



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Bulletin S-4 (rev.)
December 15, 2000

TO ALL INSURERS LICENSED TO WRITE LIFE INSURANCE AND ALL FRATERNAL
BENEFIT SOCIETIES

RE: GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

The purpose of this revised bulletin is to update the guidelines used by this Department in the approval of group life insurance contracts.

Group Life Insurance Standard Provisions

No policy of group life insurance shall be delivered in this State unless it contains in substance the provisions enumerated below, or provisions which in the opinion of the Commissioner are more favorable to the persons insured, or at least as favorable to the persons insured and more favorable to the policyholder. Please note: (a) provisions (6) to (10), inclusive, shall not apply to policies issued to a creditor to insure debtors of such creditor; (b) the standard provisions required for individual life insurance policies shall not apply to group life insurance policies; and (c) if the group life insurance policy is on a plan of insurance other than the term plan, it shall contain a non-forfeiture provision or provisions which in the opinion of the Commissioner is or are equitable to the insured persons and to the policyholder, but nothing herein shall be construed to require that group life insurance policies contain the same non-forfeiture provisions as are required for individual life insurance policies.

(1) A provision that the policyholder is entitled to a grace period of thirty-one days for the payment of any premium due except the first, during which grace period the death benefit coverage shall continue in force, unless the policyholder shall have given the insurer written notice of discontinuance in advance of the date of discontinuance and in accordance with the terms of the policy. The policy may provide that the policyholder shall be liable to the insurer for the payment of a pro rata premium for the time the policy was in force during such grace period.

(2) A provision that the validity of the policy shall not be contested, except for nonpayment of premiums, after it has been in force for two years from its date of issue; and that no statement made by any person insured under the policy relating to his or her insurability shall be used in contesting the validity of the insurance with respect to which such statement was made after such insurance has been in force prior to the contest for a period of two years during such person's lifetime nor unless it is contained in a written instrument signed by him or her.

(3) A provision that a copy of the application, if any, of the policyholder shall be attached to the policy when issued, that all statements made by the policyholder or by the persons insured shall be deemed representations and not warranties, and that no statement made by any person insured shall be used in any contest unless a copy of the instrument containing the statement is or has been furnished to such person or to his or her beneficiary.

(4) A provision setting forth the conditions, if any, under which the insurer reserves the right to require a person eligible for insurance to furnish evidence of individual insurability satisfactory to the insurer as a condition to part or all of his or her coverage.

(5) A provision specifying an equitable adjustment of premiums or of benefits or of both to be made in the event the age or sex of a person insured has been misstated, such provision to contain a clear statement of the method of adjustment to be used.

(6) A provision that any sum becoming due by reason of the death of the person insured shall be payable to the beneficiary or beneficiaries designated by the insured except, where the policy contains conditions pertaining to family status, the beneficiary may be the family member specified by the policy terms, subject to the provisions of the policy in the event there is no designated beneficiary, as to all or part of such sum, living after the death of the person insured and subject to any right reserved by the insurer in the policy and set forth in the certificate to pay at its option a part of such sum to any person appearing to the insurer to be equitably entitled thereto by reason of having incurred funeral or other expenses incident to the last illness or death of the person insured.

(7) A provision that the insurer will issue to the policyholder for delivery to each person insured an individual certificate setting forth a statement as to the insurance protection to which they are entitled, to whom the insurance benefits are payable, and the rights and conditions set forth in (8), (9) and (10) following.

(8) A provision that if the insurance, or any portion of it, on a person covered under the policy ceases because of termination of employment or of membership in the class or classes eligible for coverage under the policy, such person shall be entitled to have issued to him or her by the insurer, without evidence of insurability, an individual policy of life insurance without disability or other supplementary benefits, provided application for the individual policy shall be made, and the first premium paid to the insurer, within thirty-one days after such termination, and provided further that,

(a) the individual policy shall, at the option of such person, be on any one of the forms, except term insurance, then customarily issued by the insurer at the age and for the amount applied for;

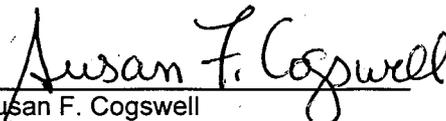
(b) the individual policy shall be in an amount not in excess of the amount of life insurance which ceases because of such termination, provided that any amount of insurance which has matured as an endowment payable to the person insured, whether in one sum or in installments or in the form of an annuity, shall not, for the purposes of this provision, be included in the amount which is considered to cease because of such termination; in the event the person was covered for survivor income coverage the individual policy may, at the option of such person, also include an amount equal to the value of the coverage on the date of such termination, as determined by the insurer based on the plan of benefits, the employee's attained age and reasonable assumptions with respect to mortality, interest, and other contingencies affecting the payment of benefits under the plan; in any event the amount of such individual policy shall be reduced by the amount of any life insurance for which he or she is or becomes eligible within thirty-one days after such cessation under any group policy whether issued by the Insurance Company or any other insurer; and

(c) the premium on the individual policy shall be at the insurer's then customary rate applicable to the form and amount of the individual policy, to the class of risk to which such person then belongs, and to his or her age attained on the effective date of the individual policy.

(9) A provision that if the group policy terminates or is amended so as to terminate the insurance of any class of insured persons, every person insured thereunder at the date of such termination whose insurance terminates and who has been so insured for at least five years prior to such termination date shall be entitled to have issued to him or her by the insurer an individual policy of life insurance, subject to the same conditions and limitations as are provided by (8) above, except that the group policy may provide that the amount of such individual policy shall not exceed the smaller of (a) the amount of the person's life insurance protection ceasing because of the termination or amendment of the group policy, less the amount of any life insurance for which the person is or becomes eligible under any group policy issued or reinstated by the same or another insurer within thirty-one days after such termination, and (b) \$10,000.

(10) A provision that if a person insured under the group policy dies during the period within which he or she would have been entitled to have an individual policy issued to them in accordance with

(8) or (9) above and before such an individual policy shall have become effective, the amount of life insurance which they would have been entitled to have issued to them under such individual policy shall be payable as a claim under the group policy, whether or not application for the individual policy or the payment of the first premium therefore has been made.


Susan F. Cogswell
Insurance Commissioner