

Summary of the South Carolina Life and Accident and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act and Notice Concerning Coverage Limitations and Exclusions

Residents of South Carolina who hold life insurance, annuities, or health insurance policies should know that the insurance companies and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) licensed in this state to write these types of insurance are required by law to be members of the South Carolina Life and Accident and Health Insurance Guaranty Association (SCLAHIGA). The purpose of SCLAHIGA is to assure that policyholders will be protected, within limits, in the unlikely event that a member insurer becomes financially unable to meet its obligations. If this happens, SCLAHIGA will assess its other member insurance companies for the money to pay the claims of insured persons who live in this state and, in some cases, to keep coverage in force. However, the valuable extra protection provided by these insurers through SCLAHIGA is limited. Consumers should shop around for insurance coverage and exercise care and diligence when selecting insurance coverage.

Disclaimer

Under South Carolina law, the South Carolina Life and Accident and Health Insurance Guaranty Association (SCLAHIGA) may provide coverage of certain direct life insurance policies, accident and health insurance policies, annuity contracts and contracts supplemental to life, accident and health insurance policies and annuity contract claims (covered claims) if the insurer becomes impaired or insolvent. South Carolina law does not require the SCLAHIGA to provide coverage for every policy. **COVERAGE MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR POLICY.**

Coverage is generally conditioned upon residence in this state. Other conditions that may preclude or exclude coverage are described in this notice. Even if coverage is provided, there are significant limits and exclusions. Please read the entire notice for further details on limitations and exclusions.

Insurance companies and insurance agents are prohibited by law from using the existence of the SCLAHIGA or its coverage to sell you an insurance policy. You should not rely on the availability of coverage under SCLAHIGA when selecting an insurer. The South Carolina Life and Accident and Health Insurance Guaranty Association or the Department of Insurance will respond to any questions you may have which are not answered by this document.

If you think the law has been violated, you may file a written complaint with the SCLAHIGA or the South Carolina Department of Insurance at the addresses listed below:

South Carolina Life and Accident and Health Insurance Guaranty Association
Attention: Executive Director
P.O. Box 8625
Columbia, SC 29202

South Carolina Department of Insurance
Attention: Office of Consumer Services
1201 Main Street, Suite 1000
Columbia, SC 29201
Electronic complaint submission via
www.doi.sc.gov/complaint

Please attach copies of all pertinent documentation. You may submit a written complaint or a complaint electronically to the Department through submission of the electronic form on the Department's website at www.doi.sc.gov/complaint. You should receive a response to your complaint within 10 days.

This safety-net coverage is provided for in the South Carolina Life and Accident and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act (the Act). The following summary of the Act's coverages, exclusions and limits does not cover all provisions of the Act; nor does it in any way change any person's rights or obligations under the Act or the rights or obligations of the SCLAHIGA.

COVERAGE

Generally, individuals will be protected by the SCLAHIGA if they live in this state and hold a covered life, accident, health or annuity policy, plan or contract issued by an insurer (including a health maintenance organization) authorized to conduct business in South Carolina. The beneficiaries, payees or assignees of insured persons may also be protected if they live in another state unless circumstances described under the Act exclude coverage.

EXCLUSIONS FROM COVERAGE

Persons who hold a covered life, accident, health or annuity policy, plan or contract are not protected by SCLAHIGA if:

- They are eligible for protection under the laws of another state (This may occur when the insolvent insurer was incorporated in another state whose guaranty association protects insureds who live outside that state.);
- The insurer was not authorized to do business in this state; or
- They acquired rights to receive payments through a structured settlement factoring agreement.

SCLAHIGA also does not provide coverage for:

- A portion of a policy or contract or part thereof not guaranteed by the member insurer, or under which the risk is borne by the policy or contract owner;
- A policy or contract of reinsurance, unless assumption certificates have been issued;
- Interest rate or crediting rate yields or similar factors employed in calculating value changes that exceed an average rate;
- Any policy or contract issued by assessment mutuals, fraternal, and nonprofit hospital and medical service plans;
- Benefits payable by an employer, association or other person under: (a) a multiple employer welfare arrangement; (b) a minimum premium group insurance plan; (c) a stop-loss group insurance plan; or (d) an administrative services contract;
- A portion of a policy or contract to the extent that it provides for (a) dividends or experience rating credits; (b) voting rights; or (c) payment of any fees or allowances to any person, including the policy or contract owner, in connection with the service to or administration of the policy or contract;
- A portion of a policy or contract to the extent that the assessments required by Section 38-29-80 with respect to the policy or contract are preempted by federal or state law;
- An obligation that does not arise under the express written terms of the policy or contract issued by the member insurer to the enrollee, certificate holder, contract owner or policy owner, including without limitation: (a) Claims based on marketing materials; (b) Claims based on side letters, riders or other documents that were issued by the member insurer without meeting applicable policy or contract form filing or approval requirements; (c) Misrepresentations of or regarding policy or contract benefits; (d) Extra-contractual claims; or (e) A claim for penalties or consequential or incidental damages;
- An unallocated annuity contract;
- A policy or contract providing any hospital, medical, prescription drug or other health care benefits pursuant to Medicare Part C or D or Medicaid; or
- Interest or other changes in value to be determined by the use of an index or other external references but which have not been credited to the policy or contract or as to which the policy or contract owner's rights are subject to forfeiture, as of the date the member insurer becomes impaired or insolvent insurer, whichever is earlier.

LIMITS ON AMOUNTS OF COVERAGE

The South Carolina Life and Accident and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act also limits the amount that SCLAHIGA is obligated to pay for covered claims. The benefits for which SCLAHIGA may become liable shall in no event exceed the lesser of the following:

(i) With respect to one life, regardless of the number of policies or contracts:

- \$300,000 in life insurance death benefits, or not more than \$300,000 in net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values for life insurance;
- For health insurance benefits: (a) \$300,000 for coverages not defined as disability income insurance or health benefit plans or long-term care insurance, including any net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values; (b) \$300,000 for disability

- income insurance; (c) \$300,000 for long-term care insurance; (d) \$500,000 for health benefit plans; or
 - \$300,000 in the present value of annuity benefits, including net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values;
- (ii) with respect to each payee of a structured settlement annuity or beneficiary if the payee is deceased, \$300,000 in present value annuity benefits, in the aggregate, including net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values, if any,
- (iii) the association is not obligated to cover more than an aggregate of \$300,000 in benefits with respect to any one life except with respect to benefits for health benefit plans, in which case the aggregate liability of the association shall not exceed \$500,000 with respect to any one individual or with respect to one owner of multiple nongroup policies of life insurance, whether the policy or contract owner is an individual, firm, corporation, or other person, and whether the persons insured are officers, managers, employees, or other persons, more than \$5,000,000 in benefits, regardless of the number of policies and contracts held by the owner;
- (iv) the limitations on the benefits for which the association is obligated before taking into account either its subrogation and assignment rights or the extent to which those benefits could be provided out of the assets of the impaired or insolvent insurer attributable to covered policies. The costs of the association's obligations may be met by the use of assets attributable to covered policies or reimbursed to the association pursuant to its subrogation and assignment rights;
- (v) benefits provided by a long-term care rider to a life insurance policy or annuity contract are considered the same type of benefits as the base life insurance policy or annuity contract to which it relates.