



GUARDIANSM

**YOUR GROUP INSURANCE
PLAN BENEFITS**

PCI INSURANCE, INC.
LTD PLAN D23

The enclosed certificate is intended to explain the benefits provided by the Plan. It does not constitute the Policy Contract. Your rights and benefits are determined in accordance with the provisions of the Policy, and your insurance is effective only if you are eligible for insurance and remain insured in accordance with its terms.

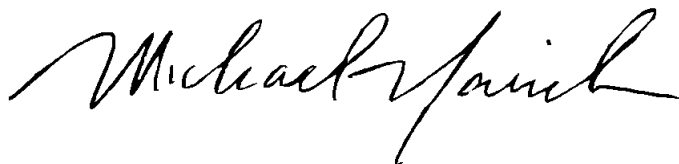
CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE

The Guardian
7 Hanover Square
New York, New York 10004

We, The Guardian, certify that the employee named below is entitled to the insurance benefits provided by The Guardian described in this certificate, provided the eligibility and effective date requirements of the plan are satisfied.

Group Policy No.	Certificate No.	Effective Date
Issued To		

This CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE replaces any CERTIFICATE OF COVERAGE previously issued under the above Plan or under any other Plan providing similar or identical benefits issued to the Planholder by The Guardian.



Second Vice President & Actuary, Group Insurance

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

As used in this booklet:

"Covered person" means an employee insured by this *plan*.

"Employer" means the *employer* who purchased this *plan*.

"Our," "The Guardian," "us" and "we" mean The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

"Plan" means the Guardian *plan* of group insurance purchased by your *employer*.

"You" and "your" mean an employee insured by this *plan*.

CGP-3-R-GENPRO-90

B160.0013-R

Limitation of Authority

No person, except by a writing signed by the President, a Vice President or a Secretary of The Guardian, has the authority to act for us to: (a) determine whether any contract, plan or certificate of insurance is to be issued; (b) waive or alter any provisions of any insurance contract or plan, or any requirements of The Guardian; (c) bind us by any statement or promise relating to any insurance contract issued or to be issued; or (d) accept any information or representation which is not in a signed application.

CGP-3-R-LOA-90

B160.0004-R

Incontestability

This *plan* is incontestable after two years from its date of issue, except for non-payment of premiums.

No statement in any application, except a fraudulent statement, made by a person insured under this *plan* shall be used in contesting the validity of his insurance or in denying a claim for a loss incurred, or for a disability which starts, after such insurance has been in force for two years during his lifetime.

If this *plan* replaces a plan your *employer* had with another insurer, we may rescind the *employer's plan* based on misrepresentations made by the *employer* or an *employee* in a signed application for up to two years from the effective date of this *plan*.

CGP-3-R-INCY-90

B160.0003-R

Examination and Autopsy

We have the right to have a *doctor* of our choice examine the person for whom a claim is being made under this *plan* as often as we feel necessary. And we have the right to have an autopsy performed in the case of death, where allowed by law. We'll pay for all such examinations and autopsies.

CGP-3-R-EA-90

B160.0006-R

Accident and Health Claims Provisions

Your right to make a claim for any *accident and health* benefits provided by this *plan*, is governed as follows:

Notice You must send us written notice of an *injury* or *sickness* for which a claim is being made within 20 days of the date the *injury* occurs or the *sickness* starts. This notice should include your name and *plan* number.

Proof of Loss We'll furnish you with forms for filing proof of loss within 15 days of receipt of notice. But if we don't furnish the forms on time, we'll accept a written description and adequate documentation of the *injury* or *sickness* that is the basis of the claim as proof of loss. You must detail the nature and extent of the loss for which the claim is being made. You must send us written proof within 90 days of the loss.

If this plan provides weekly loss-of-time insurance, you must send us written proof of loss within 90 days of the end of each period for which we're liable. If this plan provides long term disability income insurance, you must send us written proof of loss within 90 days of the date we request it. For any other loss, you must send us written proof within 90 days of the loss.

Late Notice of Proof We won't void or reduce your claim if you can't send us notice and proof of loss within the required time. But you must send us notice and proof as soon as reasonably possible.

Payment of Benefits We'll pay benefits for loss of income once every 30 days for as long as we're liable, provided you submit periodic written proof of loss as stated above. We'll pay all other *accident and health* benefits to which you're entitled as soon as we receive written proof of loss.

We pay all *accident and health* benefits to you, if you're living. If you're not living, we have the right to pay all *accident and health* benefits, except dismemberment benefits, to one of the following: (a) your estate; (b) your spouse; (c) your parents; (d) your children; (e) your brothers and sisters; and (f) any unpaid provider of health care services. See "Your Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits" for how dismemberment benefits are paid.

When you file proof of loss, you may direct us, in writing, to pay health care benefits to the recognized provider of health care who provided the covered service for which benefits became payable. We may honor such direction at our option. But we can't tell you that a particular provider must provide such care. And you may not assign your right to take legal action under this *plan* to such provider.

Limitations of Actions You can't bring a legal action against this *plan* until 60 days from the date you file proof of loss. And you can't bring legal action against this *plan* after three years from the date you file proof of loss.

Workers' Compensation The *accident and health* benefits provided by this *plan* are not in place of, and do not affect requirements for coverage by Workers' Compensation.

CGP-3-R-AHC-90

B160.0014-R

ELIGIBILITY FOR DISABILITY COVERAGE

B329.0002-R

Employee Coverage

Eligible Employees To be eligible for employee coverage, you must be an active *full-time employee*. And you must belong to a class of *employees* covered by this *plan*.

Other Conditions You must:

- (a) be legally working in the United States.
- (b) be regularly working at least the number of hours in the normal work week set by your *employer* (but not less than 20 hours per week), at:
 - (i) your *employer's* place of business;
 - (ii) some place where your *employer's* business requires you to travel; or
 - (iii) any other place you and your *employer* have agreed upon for performance of occupational duties.

Note: If you are working outside the United States on a temporary assignment and you meet all other conditions of eligibility, you will be covered by this *plan*, provided that: you are on an assignment, not exceeding one year, in a country or region that is not under a travel warning issued by the US Department of State. Coverage may be available when you are: (1) on a longer temporary assignment; or (2) assigned in a region that is under a travel warning; however, coverage must be approved by us in writing.

If you must pay all or part of the cost of employee coverage, we won't insure you until you enroll and agree to make the required payments. If you do this: (a) more than 31 days after you first become eligible; or (b) after you previously had coverage which ended because you failed to make a required payment, we also ask for *proof* that you're insurable. And you won't be covered until we approve that *proof* in writing.

Part or all of your insurance amounts may be subject to *proof* that you're insurable. Other parts of this coverage explain if and when we require *proof*. You won't be covered for any amount that requires such *proof* until you give the *proof* to us and we approve it in writing.

If your active *full-time* service ends before you meet any *proof of insurability* requirements that apply to you, you'll still have to meet those requirements if you're later re-employed.

CGP-3-EC-90-1.0

B329.0153-R

When Your Coverage Starts Employee benefits that don't require *proof* that you are insurable are scheduled to start on the effective date shown on the sticker attached to the inside front cover of this booklet.

Employee Coverage (Cont.)

Employee benefits that require such *proof* won't start until you send us the *proof* and we approve it in writing. Once we have approved it, the benefits are scheduled to start on the effective date shown in the endorsement section of your application. A copy of the approved application is furnished to you.

But you must be fully capable of performing the major duties of your regular occupation for your *employer* on a full-time basis at 12:01AM Standard Time for your place of residence on the scheduled effective date or dates. And you must have met all of the applicable conditions explained above, and any applicable waiting period. If you are not fully capable of performing the major duties of your occupation on any date part of your insurance is scheduled to start, we will postpone that part of your coverage until the date you are so capable and are working your regular number of hours.

Sometimes, the effective date shown on the sticker or in the endorsement is not a regularly scheduled work day. If the scheduled effective date falls: on a holiday; on a vacation day; on a non-scheduled work day; or during an approved leave of absence, not due to sickness or injury, of 90 days or less; and if you were performing the major duties of your regular occupation and working your regular number of hours on your last regularly scheduled work day, your coverage will start on the scheduled effective date. However, any coverage or part of coverage for which you must elect and pay all or part of the cost, will not start if you are on an approved leave and such coverage or part of coverage was not previously in force for you under a prior plan which this *plan* replaced.

CGP-3-EC-90-2.0

B264.0690-R

Delayed Effective Date For Disability Coverage

With respect to this *plan's* disability insurance, if an *employee* is not actively at work on a *full-time* basis on the date his or her coverage is scheduled to start, due to *sickness* or *injury*, we'll postpone coverage for an otherwise covered loss due to that condition. We'll postpone such coverage until he or she completes 10 consecutive days of active *full-time* service without missing a work day due to the same condition.

Coverage for an otherwise covered loss due to all other conditions will start on the date the *employee* returns to active *full-time* service.

CGP-3-DEF-97

B329.0103-R

When Your Coverage Ends

Your long term disability coverage ends on the date your active *full-time* service ends for any reason.

It also ends on the date you stop being a member of a class of *employees* eligible for insurance under this *plan*, or when this *plan* ends for all *employees*. And it ends when this *plan* is changed so that benefits for the class of *employees* to which you belong ends.

It ends on the date you are no longer working in the United States, unless you are on a temporary assignment: (1) not exceeding one year in a country or region that is not under a travel warning issued by the US Department of State; or (2) for which we have agreed, in writing, to provide coverage.

Employee Coverage (Cont.)

If you are required to pay all or part of the cost of this coverage and you fail to do so, your coverage ends. It ends on the last day of the period for which you made the required payments, unless coverage ends earlier for other reasons.

However, if you are disabled, as defined by this *plan* when your active *full-time* service ends, coverage remains in force during: (a) the elimination period, subject to premium payment, if (i) the disability is not excluded under the *plan*; and (ii) benefits are not excluded due to application of this *plan*'s pre-existing condition provision; and (b) the period for which benefits are payable under this *plan*.

CGP-3-EC-90-3.0

B329.0175-R

LONG TERM DISABILITY HIGHLIGHTS

This page provides a quick guide to some of the plan features about which people most often want to know. But it's not a complete description of your long term disability plan. Read the following pages carefully for a complete explanation of what we pay, limit, and exclude.

CGP-3-LTD2K-HL B380.0244-R

Own Occupation Period The first 24 months of benefit payments from this plan.

CGP-3-LTD2K-HL B380.0245-R

Elimination Period For disability due to injury 180 days
 For disability due to sickness 180 days

CGP-3-LTD2K-HL B380.0247-R

Maximum Payment Period See the following table for disability due to injury:

Age when disability starts	Maximum payment period
Under age 69	To Age 65 or 5 years, if greater, but not beyond age 70
Age 69 or older	1.00 year

Maximum Payment Period See the following table for disability due to sickness:

Age when disability starts	Maximum payment period
Under age 69	5 years, but not beyond age 70
Age 69 or older	1.00 year

CGP-3-LTD2K-HL B380.0251-R

Benefit Percent 60%

CGP-3-LTD2K-HL B380.0255-R

Maximum Monthly Benefit \$6,000.00

CGP-3-LTD2K-HL B380.0259-R

LONG TERM DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE

This insurance replaces part of your income if you become disabled due to sickness or injury.

We decide: (a) if you are eligible for this insurance; (b) if you meet the requirements for benefits to be paid; and (c) what benefits are to be paid by this plan. We also interpret how this plan is to be administered. What we pay and the terms for payment are explained below.

All terms in *italics* are defined terms with special meanings. Their definitions are shown at the end of this section. Other terms are defined where they are used.

Claim Provisions

- Your Duties** If you become *disabled* due to *sickness* or *injury* while insured by this *plan*, you must:
- (a) Give notice of claim as soon as possible after the date of your *injury* or the start of your *sickness*. Prompt notice will permit us to start case management. See the "Rehabilitation and Case Management" section of this *plan* for details.
 - (b) Give a complete account of the details of your *sickness* or *injury*. This will include: (i) the cause of your *disability*, if known; (ii) a description of your *sickness* or the accident that caused your *injury*; and (iii) a list of all *doctors*, hospitals, or other facilities where you have been treated for the cause of your *disability*.
 - (c) Allow release of medical and/or income data needed to assess your claim.
 - (d) Give periodic medical updates as required by this *plan*.
 - (e) Take part in any medical, financial or vocational assessment as required by this *plan*.
 - (f) Apply for other income benefits to which you may be entitled.
 - (g) Promptly report to us the receipt or denial of such other income benefits. And, appeal any denials to the extent possible.
 - (h) Promptly report to us changes in your personal status. This includes: (i) change of address or phone number; (ii) changes in how your *disability* affects your daily living; and (iii) changes in your level of social, volunteer or business activities.
 - (i) If we overpay benefits, promptly report and repay any amount overpaid.
 - (j) If you are working while *disabled*, promptly report to us the amount of your income from such work.
 - (k) Give us proof of your earnings for the period prior to your *disability* and while you are *disabled*.

Notice You must send us written notice of your intent to file a claim under this *plan* as described in this certificate's "Accident and Health Claims Provisions." Notice must include:

Claim Provisions (Cont.)

- (a) your full name; phone number; social security number, and group number;
- (b) the date of your last day worked; the number of hours you worked; and your job title;
- (c) your *employer* contact and phone number;
- (d) a statement of the nature of your *disability*; and whether or not it is work-related;
- (e) your *doctor's* name, address and phone number.

For details, you can call Guardian at 1-800-538-4583.

Proof Of Loss When we receive your notice, we will provide you with a claim form for filing proof of loss. This form requires data from you, the *plan sponsor*, and the *doctor(s)* treating you for your *sickness* or *injury*. Proof of loss must be given to us within the time stated in this certificate's "Accident and Health Claims Provisions." If you do not receive a claim form within 15 days of the date you sent your notice, you should send us written proof of loss without waiting for the form.

We require the items listed below as proof of loss:

- (a) During the *elimination period* and the *own occupation* period, medical evidence in support of the limits on your ability to perform your *own occupation*, starting on the date you first became *disabled*. This proof is required from all *doctors* who have treated you for the cause of your *disability*.

After the *own occupation* period, medical evidence in support of the limits on your ability to perform any *gainful work*.

- (b) Proof that you have applied for all other sources of income to which you may be entitled, that may affect your payment from this *plan*.
- (c) Proof of receipt of other income that may affect your payment from this *plan*.
- (d) Your signed authorization for release of medical and/or financial data by the sources of such data.

Proof of loss and other claim data should be submitted to:

The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America
Group Long Term Disability Claims Department
P.O. Box 26025
Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-6025

CGP-3-LTD2K01-1.0

B380.0425-R

To Qualify For Payments

How Payments Start To start getting payments from this *plan*, you must meet all of the conditions listed below:

To Qualify For Payments (Cont.)

- (a) You must: (i) become *disabled* while insured by this *plan*; and (ii) remain *disabled* and insured for this *plan's elimination period*.
- (b) You must be: (i) under a *doctor's regular care* for the cause of your *disability*, starting from the date you were first *disabled*; and (ii) receiving medical care appropriate to the cause of your *disability* and any other *sickness or injury* which exists during your *disability*.
- (c) You must send us written documentation of: (i) medical evidence in support of the limits causing your *disability*; (ii) your monthly earnings prior to the start of your *disability*; and (iii) any earnings from work while you are *disabled*.

Proof of earnings may consist of: (1) copies of your U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns; (2) a statement from a certified public accountant; or (3) any other records we agree to accept.

Waiver Of Premium Premiums for this insurance are waived while you are entitled to receive a payment from this *plan*.

To Continue Receiving Payments To continue to receive payments from this *plan*, you must give us current proof of loss when we request it.

You must give proof that satisfies us as to the items listed below:

- (a) medical evidence in support of the limits causing your continued *disability*;
- (b) continued *regular care* by a *doctor* that is appropriate for the cause of your *disability* and any other *sickness or injury* which exists during your *disability*;
- (c) earnings from work while you are *disabled*; and
- (d) any other income that you are entitled to receive.

You must also give us current signed authorizations for release of medical and financial data when we request it.

You must permit such assessments and give us such items within 90 days of the date we make each such request. If you do not, we have the right to suspend or stop your payments under this *plan*.

Right To Request Medical Financial Or Vocational Assessment We may ask you to take part in a medical, financial or vocational assessment as often as we feel is reasonably necessary. We will pay for all such assessments. If you do not take part in the assessment, we have the right to stop or suspend your payments under this *plan*.

CGP-3-LTD2K01-2.0

B380.0429-R

Payment Of Benefits We pay benefits to you if you are legally competent. If you are not, we pay benefits to the legal representative of your estate.

To Qualify For Payments (Cont.)

We pay benefits once each month at the end of the period for which they are payable.

Benefits to which you are entitled may remain unpaid at your death. Such benefits may be paid at our discretion to: (a) your estate; or (b) your spouse, parents, children, or brothers and sisters.

CGP-3-LTD2K-2.1

B380.0015-R

When Benefits End

When Payments End Your benefits from this *plan* will end on the earliest of the dates shown below:

- (a) The date you are no longer *disabled*.
- (b) The date you earn, or are able to earn, the maximum earnings allowed while *disabled* under this *plan*.
- (c) The date you are able to perform the major duties of your *own occupation* on a full-time basis with reasonable accommodation that an employer is willing to provide.
- (d) After the *own occupation* period, the date you are able to perform the major duties of any *gainful work* on a full-time basis with reasonable accommodation that an employer is willing to provide.
- (e) The date you no longer reside in the United States.
- (f) The date you die.
- (g) The end of the *maximum payment period*.
- (h) The date you fail to give us required current proof of loss. This includes taking part in any medical, financial or vocational assessment we may require.
- (i) The date you are no longer under the *regular care* of a *doctor*.
- (j) The date payments end in accord with a *rehabilitation agreement*.
- (k) The date you refuse to take part in a *rehabilitation program*.

The term "reasonable accommodation" means any modification or adjustment to: (i) a job; (ii) an employment practice; (iii) a work process; or (iv) the work place. The modification or adjustment must make it possible for a *disabled* person to: (1) reach the same level of performance as a similarly situated non-disabled person; or (2) enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment as are available to a similarly situated non-disabled person. The modification or adjustment must not place an undue hardship on the employer.

CGP-3-LTD2K-3.0

B380.0019-R

When Benefits End (Cont.)

Maximum Payment Period The *maximum payment period* is the longest time that benefits are paid by this *plan* for your *disability*. It is determined by the table shown below.

But, it may be less than that shown due to the nature of your *disability*. See "Special Limitations."

For disability due to injury:

Age when disability starts	Maximum payment period
Under age 69	To Age 65 or 5 years, if greater, but not beyond 70
Age 69 or older	1.00 year

For disability due to sickness:

Age when disability starts	Maximum payment period
Under age 69	5 years, but not beyond 70
Age 69 or older	1.00 year

CGP-3-LTD2K-3.1

B380.0151-R

Special Limitations We limit the *maximum payment period*, if you are *disabled* due to a condition listed below.

The *maximum payment period* for all such periods of *disability* is 24 months. This is a combined maximum for all such conditions and all periods of *disability*.

We limit the *maximum payment period* for *disabilities* caused or contributed to by the following conditions:

- *Mental or emotional conditions*
- Drug or alcohol abuse
- Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders including, but not limited to:
 - Sprains or strains of joints and muscles
 - Soft tissue conditions
 - Repetitive motion syndromes or injuries
 - Fibromyalgia
- Chronic fatigue conditions including, but not limited to:
 - Chronic fatigue syndrome
 - Chronic fatigue immunodeficiency syndrome
 - Epstein-barr syndrome
- Chemical and environmental sensitivities

- Headache
- Chronic pain, myofascial pain
- Gastro-esophageal reflux disorder
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Vestibular dysfunction, vertigo, dizziness

This limitation will not apply to *disabilities* caused or contributed to by the following conditions:

- Schizophrenia
- Dementia
- Organic brain syndromes
- Amnesia syndromes
- Organic delusional or hallucinogenic syndromes
- Arthritis
- Ruptured intervertebral discs
- Spinal fractures
- Osteopathies
- Spinal tumors, malignancy or vascular malformations
- Radiculopathies, documented by EMG
- Spondylolisthesis, Grade II or higher
- Myelopathies
- Demyelinating diseases
- Traumatic spinal cord necrosis

No benefits will be paid for *disability* due to a *mental or emotional condition* or drug or alcohol abuse if you are not receiving treatment for the cause of the *disability* from a provider, or in a facility that is: (a) licensed by the state to provide treatment for such condition; and (b) accredited or approved by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Facilities or Medicare.

If payments under this *plan* would end due to the limits in this section, we may extend such payments, as shown below. But, you must meet all of the following conditions: (a) you must be *disabled* due to a condition named above; (b) you must be an inpatient in a qualified institution because of your *disability*; and (c) you must have been treated as an inpatient for at least 14 days in a row. In such case, we extend payments until the earliest of: (i) 90 days from the date of your discharge; (ii) the end of this *plan's maximum payment period*; or (iii) the date your *disability* ends.

When Benefits End (Cont.)

The term "qualified institution" means a legally operated hospital or other public or private facility licensed to provide inpatient medical care and treatment for the cause of your *disability*.

If This Plan Ends This insurance ends when the group plan ends. It also ends when this insurance is dropped from the group plan for all insureds, or for your class. If you are *disabled* when this insurance ends, we will treat you as if your insurance did not end. But, your benefit will be based on all of the terms of this *plan*.

CGP-3-LTD2K01-3.2

B380.0430-R

To Determine Your Benefit

Your benefit is determined by the plan of benefits and your *insured earnings* in effect on the date your *disability* starts.

Any changes to this *plan* that take place while you are *disabled* will not affect how we determine your benefit. This is also true for any changes that take place during a period of *active work* that occurs between an initial period of *disability* and a *recurring disability*.

Determining Your Monthly Benefit Your *monthly benefit* is determined as shown below.

- (a) Multiply your *insured earnings* by 60%. Round this amount to the nearest dollar.
- (b) If the amount determined above is less than this *plan's maximum monthly benefit*, that amount is your *gross monthly benefit*.

If the amount determined above is equal to or more than this *plan's maximum monthly benefit*, your *gross monthly benefit* is equal to the *maximum monthly benefit*.

- (c) From the amount determined in accord with your total income limit, subtract the sum of all other income with which we integrate that you receive or are entitled to receive.

If the resulting amount is less than your *gross monthly benefit*, that amount will be your *monthly benefit*.

If the resulting amount is equal to or more than your *gross monthly benefit*, your *monthly benefit* is equal to your *gross monthly benefit*.

The amount of your *gross monthly benefit* may be limited if the *plan sponsor* has not updated the amount of your *insured earnings* to reflect your then current *insured earnings* on the most recent reporting date prior to the start of your *disability*.

See the "Redetermination" of this *plan* for details.

Total Income Limit The total income limit is 70% of your *insured earnings*.

CGP-3-LTD2K-4.0

B380.0034-R

To Determine Your Benefit (Cont.)

Redetermination This plan redetermines *insured earnings* for each covered person on January 1st . Each January 1st , the *plan sponsor* must report current *insured earnings* for all covered persons under the *plan*. Changes to a covered person's *insured earnings* are subject to any proof of insurability requirements of this *plan*. As of this *plan's* redetermination date, we use a covered person's *insured earnings* on record with us to: (a) set rates; (b) project benefit amounts and limits; and (c) calculate premium payable under this *plan*. However, the covered person must be *actively-at-work* on a full-time basis on that date. If he or she is not, we do not do this until the date he or she returns to *active work* on a full-time basis. But, changes in earnings will not apply to a *recurring disability*.

CGP-3-LTD2K01-4.2

B380.0437-R

Income We Integrate With You may receive, or be entitled to receive, income shown in the list below. We will integrate your *gross monthly benefit* with such income to determine your *monthly benefit* from this *plan*.

- Commissions received, due to be received, or paid after *disability* benefits start. This includes vested and nonvested renewal commissions.
- Disability benefits from any mandated benefit act or law. This includes all temporary disability or state disability benefits required by law.
- Disability benefits from all group plans of: (1) the *plan sponsor*; or (2) your *employer*. This includes payments made by a group life insurance plan due to your *disability*. This does not include payments made from a group life insurance plan's: (a) accelerated death benefit; or (b) like provision that allows payment of such plan's proceeds due to terminal illness.
- Disability benefits from any other group plan.
- Income from a sick leave or salary continuance plan. This applies whether such plan is sponsored on a formal or informal basis. This includes lump sum or recurrent payments of accrued sick leave benefits.
- Benefits as shown below from: (1) the United States Social Security Act; (2) the Railroad Retirement Act; or (3) any other like U.S. or Canadian plan or act.
 - (a) All disability benefits for which: (i) you are qualified; and (ii) your spouse and children are qualified due to your *disability*;
 - (b) All unreduced retirement benefits for which: (i) you are qualified; and (ii) your spouse and children are qualified due to your qualification; and
 - (c) all reduced retirement benefits paid to: (i) you; and (ii) your spouse and children due to your receipt of such benefits.

To Determine Your Benefit (Cont.)

We will integrate your *gross monthly benefit* with such benefits to which your spouse and children are entitled due to your receipt of, or qualification for, disability benefits. We do this without regard to: (a) your marital status; (b) where you live; (c) where your spouse lives; (d) where your child lives; or (e) any custody arrangements made on behalf of your child.

- *Retirement plan retirement benefits* funded for your benefit by: (1) the *plan sponsor*; or (2) your *employer*.
- *Retirement plan disability benefits*.
- *Retirement benefits* or *retirement plan disability benefits*, due to your *disability*, from any *government plan* other than those shown above.
- Disability benefits from any: (1) *no-fault motor vehicle* coverage; (2) motor vehicle financial responsibility act; or (3) like law.
- Benefits from: (1) a Workers' Compensation law; (2) an occupational disease law; or (3) any other act or law of like intent. This includes: (a) the Jones' Act; (b) the Longshoreman's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act; or (c) any Maritime doctrine of Maintenance, Wages or Cure.
- Disability benefits from any third party when your *disability* is the result of the negligence or intentional tort liability of that third party.
- Payment from your *employer* as part of a termination agreement.

We integrate your *gross monthly benefit* with income shown above that you are entitled to receive without regard to the reason you are entitled to receive it.

Our right to reduce your benefit by such income shall not be negated by a transfer of claim liability to a third party. Payment by such third party by law, settlement, judgement, waiver or otherwise shall not negate our right.

CGP-3-LTD2K-4.3

B380.0058-R

Lump Sum Payments Of Other Income	Income with which we integrate may be paid in a lump sum. In this case, we take the equivalent monthly rate stated in the award into account when we determine your <i>monthly benefit</i> . If no monthly rate is given, we pro-rate the lump sum over the lesser of: (a) 60 months; or (b) the <i>maximum payment period</i> .
Cost Of Living Freeze	You may receive a cost of living increase in other income with which we integrate. In this case, we do not further reduce your <i>monthly benefit</i> by the amount of such increase.
Application For Other Income	You must apply for other income benefits to which you may be entitled. If these benefits are denied, you must appeal until: (a) all possible appeals have been made; or (b) we notify you that no further appeals are required.

To Determine Your Benefit (Cont.)

If we feel you are entitled to receive such income benefits, we will estimate the amount due to you and your spouse and children. We will take this estimated amount into account when we determine your *monthly benefit*. But, we will not take this estimated amount into account if you sign our reimbursement agreement. In this agreement you promise: (a) to apply for any benefits for which you may be eligible; (b) to appeal any denial of such benefits until all possible appeals have been made; and (c) to repay any amount we overpaid due to an award of such benefits.

If we do reduce your *gross monthly benefit* by an estimated amount, we will adjust your *monthly benefit* when we receive written proof: (a) of the amount awarded; or (b) that the other income benefits have been denied; and no further appeals are possible. If we underpaid you, we pay the full amount of the underpayment in a lump sum.

We will assist you in applying for other income benefits.

CGP-3-LTD2K-4.4

B380.0062-R

Minimum Payment The minimum monthly payment for *disability* under this *plan* is \$100.00.

Partial Month Payment You may be *disabled* for only part of a month. In this case, we compute your payment as 1/30th of the benefit to which you would be entitled for the full month times the number of days you are *disabled*. Payment will not be made for more than 30 days in any month.

Overpayment Recovery If we overpaid you, you must repay us in full. We have the right to reduce your payment or apply any benefits payable, including the minimum payment, toward recovery of the overpayment.

CGP-3-LTD2K-4.5

B380.0064-R

If You Work While Disabled

Income Earned During Disability This *plan* will not pay benefits if you work during the *elimination period* and for one month after it.

Subject to the other terms of this *plan*, if you are working to your *maximum capacity*, income earned during disability is treated as shown below while this *plan* pays benefits. In all cases, your *insured earnings* are adjusted each year by an indexing factor. See the "Indexing" section of this *plan* for how this is done.

1. For each of the first 12 months after you return to work, add your *gross monthly benefit* and your *income earned during disability*.
 - (a) If the sum is not more than 100% of your *insured earnings*, we do not reduce your *monthly benefit* for that month.
 - (b) If the sum is more than 100% of your *insured earnings*, we reduce your *monthly benefit* for that month by the amount over 100% of your *insured earnings*.

If You Work While Disabled (Cont.)

2. For each month after 12 months of work while *disabled*:
 - (a) If your *income earned during disability* is less than 20% of your *insured earnings*, we do not reduce your *monthly benefit* for that month.
 - (b) If your *income earned during disability* is 20% or more of your *insured earnings*, we reduce your *monthly benefit* for that month by 50% of your *income earned during disability*.

CGP-3-LTD2K01-5.0

B380.0440-R

Part-Time Earnings Capacity If you are able to work *part-time* while *disabled*, but you are not working to your *maximum capacity*, we adjust the *monthly benefit* as follows.

During the *own occupation* period, we reduce your *monthly benefit* by 50% of the income you would currently be able to earn, if working to your *maximum capacity*, in your *own occupation*. After the *own occupation* period, we reduce your *monthly benefit* by 50% of the income you would currently be able to earn, if working to your *maximum capacity*, in any *gainful occupation*.

Maximum Income Earned During Disability This *plan* limits the amount of income you may earn, or may be able to earn, and still be considered *disabled*.

If your *income earned during disability* is more than the limit shown below, payments from this *plan* will end. Payments from this *plan* will also end if you are able to earn more than the limit shown below.

- (a) During the *own occupation* period, the limit is 80% of your *insured earnings*.
- (b) After the *own occupation* period, the limit is 60% of your *insured earnings*.

In all cases, your *insured earnings* are adjusted each year by an indexing factor. See the "Indexing" section of this *plan* for how this is done.

CGP-3-LTD2K01-5.1

B380.0518-R

Indexing If you return to work while *disabled*, we adjust your *insured earnings* each year. We do this by means of an indexing factor. This factor increases the amount of income you may earn and still be considered *disabled*. This adjustment does not increase your *gross monthly benefit*, *monthly benefit*, or any other benefit under this *plan*.

We make the first indexing adjustment after you: (a) have returned to work; and (b) have received 12 monthly payments in a row from this *plan*.

To make the first adjustment, we multiply your *insured earnings* by the indexing factor for that year. To make adjustments in each later year, we multiply the amount of your last indexed *insured earnings* by the indexing factor for the current year.

The indexing factor is the lesser of: (a) 10%; or (b) one-half of the percentage change in the *CPI-W* for the prior calendar year.

CGP-3-LTD2K-5.2

B380.0073-R

Recurring Disability

Your benefits from this *plan* will end because you cease to be *disabled*. In this case, a later *disability* may be treated as a *recurring disability*. The terms listed below must be met:

- (a) You return to *active work* right after your benefits end;
- (b) Your *disability* recurs less than six months after you were last entitled to benefits;
- (c) Your later *disability* is due to the same cause of, or a cause related to the cause of, your earlier *disability*;
- (d) This *plan* does not end during your return to *active work*;
- (e) You do not become covered under any other similar group income replacement plan during the time you return to *active work*; and
- (f) During the time you return to *active work*, you stay insured by this *plan* and premium payments are made on your behalf.
- (g) Your benefits do not end because you have used up the *maximum payment period*.

Any changes in benefit or the *plan* which take place during your return to *active work*, will not apply to the *recurring disability*.

If the later *disability* is a *recurring disability*, you will not need to complete a new *elimination period* before becoming entitled to benefits. Your claim for *recurring disability* will be subject to the same terms of the *plan* as your earlier *disability*.

CGP-3-LTD2K-6.0

B380.0075-R

Services Available

Social Security Assistance We may feel you are qualified for Social Security disability benefits. If so, we may offer to help you apply for them. If such benefits are under review by Social Security, we may also offer to help you keep them.

We may offer to help:

- (a) Fill out your application for such benefits, and any related forms;
- (b) Find suitable legal counsel; and
- (c) Give medical and vocational data needed to file your claim.

You must apply for all income benefits for which you may be eligible, whether or not you use our help. Using our help does not cancel your duties shown in the "Application for Other Income" section of this *plan*.

Rehabilitation And Case Management

Case management starts when we are notified of your *disability*.

We will review your *disability* to see if certain services are likely to help you return to *gainful work*. If needed, we may ask for more medical or vocational information.

When our review is complete, we may offer you a *rehabilitation program*. We have the right to suspend or end your *monthly benefit* if you do not accept it.

Services Available (Cont.)

The *rehabilitation program* will start when a written *rehabilitation agreement* is signed by: (1) you; (2) us; and (3) your *employer*, if needed. The program may include, but is not limited to:

- (a) vocational assessment of your work potential;
- (b) coordination and transition planning with an employer for your return to work;
- (c) consulting with your *doctor* on your return to work and need for accommodations;
- (d) training in job seeking skills and resume preparation;
- (e) retraining;
- (f) child care expense aid; and
- (g) aid in worksite alteration made to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This includes a one-time payment of up to \$2,500.00.

We have the right to determine which services are appropriate.

If you accept the *rehabilitation agreement*, we will pay an enhanced benefit. The enhanced benefit will be 110% of the *monthly benefit* that would otherwise be paid. This enhanced benefit will be payable as of the first *monthly benefit* after the *rehabilitation program* starts.

We stop paying the enhanced benefit on the earliest of:

- (a) The date your benefits from this *plan* end,
- (b) The date you violate the terms of the *rehabilitation agreement*;
- (c) The date you end the *rehabilitation program*; and
- (d) The date the *rehabilitation agreement* ends.

If you end a *rehabilitation program* without our consent, you must repay any enhanced benefits paid.

CGP-3-LTD2K-8.0

B380.0089-R

Pre-Existing Conditions

Pre-Existing Conditions A pre-existing condition is a *sickness* or *injury*, including all related conditions and complications, for which, in the look back period, you:

- (a) receive advice or treatment from a *doctor*;
- (b) take prescribed drugs; or
- (c) receive other medical care or treatment, including consultation with a *doctor*.

You may have been prescribed drugs by a *doctor* for a condition to be taken during the look back period. In that case, such condition or a related condition will be considered pre-existing.

Pre-Existing Conditions (Cont.)

The "look back period" is the three months before the latest of: (a) the effective date of your insurance under this *plan*; (b) the effective date of a change that increases the benefits payable by this *plan*; and (c) the effective date of a change in your benefit election that increases the benefit payable by this *plan*.

A pregnancy that exists on the date your insurance under this *plan* starts is also a pre-existing condition.

No benefits are payable for *disability* due to a pre-existing condition, unless the *disability* starts after the date you are insured under this *plan* for 12 months in a row.

You may become *disabled* due to a pre-existing condition after: (a) a change which provides for an increase in the benefits payable by this *plan*; or (b) a change in your benefit election which increases the benefit payable by this *plan*. In this case, your benefit will be limited to the amount that would have been payable had the change not taken place. This limit does not apply if your *disability* starts after the change has been in force for 12 months in a row.

We do not cover any *disability* that starts before your insurance under this *plan*.

CGP-3-LTD2K-9.0

B380.0533-R

Prior Coverage Credit

If this *plan* replaces a similar income replacement plan the *plan sponsor* had with another insurer, the pre-existing condition provision may not apply to you. This *plan* must start right after the old plan ends.

We credit any time used to meet the old plan's pre-existing condition provision toward meeting this *plan's* pre-existing condition provision. If the old plan did not have a pre-existing condition provision, we credit any time you were covered under the old plan toward meeting this *plan's* pre-existing condition provision. We do this if: (a) you were covered under the old plan when it ended; and (b) you are *actively-at-work* and enroll for insurance on the effective date of this *plan*.

But, we limit the *maximum monthly benefit* under this *plan* if: (a) it is more than the old plan's maximum; (b) you become *disabled* due to a pre-existing condition; and (c) this *plan* pays benefits for such *disability* because we credit time as explained above. In this case, we limit the *maximum monthly benefit* to an amount equal to the old plan's maximum.

We deduct all payments made by the old plan under an extension provision.

CGP-3-LTD2K-9.1

B380.0092-R

Not Covered

Exclusions This *plan* does not pay benefits for *disability* caused by, or related to:

- (a) declared or undeclared war, act of war, or armed aggression;
- (b) service in the armed forces, National Guard, or military reserves of any state or country;

- (c) your taking part in a riot or civil disorder;
- (d) your commission of, or attempt to commit a crime;
- (e) your being engaged in an illegal occupation; or
- (f) intentional self-inflicted injuries.

We do not pay any benefits for any period of *disability*:

- (1) during which you are not receiving regular care by a *doctor*;
- (2) during which you are not receiving medical care appropriate to the cause of your *disability* and any other *sickness* or *injury* which exists during your *disability*;
- (3) which starts before you are insured by this *plan*; or
- (4) during which your loss of earnings is not solely due to your *disability*.

CGP-3-LTD2K-10.0-PA

B380.0534-R

Definitions

Active Work, Actively-At-Work Or Actively Working You are able to perform and are performing all of the regular duties of your work for your *employer*, on a full-time basis at: (a) one of your *employer's* usual places of business; (b) some place where your *employer's* business requires you to travel; or (c) any other place you and your *employer* have agreed on for your work.

CGP-3-LTD2K-12.0

B380.0098-R

CPI-W That part of the United States Department of Labor Consumer Price Index that measures the relative value of the cost of a typical urban wage earner's purchase of certain goods and services. The change in cost is expressed as a percentage of the cost of those goods and services in a base period. When we compute the change in *CPI-W*, we use the value of the *CPI-W* published in December of that year and the value published in December of the prior year. If the Department of Labor stops publishing the *CPI-W*, we have the right to use some other similar standard which is approved by the Insurance Commissioner of Pennsylvania as a suitable replacement.

CGP-3-LTD2K-12.2-PA

B380.0536-R

Disability Or Disabled These terms mean you have physical, mental or emotional limits caused by a current *sickness* or *injury*. And, due to these limits, you are not able to perform the major duties of your *own occupation* or any *gainful work* as shown below:

- (1) During the *elimination period* and the *own occupation* period, you are not able to perform, on a full-time basis, the major duties of your *own occupation*.
- (2) After the end of the *own occupation* period, you are not able to perform, on a full-time basis, the major duties of any *gainful work*.

You are not *disabled* if you perform any work for wage or profit during the *elimination period* and for one month after it.

Definitions (Cont.)

You are not *disabled* if you earn, or are able to earn, more than this *plan's* maximum allowed *income earned during disability*.

You may be required, on average, to work more than 40 hours per week. In this case, you are not *disabled* if you are able to work for 40 hours per week.

Loss of a professional or occupational license will not, in itself, constitute *disability*.

CGP-3-LTD2K-12.3

B380.0101-R

Doctor Any medical practitioner we are required by law to recognize. He or she must: (a) be properly licensed or certified by the laws of the state where he or she practices; and (b) provide services that are within the lawful scope of his or her practice. We do not recognize you, or your spouse, child, parent, sibling, or business associate, as a *doctor* with respect to your claim for this *plan's* benefits.

Elimination Period The period of time you must be *disabled*, due to a covered *disability*, before this *plan's* benefits are payable.

Any days during which you return to *active work* will not count toward the *elimination period*. The *elimination period* will be extended by one day for each day of *active work*. If you become eligible under any other similar group income replacement plan while you are at *active work*, you will not be entitled to benefits from this *plan*.

If you return to *active work* for more than 90 days during the *elimination period*, you must start a new *elimination period*.

Employer The business entity that employs you and is: (a) the *plan sponsor*; or (b) associated with the *plan sponsor*.

CGP-3-LTD2K-12.10

B380.0111-R

Gainful Occupation or Gainful Work Work for which you are, or may become, qualified by: (a) training; (b) education; or (c) experience. When you are able to perform such work on a full-time basis, you can be expected to earn at least 60% of your indexed *insured earnings*, within 12 months of returning to work.

Government Plan Any of the following: (1) the United States Social Security Act; (2) the Railroad Retirement Act; (3) the Canadian Pension Plan; or (4) any other plan provided under the laws of a state, province or any other political subdivision. It also includes: (a) any public employee retirement plan; or (b) any plan provided in place of the above named plan or acts. It does not include: (i) any Workers' Compensation Act or similar law; (ii) the Jones' Act; (iii) the Longshoreman's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act; or (iv) the Maritime Doctrine of Maintenance, Wages, or Cure.

Gross Monthly Benefit This *plan's monthly benefit* before it is reduced by other income and earnings.

Income Earned During Disability The monthly income you earn from working while *disabled*. It includes any income you earn while *disabled* but which is returned to your *employer*, partnership, or any other similar business arrangement to cover any business or overhead expenses.

Definitions (Cont.)

Injury A bodily *injury* due to an accident that occurs, independent of all other causes, while you are insured by this *plan*. We will cover a *disability* caused by an *injury* when the *disability* starts within 90 days of the date of such *injury*.

CGP-3-LTD2K01-12.11

B380.0458-R

Insured Earnings Only your earnings from the *employer* will be included as *insured earnings*.

We calculate benefit amounts and limits based on the amount of your *insured earnings* on record with us as of the Redetermination date immediately prior to the start of your *disability*. See the "Redetermination" section of this *plan*.

Insured earnings includes your contributions deposited into a cash or deferred compensation plan, or salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC Section 401(k), 403(b) or 457. Earnings based on excluded income and *employer* contributions deposited into such 401(k), 403(b) or 457 plan are excluded.

Insured earnings means your rate of monthly earnings as figured from the W-2 form received from the *employer* for the prior calendar year.

We include as earnings:

- (a) taxable earned income, including: (i) bonuses; (ii) commissions; and (iii) overtime pay;
- (b) elective employee pre-tax deferrals to a Section 125 plan or flexible spending account; and
- (c) your contributions to a cash or deferred compensation plan, or a salary reduction plan, qualified under IRC Section 401(k), 403(b) or 457, as reported on your W-2 form.

We do not include as earnings:

- (1) expense accounts and other extra compensation;
- (2) stock options exercised; or
- (3) *employer* contributions to a cash or deferred compensation plan or salary reduction plan.

If you have not worked for the *employer* for the prior calendar year, your *insured earnings* are based on your average rate of monthly earnings during the full time you were employed.

CGP-3-LTD2K01-12.12

B380.0474-R

Maximum Capacity During the *own occupation* period, the fullest extent of work you are able to do in your *own occupation*. After the *own occupation* period, the fullest extent of work you are able to do in any *gainful occupation*. We decide the fullest extent of work you are able to do based on objective data provided by: (a) your treating *doctor*; (b) impartial medical or vocational exams; (c) peer review specialists; (d) functional capacities exams; and (e) other medical and vocational specialists whose area of expertise is appropriate to your *disability*.

Maximum Payment Period The longest time that benefits are paid by this *plan*.

Definitions (Cont.)

Mental Or Emotional Conditions	Include, but are not limited to: (a) neurosis; (b) psychoneurosis; (c) psychosis; (d) psychopathy; and (e) any other mental or emotional disorder without demonstrable organic origin.
Monthly Benefit	This <i>plan's gross monthly benefit</i> reduced by other income. If you are working while <i>disabled</i> , your <i>monthly benefit</i> will be further reduced based on the amount of your <i>income earned during disability</i> . See the "If You Work While Disabled" provision of this <i>plan</i> for how this is done. CGP-3-LTD01-12.13-PA B380.0543-R
No-Fault Motor Vehicle Coverage	A motor vehicle plan that pays disability or medical benefits no matter who was at fault in an accident.
Own Occupation	Your occupation as done in the general labor market in the national economy. To determine the duties and requirements of your <i>own occupation</i> , we use: (a) the job description provided by the <i>plan sponsor</i> ; and (b) the duties and requirements of that occupation as shown in the most recent version of the Dictionary of Occupational Titles. That document is published by the Department of Labor. If the Department stops publishing that document, we have the right to use some other similar standard.
Part-Time	The ability to work and earn between 40% and 80% of <i>insured earnings</i> during the <i>own occupation</i> period and between 40% and 60% of <i>insured earnings</i> after the <i>own occupation</i> period.
Plan Sponsor	The employer, association, union, trustee, or other group to which this <i>plan</i> is issued.
Recurring Disability	A later <i>disability</i> that: (a) is related to an earlier <i>disability</i> for which this <i>plan</i> paid benefits; and (b) meets the conditions described in "Recurring Disability."
Regular Care	A person is being treated by, or in consultation with, a <i>doctor</i> at a frequency that is consistent with his or her condition. The requirement for <i>regular care</i> does not apply if he or she has reached his or her maximum point of recovery yet is still disabled under the terms of this <i>plan</i> . CGP-3-LTD2K01-12.14 B380.0522-R
Rehabilitation Agreement	A formal agreement between; (a) you; (b) us; and (c) your <i>employer</i> , if needed. It outlines the <i>rehabilitation program</i> in which you agree to take part.
Rehabilitation Program	A program of work or job-related training for you that we approve in writing. Its aim is to restore your wage earning abilities.
Retirement Plan	A defined benefit or defined contribution plan funded wholly or in part by the <i>employer's</i> deposits for your benefit. The term does not include: (a) profit sharing plans; (b) thrift plans; (c) non-qualified deferred compensation plans; (d) individual retirement accounts; (e) tax sheltered annuities; or (f) stock ownership plans.

Definitions (Cont.)

Retirement Plan "**retirement benefits**" are lump sum or periodic payments at normal or early retirement. Some *retirement plans* make payments for disability (as defined by those plans) that start before normal retirement age. When such payments reduce the amount that would have been paid at normal retirement age, they are *retirement benefits*. When such payments do not reduce the normal retirement amount, they are "**disability benefits.**"

Sickness An illness or disease. Pregnancy is treated as a *sickness* under this *plan*.

We, Us, And Guardian The Guardian Life Insurance Company of America.

You The person insured by this *plan*.

CGP-3-LTD2K-12.15

B380.0135-R

GLOSSARY

This Glossary defines the italicized terms appearing in your booklet.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B900.0118-R

Employee means a person who works for the *employer* at the *employer's* place of business, and whose income is reported for tax purposes using a W-2 form.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B750.0006-R

Employer means PCI INSURANCE, INC. .

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B900.0051-R

Full-time means the *employee* regularly works at least the number of hours in the normal work week set by the *employer* (but not less than 20 hours per week), at his *employer's* place of business.

CGP-3-GLOSS.1

B750.0230-R

Plan means the *Guardian* group *plan* purchased by your *employer*, except in the provision entitled "Coordination of Benefits" where "plan" has a special meaning. See that provision for details.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B900.0039-R

Proof or Proof of Insurability means an application for insurance showing that a person is insurable.

CGP-3-GLOSS-90

B900.0010-R

STATEMENT OF ERISA RIGHTS

As a participant, you are entitled to certain rights and protections under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA provides that all plan participants shall be entitled to:

Receive Information About Your Plan and Benefits

- (a) 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.
- (b) Obtain, upon written request to the plan administrator, copies of documents governing the operation of the plan, including insurance contracts, 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.
- (c) 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 benefit plan. The people who operate the plan, called "fiduciaries" of the plan, have a duty to do so prudently and in the interest of 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 welfare benefit or exercising your rights under ERISA.

Statement of Erisa Rights (Cont.)

Enforcement Of Your Rights If your claim for a welfare 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 plan documents or the latest annual report from the plan and do not receive them within 30 days, you may file suit in a state or Federal court. In such a case, the court may require the plan administrator to provide the materials and pay you up to \$110.00 a day until you receive the material, 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 in part, you may file suit in a 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 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 that your claim is frivolous.

Assistance with Questions If you have questions about the plan, you should contact the plan administrator. If you have 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 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.

B800.0093-R

Disability Benefits Claims Procedure

If you seek benefits under the plan you should complete, execute and submit a claim form. Claim forms and instructions for filing claims may be obtained from the Plan Administrator.

Guardian is the Claims Fiduciary with discretionary authority to determine eligibility for benefits and to construe the terms of the *plan* with respect to claims. Guardian has the right to secure independent professional healthcare advice and to require such other evidence as needed to decide your claim.

In addition to the basic claim procedure explained in your certificate, Guardian will also observe the procedures listed below. These procedures are the minimum requirements for benefit claims procedures of employee benefit plans covered by Title 1 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA")

Definitions "Adverse determination" means any denial, reduction or termination of a benefit or failure to provide or make payment (in whole or in part) for a benefit.

Timing For Initial Benefit Determination The benefit determination period begins when a claim is received. Guardian will make a benefit determination and notify a claimant within a reasonable period of time, but not later than the maximum time period shown below. A written or electronic notification of any adverse benefit determination must be provided.

Guardian will provide a benefit determination not later than 45 days from the date of receipt of a claim. This period may be extended by up to 30 days if Guardian determines that an extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period. Such notification will include the reason for the extension and a date by which the determination will be made. If prior to the end of the 30-day period Guardian determines that an additional extension is necessary due to matters beyond the control of the plan, and so notifies the claimant, the time period for making a benefit determination may be extended for up to an additional period of up to 30 days. Such notification will include the special circumstances requiring the extension and a date by which the final determination will be made.

A notification of an extension to the time period in which a benefit determination will be made will include an explanation of the standards upon which entitlement to a benefit is based, any unresolved issues that prevent a decision of the claim, and the additional information needed to resolve those issues.

If a claimant fails to provide all information needed to make a benefit determination, Guardian will notify the claimant of the specific information that is needed as soon as possible but no later than 45 days after receipt of the claim.

If Guardian extends the time period for making a benefit determination due to a claimant's failure to submit information necessary to decide the claim, the claimant will be given at least 45 days to provide the requested information. The extension period will begin on the date on which the claimant responds to the request for additional information.

Disability Benefits Claims Procedure (Cont.)

- Adverse Benefit Determination** If a claim is denied, Guardian will provide a notice that will set forth:
- the specific reason(s) for the adverse determination;
 - references to the specific *plan* provision on which the determination is based;
 - a description of any additional material or information necessary to make the claim valid and an explanation of why such material or information is needed;
 - a description of the plan's claim review procedures which a claimant may follow to have a claim for benefits reviewed and the time limits applicable to such procedures, including a statement indicating that the claimant has the right to bring a civil action under ERISA Section 502(a) following an adverse benefit;
 - identification and description of any specific internal rule, guideline or protocol that was relied upon in making an adverse benefit determination, or a statement that a copy of such information will be provided to the claimant free of charge upon request; and
 - in the case of an adverse benefit determination based on medical necessity or experimental treatment, notice will either include an explanation of the scientific or clinical basis for the determination, or a statement that such explanation will be provided free of charge upon request.

- Appeal of Adverse Benefit Determinations** If a claim is wholly or partially denied, the claimant will have up to 180 days to make an appeal.

Guardian will conduct a full and fair review of an appeal which includes providing to claimants the following:

- the opportunity to submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to the claim;
- the opportunity, upon request and free of charge, for reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records and other information relating to the claim; and
- a review that takes 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.

In reviewing an appeal, Guardian will

- provide for a review conducted by a named fiduciary who is neither the person who made the initial adverse determination nor that person's subordinate;
- in deciding an appeal based upon a medical judgment, consult with a health care professional who has appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment;
- identify medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained in connection with an adverse benefit determination; and

Disability Benefits Claims Procedure (Cont.)

- ensure that a health care professional engaged for consultation regarding an appeal based upon a medical judgment shall be neither the person who was consulted in connection with the adverse benefit determination, nor that person's subordinate.

Guardian will notify the claimant of its decision not later than 45 days after receipt of the request for review of the adverse determination. This period may be extended by an additional period of up to 45 days if Guardian determines that special circumstances require an extension of the time period for processing and so notifies the claimant before the end of the initial 45-day period.

A notification with respect to an extension will indicate the special circumstances requiring an extension of the time period for review, and the date by which the final determination will be made.

Alternative Dispute Options The claimant and the plan may have other voluntary alternative dispute resolution options, such as mediation. One way to find out what may be available is to contact the local U.S Department of Labor Office and the State insurance regulatory agency.

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Termination of This Group Plan

Your *employer* may terminate this group *plan* at any time by giving us 31 days advance written notice. This *plan* will also end if your *employer* fails to pay a premium due by the end of this grace period.

We may have the option to terminate this *plan* if the number of people insured falls below a certain level.

When this *plan* ends, you may be eligible to continue your insurance coverage. Your rights upon termination of the *plan* are explained in this booklet.

B800.0086-R



GUARDIAN[™]

**The Guardian Life Insurance
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