



# firstreliancestandard

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

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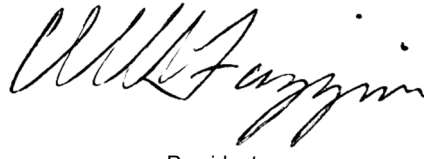
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We certify that you (provided you belong to a class described on the Schedule of Benefits) are insured, for the benefits which apply to your class, under Group Policy No. LTD 1300001012 issued to The Research Foundation for the State University of New York, 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

This Group Long Term Disability Certificate replaces any previous Group Long Term Disability Certificates and is dated March 14, 2025.



## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2025, as amended through March 11, 2025

**ELIGIBLE CLASSES:** Each active Full-time employee, including an employee whose work hours have been reduced due to a phased retirement, for up to 3 years, provided the employee is working at least 50% of their full-time equivalent position and Part-time employee working at least 50% of their full-time equivalent position, except a Summer, Graduate and Undergraduate employee and any person employed on a temporary or seasonal basis.

"Part-time" means working for the Policyholder for a minimum of 18.75 hours during your regular work week.

### **WAITING PERIOD:**

Employees hired prior to July 1, 2024:	1 year of continuous employment.
Employees hired on or after July 1, 2024:	28 days of continuous employment.

If during the Waiting Period an Insured leaves The Research Foundation payroll for 4 months or less, he/she will not be required to begin the Waiting Period again. Days that the Insured is off the payroll will not count towards satisfying the Waiting Period. The Waiting Period will resume on the day the Insured returns to Active Work.

**YOUR EFFECTIVE DATE:** The first of the month following completion of the Waiting Period.

**INDIVIDUAL REINSTATEMENT:** 4 months

### **LONG TERM DISABILITY BENEFIT**

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

**MONTHLY BENEFIT:** The Monthly Benefit is an amount equal to 60% 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 receive because of your Total Disability under any group insurance plan(s);
- (2) disability income benefits you 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 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 eligible to receive from the Policyholder:
  - (a) any formal salary continuance plan;
  - (b) wages, salary or other compensation, excluding the amount allowable when engaged in Rehabilitative Employment; and
  - (c) commissions or monies, 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 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 if election would 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:** \$7,500 (this is equal to a maximum Covered Monthly Earnings of \$12,500).

**MAXIMUM DURATION OF BENEFITS:** Benefits will not accrue beyond the duration specified below:

<u>Age at Disablement</u>	<u>Duration of Benefits</u>
Less than 60	To Age 65
60 but less than 69	The lesser of: (1) 5 years; or (2) to age 70
69 or more	12 months

**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.

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

Premium contributions will not be included in your gross income.

For purposes of filing your Federal Income Tax Return, this means that under the law as of the date the Policy was issued, your Monthly Benefit might be treated as taxable. It is recommended that you contact your personal tax advisor.

## 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 First 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.

"Any Occupation" means an occupation normally performed in the national economy for which you are reasonably suited based upon your education, training or experience.

"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 403(b) and Section 125 plan. Covered Monthly Earnings does not include commissions, overtime pay, bonuses, incentive pay 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 90 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 37.5 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.

"Regular Care" means Treatment that is administered as frequently as is medically required according to guidelines established by nationally recognized authorities, medical research, healthcare organizations, governmental agencies or rehabilitative organizations. Care must be rendered personally by your Physician according to generally accepted medical standards in your locality, be of a demonstrable medical value and be necessary to meet your basic health needs.

"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; or
- (8) section 401(a), 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plans.

"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:

- (1) during the Elimination Period and for the first 24 months for which a Monthly Benefit is payable, you cannot perform the material duties of your Regular Occupation;
  - (a) "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;
  - (b) "Residual Disability" means being Partially Disabled during the Elimination Period. Residual Disability will be considered Total Disability; and
- (2) after a Monthly Benefit has been paid for 24 months, you cannot perform the material duties of Any Occupation. We consider you Totally Disabled if due to an Injury or Sickness you are capable of only performing the material duties on a part-time basis or part of the material duties on a full-time basis.

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".

"Treatment" means care consistent with the diagnosis of your Injury or Sickness that has its purpose of maximizing your medical improvement. It must be provided by a Physician whose specialty or experience is most appropriate for the Injury or Sickness and conform with generally accepted medical standards to effectively manage and treat your Injury or Sickness.

## **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.

### **Waiting Period Credit**

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

## 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.

Clerical Errors include (but are not limited to) the payment of premium for coverage not provided by the Policy. If appropriate, a fair adjustment of premium will be made to correct a clerical error. Such adjustments will be limited to the twelve (12) month period preceding the date we receive proof from the Policyholder that an adjustment due to overpayment of premium should be made or the date we discover that premium has been underpaid.

**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 ninety (90) 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 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.

We may suggest an alternate payment method for the benefits due. In such case, written information will be provided regarding benefit payment options available to the Insured. Benefits will be paid as provided in the Policy unless the Insured consents in writing to an alternate payment method.

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.

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

**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 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:

- (1) are a member of an Eligible Class, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page; and
- (2) have completed the Waiting Period, as shown on the Schedule of Benefits page.

**WAITING PERIOD:** If you are continuously employed on a Full-time or Part-time basis with the Policyholder for the period specified on the Schedule of Benefits page, then you have satisfied the Waiting Period.

**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 first of the month following 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 first of the month following 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.

## 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 any benefit for any reason, we will make a lump sum payment. If we have overpaid any 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. Interest does not accrue on any underpaid or overpaid benefit unless required by applicable law.

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 or changes in the Social Security Law 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 twelve (12) 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 twelve (12) 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) your committing a felony.

## 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.

### For Loss of:

### Number of Monthly Benefit Payments:

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.

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.

"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 Survivors. If there are no eligible Survivors, payment will be made to your estate, unless a beneficiary is on record with us under the Policy.

## **COST OF LIVING BENEFIT**

If the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) published by the United States Department of Labor increases while an Insured is receiving Monthly Benefits from us, an additional benefit will be payable. The Cost of Living Benefit will be payable during any year, following satisfaction of the Elimination Period, in which the Consumer Price Index increases, subject to the Maximum Duration of Benefits.

Percentage increases in the Consumer Price Index will be calculated by us each year. The increase will be based on a comparison of published annual Consumer Price Index statistics in October of each year. If the Consumer Price Index is changed or no longer published, the most comparable index (in our opinion) then published will be used for these purposes.

This amount payable will be the lesser of the following, multiplied by the Monthly Benefit you are currently receiving:

- (1) 3%; or
- (2) the most recently determined annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index.

This amount will be added to your Monthly Benefit and will be payable while you continue to be entitled to Monthly Benefits.

The first Cost of Living Benefit increase will become effective on:

- (1) the January 1st of the first year following the year in which the Elimination Period was satisfied; or
- (2) the date the Consumer Price Index is first determined to have increased.

## **MONTHLY ANNUITY PREMIUM BENEFIT**

### **A. Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit Requirements**

If you meet all of the requirements below we will pay a Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit according to the terms of the Group Policy after we receive Proof Of Loss satisfactory to us.

Requirements For The Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit:

1. You are participating in the Policyholder's 401(a) retirement plan on the date of your Disability.
2. You are Disabled and Long Term Disability Benefits are payable to you.

### **B. Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit Amount**

If you are fully vested in the Policyholder's retirement plan on the date you become Disabled, the amount of the Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit is determined as follows:

Tier 1 - Hired before January 1, 1981: 12% of the first \$1,375 of your Predisability Earnings, plus 15% of your remaining Predisability Earnings.

Tier 2 - Hired on or after January 1, 1981 and before July 1, 1992: 12% of your Predisability Earnings.

Tier 3 - Hired on or after July 1, 1992 and before July 1, 1994: 9% of the first \$1,375 of your Predisability Earnings, plus 12% of your remaining Predisability Earnings.

Tier 4 - Hired on or after July 1, 1994 and before January 1, 2018:

Less than seven years of service: 8% of your Predisability Earnings.

Seven or more years of service: 10% of your Predisability Earnings.

Tier 5 - Hired on or after January 1, 2018: 7% of your Predisability Earnings. The Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit is not reduced by Deductible Income.

If you are not fully vested in the Policyholder's retirement plan on the date you become Disabled, the amount of the Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit is none.

### **C. Payment Of The Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit**

The Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit will not be paid directly to you. The Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit will be paid to the administrator of the Policyholder's 401(a) retirement plan as premiums remitted on your behalf under the terms of the Policyholder's retirement plan.

The United States Internal Revenue Code limits the annual contributions for you under the Policyholder's retirement plan. We can pay the Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit only to the extent of those annual limits.

We will pay the Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit within 60 days after Proof Of Loss is satisfied.

Your Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit will be paid at the same time Long Term Disability Benefits are payable.

The Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit will first be applied to reduce any overpayment of your claim.

### **D. When The Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit Ends**

Monthly Annuity Premium Benefits end automatically on the earliest of:

1. The date your Long Term Disability Benefits end.
2. The date you withdraw any funds from any retirement plan we contributed to for you under this Group Policy.

### **E. Time Limits On Filing Proof Of Loss**



Proof Of Loss for the Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit must be provided within 90 days after the date you meet all the requirements shown in A. Monthly Annuity Premium Benefit Requirements above.

If that is not possible, it must be provided as soon as reasonably possible.

If Proof Of Loss is filed outside these time limits, the claim will be denied. These limits will not apply while the claimant lacks legal capacity.

## **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.

## **EXTENSION OF COVERAGE UNDER THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT AND UNIFORMED SERVICES EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS ACT (USERRA)**

### **Family and Medical Leave of Absence:**

We will continue your coverage in accordance with the Policyholder's policies regarding leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended, or any similar state law, as amended, if:

- (1) the premium for you continues to be paid during the leave; and
- (2) the Policyholder has approved your leave in writing and provides a copy of such approval within thirty-one (31) days of our request.

As long as the above requirements are satisfied, we will continue coverage until the later of:

- (1) the end of the leave period required by the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended; or
- (2) the end of the leave period required by any similar state law, as amended.

### **Military Services Leave of Absence:**

We will continue your coverage in accordance with the Policyholder's policies regarding Military Services Leave of Absence under USERRA if the premium for you continues to be paid during the leave.

As long as the above requirement is satisfied, we will continue coverage until the end of the period required by USERRA.

The Policy, while coverage is being continued under the Military Services Leave of Absence extension, does not cover any loss which occurs while on active duty in the military if such loss is caused by or arises out of such military service, including but not limited to war or any act of war, whether declared or undeclared.

While you are on a Family and Medical Leave of Absence for any reason other than your own illness, injury or disability or Military Services Leave of Absence you will be considered Actively at Work. Any changes such as revisions to coverage due to age, class or salary changes, as applicable, will apply during the leave except that increases in the amount of insurance, whether automatic or subject to election, will not be effective if you are not considered Actively at Work until you have returned to Active Work for one (1) full day.

A leave of absence taken in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 or USERRA will run concurrently with any other applicable continuation of insurance provision in the Policy.

Your coverage will cease under this extension on the earliest of:

- (1) the date the Policy terminates; or
- (2) the end of the period for which premium has been paid for you; or
- (3) the date such leave should end in accordance with the Policyholder's policies regarding Family and Medical Leave of Absence and Military Services Leave of Absence in compliance with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended and USERRA. Coverage 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. Any Monthly Benefit which becomes payable will be based on your Covered Monthly Earnings immediately prior to the date of Total Disability.

Should the Policyholder choose not to continue your coverage during a Family and Medical Leave of Absence and/or Military Services Leave of Absence, your coverage will be reinstated.

## **REHABILITATION BENEFIT**

"Rehabilitative Employment" means work in Any Occupation for which your training, education or experience will reasonably allow. The work must be approved 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.

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.

**FIRST RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

**AMENDATORY RIDER- CERTIFICATE**

**Effective Date of Rider: January 1, 2025**

**The YOUR REINSTATEMENT section of the Effective Date and Termination page in the Certificate of Insurance to which this Rider is attached is amended by the following:**

**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; or
- (3) rehired after employment had been terminated.

You will not be required to fulfill the Eligibility Requirements of this Policy again.

The insurance will go into effect after you return to Active Work with the Policyholder for one (1) full day.

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.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

  
Vice-President, Secretary

**GROUP LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE  
REQUIRED DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Policy Form DLRS-6564 Ed. 2/83 provides disability income insurance only. It does NOT provide basic hospital, basic medical or major medical insurance as defined by the New York State Insurance Department.

The Monthly Benefit is a percentage of your Covered Monthly Earnings, subject to a Maximum Monthly Benefit. The Monthly Benefit may be reduced by Other Income Benefits. The Monthly Benefit, Maximum Monthly Benefit and Other Income Benefits are shown on the Schedule of Benefits page and the definition of Covered Monthly Earnings is shown in the Definitions section.

A Monthly Benefit will not be paid for any Total Disability caused by:

- (1) an act of war, declared or undeclared;
- (2) an intentionally self-inflicted injury; or
- (3) your committing a felony.

The Policy sets forth the rights and obligations of the Policyholder and First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company, and your Certificate of Insurance summarizes these rights and obligations. It is important that you **READ YOUR CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY**.

**FIRST RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

**AMENDATORY RIDER**

It is hereby understood and agreed that the Certificate to which this Rider is attached shall be amended by the addition of the following:

**Applicable to Vermont Residents Only**

The following sections/provisions of the Certificate are amended to comply with Vermont law:

1. **Schedule of Benefits section, Elimination Period provision.**

The Elimination Period will be the lesser of the number of days shown on the Schedule of Benefits in the certificate or:

For Benefit Periods 2 years and greater: 365 days.

For Benefit Periods greater than 1 year but less than 2 years: 180 days.

2. **Limitations section, Mental or Nervous Disorders and/or Substance Abuse, if such limitations are included in the Certificate.**

If the Certificate contains limitations in coverage for mental or nervous disorders and/or substance abuse, such limitations will not apply to Vermont residents. Coverage for these conditions will be treated the same as other conditions that may entitle you to full benefits.

3. **Limitations section, Pre-existing Conditions, if such limitation is included in the Certificate.**

The pre-existing condition provision time period in the definition of Pre-existing Condition shall be the lesser of the time period shown on the Limitations form in the Certificate or twelve (12) months.

The period of time during which you become Totally Disabled due to a Pre-existing Condition and a benefit is not payable for such Total Disability is the lesser of the time period as shown in the certificate or twelve (12) months.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

**FIRST RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Denaro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Denaro" clearly distinguishable.

Secretary

**Claim Procedures and  
ERISA Statement of Rights**





**CLAIM PROCEDURES FOR CLAIMS FILED WITH  
FIRST RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY  
ON OR AFTER APRIL 1, 2018**

**CLAIMS FOR BENEFITS**

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

First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company  
Seven Skyline Drive, Suite 275  
Hawthorne, NY 10532

Claim forms are available from your benefits representative or may be requested by writing to the above address or by calling 1-800-353-3986.

In the event of any *Adverse Benefit Determination* (defined below), the claimant (or their authorized representative) may appeal that *Adverse Benefit Determination* in accordance with the following procedures. This opportunity to appeal exists without regard to the applicability of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 as amended ("ERISA"), 29 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*

**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 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. A discussion of the decision, including an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following:
  - a) The views presented by the claimant to the plan of health care professionals treating the claimant and vocational professionals who evaluated the claimant;
  - b) The views of medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained on behalf of the plan in connection with a claimant's Adverse Benefit Determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination; and
  - c) A disability determination regarding the claimant presented by the claimant to the plan made by the Social Security Administration;
6. Either the specific internal rules, guidelines, protocols, standards or other similar criteria of the plan relied upon in making the adverse determination, or, alternatively, a statement that such rules, guidelines, protocols, standards or other similar criteria of the plan do not exist;
7. 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 (defined below) to a claim for benefits; and
8. The notification shall be provided in a Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate (defined below) manner.

## **APPEALS OF ADVERSE BENEFIT DETERMINATIONS**

Appeals of Adverse Benefit Determinations may be submitted in accordance with the following procedures to:

First Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company  
Quality Review Unit  
Seven Skyline Drive, Suite 275  
Hawthorne, NY 10532

### 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 (defined below) 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;
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 (defined below) 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 (defined below) 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) as well as a description of any applicable contractual limitations period that applies to the claimant's right to bring such an action, including the calendar date on which the contractual limitations period expires for the claim;
5. A discussion of the decision, including an explanation of the basis for disagreeing with or not following:
  - a) The views presented by the claimant to the plan of health care professionals treating the claimant and vocational professionals who evaluated the claimant;
  - b) The views of medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained on behalf of the plan in connection with a claimant's Adverse Benefit Determination, without regard to whether the advice was relied upon in making the benefit determination; and
  - c) A disability determination regarding the claimant presented by the claimant to the plan made by the Social Security Administration;
6. Either the specific internal rules, guidelines, protocols, standards or other similar criteria of the plan relied upon in making the adverse determination, or, alternatively, a statement that such rules, guidelines, protocols, standards or other similar criteria of the plan do not exist;
7. 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 (defined below) to a claim for benefits; and
8. The notification shall be provided in a Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate (defined below) manner.

## **REQUESTS CONCERNING ALLEGED VIOLATION OF THESE PROCEDURES**

In the event that a claimant requests a written explanation of any alleged violation of these procedures, such explanation should be provided within 10 days, including a specific description of any basis for asserting that any violation should not cause any administrative remedies available under the plan to be exhausted (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 "Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Manner" means:

- Oral language services (such as telephone customer assistance hotline) that includes answering questions in any Applicable Non-English Language and providing assistance with filing claims and appeals in any Applicable Non-English Language must be provided;
- A notice in any Applicable Non-English Language must be provided upon request; and
- A statement prominently displayed in any Applicable Non-English Language clearly indicating how to access the language services provided must be included in the English versions of all notices.

The term "Applicable Non-English Language" means:

With respect to an address in any United States county to which a notice is sent, a non-English language is an Applicable Non-English Language if ten percent or more of the population residing in the county is literate only in the same non-English language as determined in guidance published by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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

First 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.