

# Short-Term Disability Insurance

## Short-term Disability

Over the last 20 years, deaths due to cancer, heart attacks and strokes have significantly decreased. At the same time, disabilities due to these same ailments have significantly increased. A Short-Term Disability Policy can help. Just in case.

- A fatal injury occurs every 5 minutes, and a disabling injury occurs every second.
- There is a death caused by a motor vehicle crash every 11 minutes; there is a disabling injury every 13 seconds.
- In the home, there is a fatal injury every 14 minutes and a disabling injury every 4 seconds. \*



According to the Social Security Administration, three in 10 workers entering the work force today will become disabled before retiring. Short-Term Disability insurance policy can help. Just in case.

How can a Short-Term Disability policy help you?

- Your personal policy stays with you even if you switch jobs.
- You receive a cash benefit for each day you're disabled. <sup>2</sup>
- You are paid directly, unless you ask otherwise, no matter what other insurance you may have.

<sup>1</sup>Social Security Administration, Fact Sheet 2007.

<sup>2</sup>Subject to benefit periods and elimination periods.

\* Injury Facts, 2005-2006, National Safety Council

## Individual Short-term Disability Insurance Benefits

**Short-Term Disability is hard to find on a Direct Basis (outside of a group). We have the coverage you need. Don't let other agents tell you that there is no such product!**

Even if you have health or accident insurance, you may still have gaps in your coverage. Unlike regular health or accident insurance plans, short-term disability insurance pays you a monthly benefit while you are disabled. It may also coordinate with benefits from Social Security or Workers' Compensation.

Have you ever considered what would happen if you couldn't work because of an illness, injury, or pregnancy? Without a regular paycheck, you and your family could find it impossible to pay your rent, make mortgage or car payments, or even cover your utility and food bills.

Maybe you think that this can't happen to you. But studies have shown that almost 1 in 3 Americans become disabled at some point during their working years\*. That's why it may be a good idea to have disability insurance. If you are unable to work, disability insurance can help replace income, help you pay bills and protect your long-term savings.

## Disabilities and Short-Term Disability Insurance

A disability can mean any illness or injury that prevents you from working at your regular job or occupation for an extended period of time. These injuries and illnesses can occur on or off the job.

Short-term Disability insurance is a supplemental insurance policy that starts paying monthly benefits after an *elimination period* (the time between your injury or illness and the start of benefits). The amount of monthly benefits you receive depends on several factors including whether you are totally or partially disabled and the level of benefits you chose when you purchased your policy. Your benefits usually continue as long as you are under a physician's care and are unable to return to work (for the benefit period you chose when you purchased your policy).

### **Do you need Short-term Disability Insurance?**

You may not need short-term disability insurance if you have the financial resources to cover your bills over a 6-month period of unemployment. On the other hand, you should consider purchasing this coverage if:

- You don't have emergency savings to see you through several weeks or months without a paycheck.
- Your savings is earmarked for long-term financial goals.
- You have large debts—such as a mortgage, auto loans or credit card balances that require you to make regular payments.
- You are your family's sole wage earner.
- Your health or other insurance policies have high deductibles or require out-of-pocket payments.

### **Getting Short-term Disability Insurance coverage**

Your employer may offer short-term disability insurance as part of your benefits package. Or it may offer you optional disability insurance if you want to make the premium payments yourself.

If you can't get short-term disability insurance through work, talk to us. We can help you decide if you need this kind of coverage and if you and your family are adequately covered for the many unexpected events in life.