940                 | 65 years and 6 months        |
| 1941                 | 65 years and 8 months        |
| 1942                 | 65 years and 10 months       |
| 1943 thru 1954       | 66 years                     |
| 1955                 | 66 years and 2 months        |
| 1956                 | 66 years and 4 months        |
| 1957                 | 66 years and 6 months        |
| 1958                 | 66 years and 8 months        |
| 1959                 | 66 years and 10 months       |
| 1960 and after       | 67 years                     |

**CHANGES IN MONTHLY BENEFIT:** Increases in the Monthly Benefit are effective on the date of the change, provided you are Actively at Work on the effective date of the change. If you are not Actively at Work on that date, the effective date of the increase in the benefit amount will be deferred until the date you return to Active Work. Decreases in the Monthly Benefit are effective on the date the change occurs. However, changes in the Monthly Benefit because of a change in Earnings are effective as explained in the definition of Covered Monthly Earnings.

If an increase in, or initial application for, the Monthly Benefit is due to a life event change (such as marriage, birth or specific changes in employment status), proof of health will not be required provided you apply within 31 days of such life event.

**CONTRIBUTIONS:**

CORE: You are not required to contribute toward the cost of this insurance.

BUY-UP PLANS: You are required to contribute toward the cost of this insurance.

Your contributions are being made on a pre-tax or post-tax basis, at your option. This means that (under the law as of the date the policy was issued) your Monthly Benefit will be treated as taxable (if the pre-tax basis is chosen), or as non-taxable (if the post-tax basis is chosen) for the purposes of filing your Federal Income Tax Return. It is recommended that you contact your personal tax advisor. A change in the contributions basis may affect the premiums and the tax treatment for these benefits.

## DEFINITIONS

"You", "your" and "yours" means a person who meets the Eligibility Requirements of the Policy and is enrolled for this insurance.

"We", "us" and "our" means Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company.

"Actively at Work" and "Active Work" mean actually performing on a Full-time or Part-time basis the material duties pertaining to your job in the place where and the manner in which the job is normally performed. This includes approved time off such as vacation, jury duty and funeral leave, but does not include time off as a result of an Injury or Sickness.

"Claimant" means you made a claim for benefits under the Policy for a loss covered by the Policy as a result of your Injury or Sickness.

"Covered Monthly Earnings" means your basic monthly salary received from the Policyholder on the day just before the date of Total Disability, prior to any deductions to a 401(k) or Section 125 plan. Covered Monthly Earnings do not include commissions, overtime pay, bonuses or any other special compensation not received as Covered Monthly Earnings.

If you are an hourly paid employee, the number of hours worked during a regular work week, not to exceed forty (40) hours per week, times 4.333, will be used to determine Covered Monthly Earnings. If you are paid on an annual basis, then the Covered Monthly Earnings will be determined by dividing the basic annual salary by 12.

"Elimination Period" means a period of consecutive days of Total Disability, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page, for which no benefit is payable. It begins on the first day of Total Disability.

Interruption Period: If, during the Elimination Period, you return to Active Work for less than 30 days, then the same or related Total Disability will be treated as continuous. Days that you are Actively at Work during this interruption period will not count towards the Elimination Period. This interruption of the Elimination Period will not apply to you if you become eligible under any other group long term disability insurance plan.

"Full-time" means working for the Policyholder for a minimum of 30 hours during your regular work week.

"Hospital" or "Institution" means a facility licensed to provide care and treatment for the condition causing your Total Disability.

"Injury" means bodily injury resulting directly from an accident, independent of all other causes. The Injury must cause Total Disability which begins while your insurance coverage is in effect.

"Physician" means a duly licensed practitioner who is recognized by the law of the state in which treatment is received as qualified to treat the type of Injury or Sickness for which a claim is made. The Physician may not be you or a member of your immediate family.

"Pre-existing Condition" means any Sickness or Injury for which you received medical treatment, consultation, care or services, including diagnostic procedures, or took prescribed drugs or medicines, during the three (3) months immediately prior to your effective date of insurance.

"Regular Occupation" means the occupation you are routinely performing when Total Disability begins. We will look at your occupation as it is normally performed in the national economy, and not the unique duties performed for a specific employer or in a specific locale.

"Retirement Benefits" mean money which you are entitled to receive upon early or normal retirement or disability retirement under:

- (1) any plan of a state, county or municipal retirement system, if such pension benefits include any credit for employment with the Policyholder;
- (2) Retirement Benefits under the United States Social Security Act of 1935, as amended, or under any similar plan or act; or
- (3) an employer's retirement plan where payments are made in a lump sum or periodically and do not represent contributions made by you.

Retirement Benefits do not include:

- (1) a federal government employee pension benefit;
- (2) a thrift plan;
- (3) a deferred compensation plan;
- (4) an individual retirement account (IRA);
- (5) a tax sheltered annuity (TSA);
- (6) a stock ownership plan; or
- (7) a profit sharing plan.

"Sickness" means illness or disease causing Total Disability which begins while your insurance coverage is in effect. Sickness includes pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or abortion, or any complications therefrom.

"Totally Disabled" and "Total Disability" mean, that as a result of an Injury or Sickness, during the Elimination Period and thereafter you cannot perform the material duties of your Regular Occupation;

- (1) "Partially Disabled" and "Partial Disability" mean that as a result of an Injury or Sickness you are capable of performing the material duties of your Regular Occupation on a part-time basis or some of the material duties on a full-time basis. If you are Partially Disabled you will be considered Totally Disabled, except during the Elimination Period; and
- (2) "Residual Disability" means being Partially Disabled during the Elimination Period. Residual Disability will be considered Total Disability.

If you are employed by the Policyholder and require a license for such occupation, the loss of such license for any reason does not in and of itself constitute "Total Disability".

## **TRANSFER OF INSURANCE COVERAGE**

If you were covered under any group long term disability insurance plan maintained by the Policyholder prior to the Policy's Effective Date, you will be insured under the Policy, provided that you are Actively At Work and meet all of the requirements for being an Eligible Person under the Policy on its Effective Date.

If you were covered under the prior group long term disability plan maintained by the Policyholder prior to the Policy's Effective Date, but were not Actively at Work due to Injury or Sickness on the Effective Date of the Policy and would otherwise qualify as an Eligible Person, coverage will be allowed under the following conditions:

- (1) You must have been insured with the prior carrier on the date of the transfer; and
- (2) Premiums must be paid; and
- (3) Total Disability must begin on or after the Policy's Effective Date.

If you are receiving long term disability benefits, become eligible for coverage under another group long term disability insurance plan, or have a period of recurrent disability under the prior group long term disability insurance plan, you will not be covered under the Policy. If premiums have been paid on your behalf under the Policy, those premiums will be refunded.

### **Pre-existing Conditions Limitation Credit**

If you are an Eligible Person on the Effective Date of the Policy, any time used to satisfy the Pre-existing Conditions Limitation of the prior group long term disability insurance plan will be credited towards the satisfaction of the Pre-existing Conditions Limitation of the Policy.

### **Late Applicant Provision**

If you were eligible for coverage under a prior group long term disability insurance plan of the Policyholder for more than thirty-one (31) days but did not elect to be covered under that prior plan, then you must submit a written application within thirty-one (31) days of the Effective Date of the Policy, along with proof of health acceptable to us. If we approve your application, your insurance will be effective on the date of our approval, provided you are Actively at Work on that date.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**TIME LIMIT ON CERTAIN DEFENSES:** After the Policy has been in force for two (2) years from its Effective Date, no statement made by you on a written application for insurance shall be used to reduce or deny a claim after your insurance coverage, with respect to which claim has been made, has been in effect for two (2) years.

**CLERICAL ERROR:** Clerical errors in connection with the Policy or delays in keeping records for the Policy, whether by the Policyholder, the Plan Administrator, or us:

- (1) will not terminate insurance that would otherwise have been effective; and
- (2) will not continue insurance that would otherwise have ceased or should not have been in effect.

If appropriate, a fair adjustment of premium will be made to correct a clerical error.

**NOT IN LIEU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION:** The Policy is not a Workers' Compensation Policy. It does not provide Workers' Compensation benefits.

**WAIVER OF PREMIUM:** No premium is due us while you are receiving Monthly Benefits from us. Once Monthly Benefits cease due to the end of your Total Disability, premium payments must begin again if insurance is to continue.

## CLAIMS PROVISIONS

**NOTICE OF CLAIM:** Written notice must be given to us within thirty-one (31) days after a Total Disability covered by the Policy occurs, or as soon as reasonably possible. The notice should be sent to us at our Administrative Office or to our authorized agent. The notice should include your name, the Policyholder's name and the Policy Number.

**CLAIM FORMS:** When we receive the notice of claim, we will send you the claim forms to file with us. We will send them within fifteen (15) days after we receive notice. If we do not, then the proof of Total Disability will be met by giving us a written statement of the type and extent of the Total Disability. The statement must be sent within ninety (90) days after the loss began.

**WRITTEN PROOF OF TOTAL DISABILITY:** For any Total Disability covered by the Policy, written proof must be sent to us within ninety (90) days after the Total Disability occurs. If written proof is not given in that time, the claim will not be invalidated nor reduced if it is shown that written proof was given as soon as was reasonably possible. In any event, proof must be given within one (1) year after the Total Disability occurs, unless you are legally incapable of doing so.

**PAYMENT OF CLAIMS:** When we receive written proof of Total Disability covered by the Policy, we will pay any benefits due. Benefits that provide for periodic payment will be paid for each period as we become liable.

We will pay benefits to you, if living, or else to your estate.

If you died and we have not paid all benefits due, we may pay up to \$1,000 to any relative by blood or marriage, or to the executor or administrator of your estate. The payment will only be made to persons entitled to it. An expense incurred as a result of your last illness, death or burial will entitle a person to this payment. The payments will cease when a valid claim is made for the benefit. We will not be liable for any payment we have made in good faith.

**ARBITRATION OF CLAIMS:** Any claim or dispute arising from or relating to our determination regarding your Total Disability may be settled by arbitration when agreed to by you and us in accordance with the Rules for Health and Accident Claims of the American Arbitration Association or by any other method agreeable to you and us. In the case of a claim under an Employee Retirement Income Security Act (hereinafter referred to as ERISA) Plan, your ERISA claim appeal remedies, if applicable, must be exhausted before the claim may be submitted to arbitration. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrators may be entered in any court having jurisdiction over such awards.

Unless otherwise agreed to by you and us, any such award will be binding on you and us for a period of twelve (12) months after it is rendered assuming that the award is not based on fraudulent information and you continue to be Totally Disabled. At the end of such twelve (12) month period, the issue of Total Disability may again be submitted to arbitration in accordance with this provision.

Any costs of said arbitration proceedings levied by the American Arbitration Association or the organization or person(s) conducting the proceedings will be paid by us.

**PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND AUTOPSY:** We will, at our expense, have the right to have you interviewed and/or examined:

- (1) physically;
- (2) psychologically; and/or
- (3) psychiatrically;

to determine the existence of any Total Disability which is the basis for a claim. This right may be used as often as it is reasonably required while a claim is pending.

We can have an autopsy made unless prohibited by law.

**LEGAL ACTIONS:** No legal action may be brought against us to recover on the Policy within sixty (60) days after written proof of loss has been given as required by the Policy. No action may be brought after three (3) years (Kansas, five (5) years; South Carolina, six (6) years) from the time written proof of loss is received.

## ELIGIBILITY, EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:** You are eligible for insurance under the Policy if you are a member of an Eligible Class, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF YOUR INSURANCE:** If the Policyholder pays the entire Premium due for you, your insurance will go into effect on Your Effective Date, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page.

If you pay a part of the Premium, you must apply in writing for the insurance to go into effect. You will become insured on the latest of:

- (1) Your Effective Date, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page, if you apply on or before that date;
- (2) on the date you apply, if you apply within thirty-one (31) days from the date you first met the Eligibility Requirements; or
- (3) on the date we approve any required proof of health acceptable to us. We require this proof if you apply:
  - (a) after thirty-one (31) days from the date you first met the Eligibility Requirements; or
  - (b) after you terminated this insurance but remained in an Eligible Class, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page.

The insurance for you will not go into effect on a date you are not Actively at Work because of a Sickness or Injury. The insurance will go into effect after you are Actively at Work for one (1) full day in an Eligible Class, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page.

**TERMINATION OF YOUR INSURANCE:** Your insurance will terminate on the first of the following to occur:

- (1) the date the Policy terminates;
- (2) the date you cease to meet the Eligibility Requirements;
- (3) the end of the period for which Premium has been paid for you; or
- (4) the date you enter military service (not including Reserve or National Guard).

**YOUR REINSTATEMENT:** If you are terminated, your insurance may be reinstated if you return to Active Work with the Policyholder within the period of time as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page. You must also be a member of an Eligible Class, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page, and have been:

- (1) on a leave of absence approved by the Policyholder; or
- (2) on temporary lay-off.

You will not be required to fulfill the Eligibility Requirements of the Policy again. The insurance will go into effect after you return to Active Work for one (1) full day. If you return after having resigned or having been discharged, you will be required to fulfill the Eligibility Requirements of the Policy again. If you return after terminating insurance at your request or for failure to pay Premium when due, proof of health acceptable to us must be submitted before you may be reinstated.

**CONTINUATION OF INDIVIDUAL INSURANCE:** The insurance for you may be continued if you are on an approved leave of absence or lay-off, beyond the date you cease to be eligible for this insurance, but no longer than the end of the month following the month in which the approved leave of absence or lay-off begins, provided premium payment is made.

## BENEFIT PROVISIONS

**INSURING CLAUSE:** We will pay a Monthly Benefit if you:

- (1) are Totally Disabled as the result of a Sickness or Injury covered by the Policy;
- (2) are under the regular care of a Physician;
- (3) have completed the Elimination Period; and
- (4) submit satisfactory proof of Total Disability to us.

Please refer to the Schedule of Benefits for the MONTHLY BENEFIT and OTHER INCOME BENEFITS.

Benefits you are entitled to receive under OTHER INCOME BENEFITS will be estimated if the benefits:

- (1) have not been applied for; or
- (2) have been applied for and a decision is pending; or
- (3) have been denied and the denial may be appealed.

The Monthly Benefit will be reduced by the estimated amount. If benefits have been estimated, the Monthly Benefit will be adjusted when we receive proof:

- (1) of the amount awarded; or
- (2) that benefits have been denied and the denial cannot be further appealed.

If we have underpaid the Monthly Benefit for any reason, we will make a lump sum payment. If we have overpaid the Monthly Benefit for any reason, the overpayment must be repaid to us. At our option, we may reduce the Monthly Benefit or ask for a lump sum refund. If we reduce the Monthly Benefit, the Minimum Monthly Benefit, if any, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page, would not apply.

For each day of a period of Total Disability less than a full month, the amount payable will be 1/30th of the Monthly Benefit.

**COST OF LIVING FREEZE:** After the initial deduction for any Other Income Benefits, the Monthly Benefit will not be further reduced due to any cost of living increases payable under these Other Income Benefits.

**LUMP SUM PAYMENTS:** If Other Income Benefits are paid in a lump sum, the sum will be prorated over the period of time to which the Other Income benefits apply. If no period of time is given, the sum will be prorated over sixty (60) months.

**TERMINATION OF MONTHLY BENEFIT:** The Monthly Benefit will stop on the earliest of:

- (1) the date you cease to be Totally Disabled;
- (2) the date you die;
- (3) the Maximum Duration of Benefits, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page, has ended; or
- (4) the date you fail to furnish the required proof of Total Disability.

**RECURRENT DISABILITY:** If, after a period of Total Disability for which benefits are payable, you return to Active Work for at least six (6) consecutive months, any recurrent Total Disability for the same or related cause will be part of a new period of Total Disability. A new Elimination Period must be completed before any further Monthly Benefits are payable.

If you return to Active Work for less than six (6) months, a recurrent Total Disability for the same or related cause will be part of the same Total Disability. A new Elimination Period is not required. Our liability for the entire period will be subject to the terms of the Policy for the original period of Total Disability.

If you become eligible for insurance coverage under any other group long term disability insurance plan, then this recurrent disability section will not apply to you.

## **EXCLUSIONS**

We will not pay a Monthly Benefit for any Total Disability caused by:

- (1) an act of war, declared or undeclared; or
- (2) an intentionally self-inflicted Injury; or
- (3) the Insured committing a felony; or
- (4) an Injury or Sickness that occurs while the Insured is confined in any penal or correctional institution.

## LIMITATIONS

**MENTAL OR NERVOUS DISORDERS:** Monthly Benefits for Total Disability caused by or contributed to by mental or nervous disorders will not be payable beyond an aggregate lifetime maximum duration of twenty-four (24) months unless you are in a Hospital or Institution at the end of the twenty-four (24) month period. The Monthly Benefit will be payable while so confined, but not beyond the Maximum Duration of Benefits.

If you were confined in a Hospital or Institution and:

- (1) Total Disability continues beyond discharge;
- (2) the confinement was during a period of Total Disability; and
- (3) the period of confinement was for at least fourteen (14) consecutive days;

then upon discharge, Monthly Benefits will be payable for the greater of:

- (1) the unused portion of the twenty-four (24) month period; or
- (2) ninety (90) days;

but in no event beyond the Maximum Duration of Benefits, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page.

Mental or Nervous Disorders are defined to include disorders which are diagnosed to include a condition such as:

- (1) bipolar disorder (manic depressive syndrome);
- (2) schizophrenia;
- (3) delusional (paranoid) disorders;
- (4) psychotic disorders;
- (5) depressive disorders;
- (6) anxiety disorders;
- (7) somatoform disorders (psychosomatic illness);
- (8) eating disorders; or
- (9) mental illness.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE:** Monthly Benefits for Total Disability due to alcoholism or drug addiction will be payable while you are a participant in a Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program. The Monthly Benefit will not be payable beyond twenty-four (24) months.

If, during a period of Total Disability due to Substance Abuse for which a Monthly Benefit is payable, you are able to perform Rehabilitative Employment, the Monthly Benefit, less 50% of any of the money received from this Rehabilitative Employment will be paid until: (1) you are performing all the material duties of your Regular Occupation on a full-time basis; or (2) the end of twenty-four (24) consecutive months from the date that the Elimination Period is satisfied, whichever is earlier. All terms and conditions of the Rehabilitation Benefit will apply to Rehabilitative Employment due to Substance Abuse.

"Substance Abuse" means the pattern of pathological use of a Substance which is 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 for adequate functioning.

"Substance" means alcohol and those drugs included on the Department of Health, Retardation and Hospitals' Substance Abuse list of addictive drugs, except tobacco and caffeine are excluded.

A Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program means a program supervised by a Physician or a licensed rehabilitation specialist approved by us.

**PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS:** Benefits will not be paid for a Total Disability:

- (1) caused by;
- (2) contributed to by; or
- (3) resulting from;

a Pre-existing Condition unless you have been Actively at Work for one (1) full day following the end of twelve (12) consecutive months from the date you became insured.

With respect to persons electing to change their level of coverage during an approved enrollment period, any benefit increase (due to this change) will not be paid for a Total Disability:

- (1) caused by;
- (2) contributed to by; or
- (3) resulting from;

a Pre-existing Condition unless you have been Actively at Work for one (1) full day following the end of twelve (12) consecutive months measured from the date of such election. The three (3) month period referenced in the definition of Pre-existing Condition shall be the three (3) months just before the date of such election (with respect to any increase in benefits) in lieu of the three (3) months prior to your effective date of insurance.

## SPECIFIC INDEMNITY BENEFIT

If you suffer any one of the Losses listed below from an accident resulting in an Injury, we will pay a guaranteed minimum number of Monthly Benefit payments, as shown below. However:

- (1) the Loss must occur within one hundred and eighty (180) days; and
- (2) you must live past the Elimination Period.

| <u>For Loss of:</u>                        | <u>Number of Monthly Benefit Payments:</u> |
|--|--|
| Both Hands.....                            | 46 Months                                  |
| Both Feet .....                            | 46 Months                                  |
| Entire Sight in Both Eyes .....            | 46 Months                                  |
| Hearing in Both Ears .....                 | 46 Months                                  |
| Speech .....                               | 46 Months                                  |
| One Hand and One Foot .....                | 46 Months                                  |
| One Hand and Entire Sight in One Eye ..... | 46 Months                                  |
| One Foot and Entire Sight in One Eye ..... | 46 Months                                  |
| One Arm .....                              | 35 Months                                  |
| One Leg .....                              | 35 Months                                  |
| One Hand .....                             | 23 Months                                  |
| One Foot .....                             | 23 Months                                  |
| Entire Sight in One Eye .....              | 15 Months                                  |
| Hearing in One Ear .....                   | 15 Months                                  |

"Loss(es)" with respect to:

- (1) hand or foot, means the complete severance through or above the wrist or ankle joint;
- (2) arm or leg, means the complete severance through or above the elbow or knee joint; or
- (3) sight, speech or hearing, means total and irrecoverable Loss thereof.

If more than one (1) Loss results from any one accident, payment will be made for the Loss for which the greatest number of Monthly Benefit payments is provided.

The amount payable is the Monthly Benefit, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page, with no reduction from Other Income Benefits. The number of Monthly Benefit payments will not cease if you return to Active Work. If death occurs after we begin paying Monthly Benefits, but before the Specific Indemnity Benefit has been paid according to the above schedule, the balance remaining at time of death will be paid to your estate, unless a beneficiary is on record with us under the Policy.

Benefits may be payable longer than shown above as long as you are still Totally Disabled, subject to the Maximum Duration of Benefits, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page.

## **SURVIVOR BENEFIT - LUMP SUM**

We will pay a benefit to your Survivor when we receive proof that you died while:

- (1) you were receiving Monthly Benefits from us; and
- (2) you were Totally Disabled for at least one hundred and eighty (180) consecutive days.

The benefit will be an amount equal to 3 times your last Monthly Benefit. The last Monthly Benefit is the benefit you were eligible to receive right before your death. It is not reduced by wages earned while in Rehabilitative Employment.

“Survivor” means your spouse. If the spouse dies before you or if you were legally separated, then your natural, legally adopted or step-children, who are under age twenty-five (25) will be the Survivor(s). If there are no eligible Survivors, payment will be made to your estate, unless a beneficiary is on record with us under the Policy.

A benefit payable to a minor may be paid to the minor’s legally appointed guardian. If there is no guardian, at our option, we may pay the benefit to an adult that has, in our opinion, assumed the custody and main support of the minor. We will not be liable for any payment we have made in good faith.

## **WORK INCENTIVE AND CHILD CARE BENEFITS**

### **WORK INCENTIVE BENEFIT**

During the first twelve (12) months of Rehabilitative Employment during which a Monthly Benefit is payable, we will not offset earnings from such Rehabilitative Employment until the sum of:

- (1) the Monthly Benefit prior to offsets with Other Income Benefits; and
- (2) earnings from Rehabilitative Employment;

exceed 100% of your Covered Monthly Earnings. If the sum above exceeds 100% of Covered Monthly Earnings, our Benefit Amount will be reduced by such excess amount until the sum of (1) and (2) above equals 100%.

### **CHILD CARE BENEFIT**

We will allow a Child Care Benefit if:

- (1) you are receiving benefits under the Work Incentive Benefit;
- (2) your Child(ren) is (are) under 14 years of age;
- (3) the child care is provided by a non-relative; and
- (4) the charges for child care are documented by a receipt from the caregiver, including social security number or taxpayer identification number.

During the twelve (12) month period in which you are eligible for the Work Incentive Benefit, an amount equal to actual expenses incurred for child care, up to a maximum of \$250 per month, will be added to your Covered Monthly Earnings when calculating the Benefit Amount under the Work Incentive Benefit.

Child(ren) means: your unmarried child(ren), including any foster child, adopted child or step child who resides in your home and is financially dependent on you for support and maintenance.

## **FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE BENEFIT**

We will allow your coverage to continue, for up to twelve (12) weeks in a twelve (12) month period, if you are eligible for, and the Policyholder has approved, a Family and Medical Leave of Absence under the terms of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, for any of the following reasons:

- (1) To provide care after the birth of a son or daughter; or
- (2) To provide care for a son or daughter upon legal adoption; or
- (3) To provide care after the placement of a foster child in your home; or
- (4) To provide care to a spouse, son, daughter, or parent due to serious illness; or
- (5) To take care of your own serious health condition as explained below.

If you, due to your own serious health condition, meet the definition of Total Disability as well as all other requirements in the Policy, you will be considered Totally Disabled and eligible to receive a Monthly Benefit. All premiums will be waived as long as you are receiving such Monthly Benefit. If you, due to your own serious health condition, are working on a reduced leave schedule or an intermittent leave schedule, as described by the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, but are not considered Totally Disabled under the Policy, premium payments will be continued under this benefit.

You will not qualify for the Family and Medical Leave of Absence Benefit unless we have received proof from the Policyholder in a form satisfactory to us, that you have been granted a leave under the terms of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended. Such proof: (1) must outline the terms of your leave; and (2) give the date the leave began; and (3) the date it is expected to end; and (4) must be received by us within thirty-one (31) days after a claim for benefits has been filed with us.

If the Policyholder grants you a Family and Medical Leave of Absence, the following applies to you:

- (1) While you are on an approved Family and Medical Leave of Absence, the required premium must be paid according to the terms specified in the Policy to keep the insurance in force.
- (2) While you are on an approved Family and Medical Leave of Absence, you will be considered Actively at Work in all instances unless such leave is due to your own illness, injury, or disability. Changes such as revisions to coverage because of age, class, or salary changes will apply during the leave except that increases in amount of insurance, whether automatic or subject to election, are not effective if you are not Actively at Work until such time as you return to Active Work for one full day.
- (3) If you become Totally Disabled while on a Family and Medical Leave of Absence, any Monthly Benefit which becomes payable will be based on your Covered Monthly Earnings received from the Policyholder immediately prior to the date of Total Disability.
- (4) Coverage will terminate if you do not return to work as scheduled according to the terms of the Policyholder agreement with you. In no case will coverage be extended under this benefit beyond twelve (12) weeks in a twelve (12) month period. Insurance will not be terminated if you become Totally Disabled during the period of the leave and are eligible for benefits according to the terms of the Policy.

All other terms and conditions of the Policy will remain in force while you are on an approved Family and Medical Leave of Absence.

## **MILITARY SERVICES LEAVE OF ABSENCE COVERAGE**

We will allow your coverage to continue, for up to twelve (12) weeks in a twelve (12) month period, if you enter the military service of the United States. While you are on a Military Services Leave of Absence, the required premium must be paid according to the terms specified in the Policy to keep the insurance in force. Changes such as revisions to coverage because of age, class or salary changes will apply during the leave except that increases in amount of insurance, whether automatic or subject to election, are not effective until you have returned to work from Military Services Leave of Absence for one full day. All other terms and conditions of the Policy will remain in force during the continuation period. Your continued coverage will cease on the earliest of the following dates:

- (1) the date the Policy terminates; or
- (2) the date ending the last period for which any required premium was paid; or
- (3) twelve (12) weeks from the date your continued coverage began.

The Policy, however, does not cover any loss which occurs while on active duty in the military service if such loss is caused by or arises out of such military service, including but not limited to war or act of war (whether declared or undeclared) and is also subject to any other exclusions listed in the Exclusions provision.

## EXTENDED DISABILITY BENEFIT

We will pay an Extended Disability Benefit to you if you:

- (1) meet all the requirements of Total Disability of the Policy; and
- (2) are receiving a Total Disability Benefit under the Policy that will be exhausted because the Maximum Duration of Benefits has ended; and
- (3) are unable to function without another person's Direct Assistance or verbal direction due to:
  - (a) an inability to perform at least two Activities of Daily Living (ADL) as defined; or
  - (b) Cognitive Impairment as defined; and
- (4) are either:
  - (a) confined as an Inpatient in a Skilled Nursing Home, Rehabilitation Facility or Rehabilitative Hospital in which patients receive care from licensed medical professionals; or
  - (b) receiving Home Health Care or Hospice Care; and
- (5) make a Written Request for this benefit within thirty (30) days after the Maximum Duration of Benefits has ended.

The Extended Disability Benefit:

- (1) will be an amount equal to 85% of the Monthly Benefit after offsets with Other Income Benefits which was payable prior to you qualifying for the Extended Disability Benefit up to a maximum of \$5,000 per month; and
- (2) is payable for a maximum of sixty (60) months measured from the date that the Maximum Duration of Benefits has ended.

### Definitions:

"Activities of Daily Living (ADL)" means:

- (1) Bathing - the ability to wash oneself in the tub or shower or by sponge bath from a basin without Direct Assistance;
- (2) Dressing - the ability to change clothes without Direct Assistance, including fastening and unfastening any medically necessary braces or artificial limbs;
- (3) Eating/Feeding - the ability to eat without Direct Assistance, once food has been prepared and made available;
- (4) Transferring - the ability to move in and out of a chair or bed without Direct Assistance, except with the aid of equipment (including support and other mechanical devices); and
- (5) Toileting - the ability to get to and from and on and off the toilet, to maintain a reasonable level of personal hygiene and to adjust clothing without Direct Assistance.

"Cognitively Impaired" and "Cognitive Impairment" means your confusion or disorientation due to organic changes in the brain resulting in a deterioration or loss in intellectual capacity as confirmed by cognitive or other tests satisfactory to us.

"Direct Assistance" means you require continuous help or oversight to be able to perform the Activity of Daily Living (ADL).

"Home Health Care" means medical and non-medical services, provided in your residence due to Injury or Sickness, including: visiting nurse services; physical, respiratory, occupational or speech therapy; nutritional counseling; and home health aide services. Home Health Care services must be: (1) prescribed by and provided under the supervision of a Physician; and (2) rendered by a licensed home health care provider who is not a member of your immediate family. Home Health Care does not include: homemaker, companion and home delivered meals services; nor informal care services provided by your family members.

"Hospice Care" means a program of care which coordinates the special needs of a person with a Terminal Illness. Hospice Care must be: (1) prescribed by and provided under the supervision of a Physician; and (2) rendered by a licensed hospice care provider who is not a member of your immediate family.

"Inpatient" means a person confined in a Skilled Nursing Home, Rehabilitation Facility or Rehabilitative Hospital, for whom a daily room and board charge is made.

“Pre-existing Condition” means with respect to the Extended Disability Benefit only, any Sickness or Injury for which you received medical treatment, consultation, care or services, including diagnostic procedures, or took prescribed drugs or medicines, during the three (3) months immediately preceding your effective date of insurance.

“Rehabilitation Facility or Rehabilitative Hospital” means any facility or Hospital that is licensed in the state in which it is operating to provide rehabilitation services, therapy or retraining to you to enable you to walk, communicate, and/or function as a member of society.

“Skilled Nursing Home” means a facility or part of a facility that is licensed or certified in the state in which it is operating to provide Skilled Nursing Care.

“Skilled Nursing Care” means that level of care which:

- (1) requires the training and skills of a Registered Nurse;
- (2) is prescribed by a Physician;
- (3) is based on generally recognized and accepted standards of health care by the American Medical Association; and
- (4) is appropriate for the diagnosis and treatment of your Sickness or Injury.

“Terminal Illness” means a Sickness or physical condition that is certified by a Physician in a written statement, on a form prescribed by us, to reasonably be expected to result in death in less than twelve (12) months.

“Written Request” means a request made, in writing, by you to us.

Pre-existing Conditions Limitation:

With respect to the Extended Disability Benefit only, benefits will not be paid for a Total Disability:

- (1) caused by;
- (2) contributed to by; or
- (3) resulting from;

a Pre-existing Condition unless you have been Actively at Work for one (1) full day following the end of twelve (12) consecutive months measured from your effective date of insurance with us.

No benefits will be paid under the Extended Disability Benefit if your Total Disability occurred before your effective date of insurance with us.

The Extended Disability Benefit will cease to be payable on the earliest of the following dates:

- (1) the date you die; or
- (2) the date you no longer meet the requirements of Total Disability of the Policy; or
- (3) the date you:
  - (a) are no longer confined as an Inpatient in a Skilled Nursing Home, Rehabilitative Facility or Rehabilitation Hospital; or
  - (b) are no longer receiving Home Health Care or Hospice Care; or
- (4) the date you are no longer considered Cognitively Impaired; or
- (5) the date you are no longer unable to perform at least two Activities of Daily Living (ADL); or
- (6) the date you receive your 60th monthly Extended Disability Benefit payment.

The Extended Disability Benefit will not be payable for Total Disability which is caused by or results from conditions for which Monthly Benefits are specifically limited by the Policy such as Mental or Nervous Disorders, alcoholism, drug addiction, or other Substance Abuse, musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders, chronic fatigue syndrome, Environmental Allergic or Reactive Illness, or Self-Reported Conditions.

If the Policy contains a Survivor Benefit, Activities of Daily Living Benefit (ADL), Catastrophic Care Benefit, Supplemental Pension Benefit, Living Benefit, Cost of Living Benefit or a Conversion Privilege, such benefits are not applicable when receiving benefits under the Extended Disability Benefit.

## **REHABILITATION BENEFIT**

"Rehabilitative Employment" means work in any gainful occupation for which your training, education or experience will reasonably allow. The work must be supervised by a Physician or a licensed or certified rehabilitation specialist approved by us. Rehabilitative Employment includes work performed while Partially Disabled, but does not include performing all the material duties of your Regular Occupation on a full-time basis.

If you are receiving a Monthly Benefit because you are considered Totally Disabled under the terms of the Policy and are able to perform Rehabilitative Employment, we will continue to pay the Monthly Benefit less an amount equal to 50% of earnings received through such Rehabilitative Employment.

If you are able to perform Rehabilitative Employment when Totally Disabled due to Substance Abuse, we will continue to pay the Monthly Benefit less an amount equal to 50% of earnings received through such Rehabilitative Employment. This Monthly Benefit is payable for a maximum of twenty-four (24) consecutive months from the date the Elimination Period is satisfied.

You will be considered able to perform Rehabilitative Employment if a Physician or licensed or certified rehabilitation specialist approved by us determines that you can perform such employment. If you refuse such Rehabilitative Employment or have been performing Rehabilitative Employment, and refuse to continue such employment, the Monthly Benefit will be reduced by 50%, without regard to the Minimum Monthly Benefit.

**Claim Procedures and  
ERISA Statement of Rights**



**CLAIM PROCEDURES FOR CLAIMS FILED WITH  
RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2002**

**CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS**

Claims may be submitted by mailing the completed form along with any requested information to:

Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company  
Claims Department  
P.O. Box 8330  
Philadelphia, PA 19101-8330

Claim forms are available from your benefits representative or may be requested by writing to the above address or by calling 1-800-644-1103.

**TIMING OF NOTIFICATION OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION**

Non-Disability Benefit Claims

If a non-disability claim is wholly or partially denied, the claimant shall be notified of the adverse benefit determination within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 90 days after our receipt of the claim, unless it is determined that special circumstances require an extension of time for processing the claim. If it is determined that an extension of time for processing is required, written notice of the extension shall be furnished to the claimant prior to the termination of the initial 90-day period. In no event shall such extension exceed a period of 90 days from the end of such initial period. The extension notice shall indicate that the special circumstances requiring an extension of time and the date by which the benefit determination is expected to be rendered.

Calculating time periods. The period of time within which a benefit determination is required to be made shall begin at the time a claim is filed, without regard to whether all the information necessary to make a benefit determination accompanies the filing.

Disability Benefit Claims

In the case of a claim for disability benefits, the claimant shall be notified of the adverse benefit determination within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 45 days after our receipt of the claim. This period may be extended for up to 30 days, provided that it is determined that such an extension is necessary due to matters beyond our control and that notification is provided to the claimant, prior to the expiration of the initial 45-day period, of the circumstances requiring the extension of time and the date by which a decision is expected to be rendered. If, prior to the end of the first 30-day extension period, it is determined that, due to matters beyond our control, a decision cannot be rendered within that extension period, the period for making the determination may be extended for up to an additional 30 days, provided that the claimant is notified, prior to the expiration of the first 30-day extension period, of the circumstances requiring the extension and the date by which a decision is expected to be rendered. In the case of any such extension, the notice of extension shall specifically explain the standards on which entitlement to a benefit is based, the unresolved issues that prevent a decision on the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues, and the claimant shall be afforded at least 45 days within which to provide the specified information.

Calculating time periods. The period of time within which a benefit determination is required to be made shall begin at the time a claim is filed, without regard to whether all the information necessary to make a benefit determination accompanies the filing. In the event that a period of time is extended due to a claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide a claim, the period for making the benefit determination shall be tolled from the date on which the notification of the extension is sent to the claimant until the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

**MANNER AND CONTENT OF NOTIFICATION OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION**

Non-Disability Benefit Claims

A Claimant shall be provided with written notification of any adverse benefit determination. The notification shall set forth, in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant, the following:

1. The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination;

2. Reference to the specific plan/policy provisions on which the determination is based;
3. A description of any additional material or information necessary for the claimant to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary; and
4. A description of the review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under section 502(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 as amended ("ERISA") (where applicable), following an adverse benefit determination on review.

#### Disability Benefit Claims

A claimant shall be provided with written notification of any adverse benefit determination. The notification shall be set forth, in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant, the following:

1. The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination;
2. Reference to the specific plan/policy provisions on which the determination is based;
3. A description of any additional material or information necessary for the claimant to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary;
4. A description of the review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under section 502(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 as amended ("ERISA") (where applicable), following an adverse benefit determination on review; and
5. If an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse determination, either the specific rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion; or a statement that such a rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse determination and that a copy of such rule, guideline, protocol, or other criterion will be provided free of charge to the claimant upon request.

#### **APPEALS OF ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS**

Appeals of adverse benefit determinations may be submitted in accordance with the following procedures to:

Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company  
Quality Review Unit  
P.O. Box 8330  
Philadelphia, PA 19101-8330

#### Non-Disability Benefit Claims

1. Claimants (or their authorized representatives) must appeal within 60 days following their receipt of a notification of an adverse benefit determination, and only one appeal is allowed;
2. Claimants shall be provided with the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records, and/or other information relating to the claim for benefits in conjunction with their timely appeal;
3. Claimants shall be provided, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;
4. The review on (timely) appeal shall take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination;
5. No deference to the initial adverse benefit determination shall be afforded upon appeal;
6. The appeal shall be conducted by an individual who is neither the individual who made the (underlying) adverse benefit determination that is the subject of the appeal, nor the subordinate of such individual; and
7. Any medical or vocational expert(s) whose advice was obtained in connection with a claimant's adverse benefit determination shall be identified, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination.

#### Disability Benefit Claims

1. Claimants (or their authorized representatives) must appeal within 180 days following their receipt of a notification of an adverse benefit determination, and only one appeal is allowed;
2. Claimants shall be provided with the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records, and/or other information relating to the claim for benefits in conjunction with their timely appeal;
3. Claimants shall be provided, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;
4. The review on (timely) appeal shall take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination;
5. No deference to the initial adverse benefit determination shall be afforded upon appeal;

6. The appeal shall be conducted by an individual who is neither the individual who made the (underlying) adverse benefit determination that is the subject of the appeal, nor the subordinate of such individual;
7. Any medical or vocational expert(s) whose advice was obtained in connection with a claimant's adverse benefit determination shall be identified, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination; and
8. In deciding the appeal of any adverse benefit determination that is based in whole or in part on a medical judgment, the individual conducting the appeal shall consult with a health care professional:
  - (a) who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment; and
  - (b) who is neither an individual who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination that is the subject of the appeal; nor the subordinate of any such individual.

## **TIMING OF NOTIFICATION OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION ON REVIEW**

### Non-Disability Benefit Claims

The claimant (or their authorized representative) shall be notified of the benefit determination on review within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 60 days after receipt of the claimant's timely request for review, unless it is determined that special circumstances require an extension of time for processing the appeal. If it is determined that an extension of time for processing is required, written notice of the extension shall be furnished to the claimant prior to the termination of the initial 60-day period. In no event shall such extension exceed a period of 60 days from the end of the initial period. The extension notice shall indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of time and the date by which the determination on review is expected to be rendered.

Calculating time periods. The period of time within which a benefit determination on review is required to be made shall begin at the time an appeal is timely filed, without regard to whether all the information necessary to make a benefit determination on review accompanies the filing. In the event that a period of time is extended as above due to a claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide a claim, the period for making the benefit determination on review shall be tolled from the date on which the notification of the extension is sent to the claimant until the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

### Disability Benefit Claims

The claimant (or their authorized representative) shall be notified of the benefit determination on review within a reasonable period of time, but not later than 45 days after receipt of the claimant's timely request for review, unless it is determined that special circumstances require an extension of time for processing the appeal. If it is determined that an extension of time for processing is required, written notice of the extension shall be furnished to the claimant prior to the termination of the initial 45-day period. In no event shall such extension exceed a period of 45 days from the end of the initial period. The extension notice shall indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of time and the date by which the determination on review is expected to be rendered.

Calculating time periods. The period of time within which a benefit determination on review is required to be made shall begin at the time an appeal is timely filed, without regard to whether all the information necessary to make a benefit determination on review accompanies the filing. In the event that a period of time is extended as above due to a claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide a claim, the period for making the benefit determination on review shall be tolled from the date on which the notification of the extension is sent to the claimant until the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

## **MANNER AND CONTENT OF NOTIFICATION OF BENEFIT DETERMINATION ON REVIEW**

### Non-Disability Benefit Claims

A claimant shall be provided with written notification of the benefit determination on review. In the case of an adverse benefit determination on review, the notification shall set forth, in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant, the following:

1. The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination;
2. Reference to the specific plan/policy provisions on which the determination is based;
3. A statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits; and
4. A statement of the claimant's right to bring an action under section 502(a) of ERISA (where applicable).

### Disability Benefit Claims

A claimant must be provided with written notification of the determination on review. In the case of adverse benefit determination on review, the notification shall set forth, in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant, the following:

1. The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination;
2. Reference to the specific plan/policy provisions on which the determination is based;
3. A statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the claimant's claim for benefits;
4. A statement of the claimant's right to bring an action under section 502(a) of ERISA (where applicable);
5. If an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse determination, either the specific rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion; or a statement that such a rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion was relied upon in making the adverse determination and that a copy of such rule, guideline, protocol, or other criterion will be provided free of charge to the claimant upon request; and
6. The following statement: "You and your plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact your local U.S. Department of Labor Office and your State insurance regulatory agency" (where applicable).

### **DEFINITIONS**

The term "adverse benefit determination" means any of the following: a denial, reduction, or termination of, or a failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for, a benefit, including any such denial, reduction, termination, or failure to provide or make payment that is based on a determination of a participant's or beneficiary's eligibility to participate in a plan.

The term "us" or "our" refers to Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company.

The term "relevant" means:

A document, record, or other information shall be considered relevant to a claimant's claim if such document, record or other information:

- Was relied upon in making the benefit determination;
- Was submitted, considered, or generated in the course of making the benefit determination, without regard to whether such document, record or other information was relied upon in making the benefit determination;
- Demonstrates compliance with administrative processes and safeguards designed to ensure and to verify that benefit claim determinations are made in accordance with governing plan documents and that, where appropriate, the plan provisions have been applied consistently with respect to similarly situated claimants; or
- In the case of a plan providing disability benefits, constitutes a statement of policy or guidance with respect to the plan concerning the denied benefit of the claimant's diagnosis, without regard to whether such advice or statement was relied upon in making the benefit determination.

The term "Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company" means Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company and/or its authorized claim administrators.

## **ERISA STATEMENT OF RIGHTS**

As a participant in the Group Insurance Plan, you may be entitled to certain rights and protections in the event that the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) applies. ERISA provides that all Plan Participants shall be entitled to:

### **Receive Information About Your Plan and Benefits**

Examine, without charge, at the Plan Administrator's office and at other specified locations, such as worksites and union halls, all documents governing the Plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and a copy of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) filed by the Plan with the U.S. Department of Labor and available at the Public Disclosure Room of the Employee Benefits Security Administration.

Obtain, upon written request to the Plan Administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the Plan, including insurance contracts and collective bargaining agreements, and copies of the latest annual report (Form 5500 Series) and updated summary plan description. The Administrator may make a reasonable charge for the copies.

Receive a summary of the Plan's annual financial report. The Plan Administrator is required by law to furnish each participant with a copy of this summary annual report.

### **Prudent Actions by Plan Fiduciaries**

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

Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company shall serve as the claims review fiduciary with respect to the insurance policy and the Plan. The claims review fiduciary has the discretionary authority to interpret the Plan and the insurance policy and to determine eligibility for benefits. Decisions by the claims review fiduciary shall be complete, final and binding on all parties.

### **Enforce Your Rights**

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

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

### **Assistance with Your Questions**

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