

# CONTINENTAL AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY

Home Office: 2801 Devine Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29205 (herein called Continental American)

# **GROUP CRITICAL ILLNESS POLICY**

Based on the Application for this Group Insurance Policy (herein called the Plan) made by **Sullivan County Government**(herein called the Policyholder)

and based on the payment of the premium when due, the Company agrees to pay the benefits provided on the following pages.

# THIS IS A LIMITED POLICY. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY THIS POLICY PROVIDES BENEFITS FOR THE CRITICAL ILLNESSES LISTED. IT DOES NOT PROVIDE BENEFITS FOR ANY OTHER SICKNESS OR CONDITION.

This Plan becomes effective at 12:01 a.m. Standard Time at the Policyholder's address on the Effective Date shown below. It may be continued in effect by the payment of premiums as provided in Section II. The Plan will terminate as provided in the provision titled "Termination of the Plan" in Section I.

The first anniversary of this Plan will be the Anniversary Date shown below. "You" and "your" refer to the Insured or any other Insured under Family Coverage. "We", "us", and "our" refer to the Company. The Policyholder may add new Employees or Dependents from time to time in accordance with the terms of the Plan. Subsequent anniversaries of the Plan will be the same date each year thereafter.

All matter printed or written by the Company on the following pages forms a part of this Plan as if recited over the signature below. This Plan is a legal contract between the Company and the Policyholder. This Plan is delivered in and is governed by the laws of the jurisdiction shown below.

In witness whereof the Company has caused this Plan to be executed at our Home Office in Columbia, South Carolina on the Effective Date.

# READ THIS POLICY CAREFULLY.

Signed for the Company at our Home Office.

President

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Countersigned by \_\_\_\_\_\_ Licensed Resident Agent (if required by your state)

Group Policy Number - 17896 Effective Date - January 01, 2013 Jurisdiction - Tennessee

**Anniversary Date** - January 01, 2014 **Non-Participating** 

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# **GROUP POLICY PROVISIONS**

**SECTION I** - Eligibility, Effective Date and Termination

**SECTION II** - Premium Provisions

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#### SECTION I - ELIGIBILITY, EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

Employee as used in this Plan, means a person insured under this Plan who is:

- 1. an Employee of the Policyholder, or an eligible Spouse of the Employee;
- 2. under age 70; and
- 3. engaged in full-time work; and
- 4. included in the class of employees eligible for coverage as shown on the application.

# **EFFECTIVE DATE**

The Effective Date of this Plan is shown on Page 1 of this form.

The Effective Date for an Employee is as follows:

- 1. An Employee's insurance will be effective on the date shown on the Certificate Schedule provided the Employee is then actively at work.
- 2. If an Employee is not actively at work on the date coverage would otherwise become effective, the Effective Date of his coverage will be the date on which such Employee is first thereafter actively at work.

The Effective Date for a Spouse or Dependent Child is the date shown on the Schedule Page subject to the following:

- 1. The date the Employees insurance is effective for a Spouse or Dependent Child who is eligible on that date; for whom coverage is applied for and premium paid; and who are not hospital confined.
- 2. At 12:00 a.m. Standard Time, on the day a Spouse or Dependent Child is no longer hospital confined if the Spouse or Dependent Child was otherwise eligible for coverage on the date the Employee's insurance became effective.
- 3. For a Spouse or Dependent Child eligible on or first acquired after the Employee's Effective Date, the Effective Date will be:
  - a. For newborn children, the Effective Date is the moment of birth (see Section III, Definitions, Insured).
  - b. For other than newborn children, the date we assign after approving the application for such coverage.

#### TERMINATION OF THE PLAN

The Plan will cease if the premium is not paid before the end of the Grace Period.

After the end of the first Plan year, the Company has the right to cancel the Plan on the day prior to the date any premium is due by giving 31 days written notice. The Plan will terminate when the number of participating Employees is less than the number mutually agreed upon by the Policyholder and the Company in writing.

In these events, this Plan and all certificates issued hereunder will terminate on such date at 12:01 a.m. Standard Time at the Policyholder's address. This will be without prejudice to the rights of any Insured as respects any claim arising during the period the Plan is in force.

The Policyholder has the sole responsibility to notify Employees of such termination.

#### TERMINATION OF AN EMPLOYEE'S INSURANCE

An Employee's insurance will terminate on the earliest of:

- 1. the date the Plan is terminated:
- 2. on the 31st day after the premium due date if the required premium has not been paid;
- 3. on the date he ceases to meet the definition of an Employee as defined in the Plan; or
- 4. on the date he is no longer a member of the class eligible.

Insurance for an insured Spouse or Dependent Child will terminate the earliest of:

- 1. the date the Plan is terminated;
- 2. on the 31st day after the premium due date if the required premium has not been paid;
- 3. the premium due date following the date the Spouse or Dependent Child ceases to be a dependent;
- 4. the premium due date following the date we receive your written request to terminate coverage for your Spouse and/or all Dependent Children.

Termination of the insurance on any Insured shall be without prejudice to his rights as regarding any claim arising prior thereto.

# **Portability Privilege**

When coverage would otherwise terminate under this Plan because an Employee ends employment with the Employer, they may elect to continue coverage. The coverage that may be continued is that which the Employee had on the date their employment terminated, including Dependent coverage then in effect.

- 1. Coverage may not be continued for any of the following reasons:
  - a. the Employee failed to pay any required premium;
  - b. this Group Policy terminates.
- 2. To keep the Certificate in force the Employee must:
  - a. make written Application to the Company within 31 days after the date their insurance would otherwise terminate;
  - b. pay the required premium to the Company no later than 31 days after the date the Certificate would otherwise terminate.
- 3. Insurance will cease on the earliest of these dates:
  - a. the date the Employee fails to pay any required premium;
  - b. the date this Group Policy is terminated.

If an Employee qualifies for this Portability Privilege as described, then the same Benefits, Plan Provisions, and Premium Rate as shown in their Certificate as previously issued will apply.

# **SECTION II - PREMIUM PROVISIONS**

# PREMIUM CALCULATIONS

Premiums payable on any premium due date for insurance will be calculated in accordance with the Schedule of Premiums. The rates shown in this Schedule can be changed annually. The Company will give the Policyholder written notice 31 days prior to the date any change in rates is to be effective.

#### PREMIUM PAYMENTS

The first premiums are due on the Effective Date of this Plan. After that, premiums are due on the first day of each month that the Plan remains in effect.

Aggregate premiums for this Plan are to be paid to the Company at our Home Office in Columbia, South Carolina. Payment of any premium will not keep the Plan in force beyond the due date of the next premium, except as set forth in the Grace Period.

# **GRACE PERIOD**

This Plan has a 31-day Grace Period. This means that if a renewal premium is not paid on or before the date it is due, it may be paid during the next 31 days. During the Grace Period, the Plan will stay in force, unless the Policyholder has given the Company written notice of discontinuance of the Plan.

# SECTION III - GENERAL DEFINITIONS / BENEFIT DEFINITIONS

Whenever a male pronoun is used, it includes the female unless the context clearly shows otherwise.

**Actively at Work** to be considered "actively at work", an Employee must perform for a full normal workday the regular duties of his employment at the regular place of business or at a location to which he may be required to travel to perform the regular duties of his employment.

**Critical Illness** means such illness shown in the Schedule and as defined in this Plan.

# **Date of Diagnosis** means for:

**Heart attack:** The date that the death (infarction) of a portion of the heart muscle occurred based on the criteria listed under the Heart Attack definition.

**Stroke:** The date a stroke occurred based on documented neurological deficits and neuroimaging studies.

Kidney failure: The date that a doctor or physician recommends that an Insured begin renal dialysis.

**Major organ transplant surgery or coronary artery bypass surgery**: The date the surgery occurs for covered transplants or covered coronary artery bypass surgery.

**Dependent Child(ren)** means your natural children, step-children, legally adopted children or children placed for adoption, who are unmarried, chiefly dependent on you or your Spouse for support; and younger than age 25.

However, if any child is incapable of self-sustaining employment due to mental retardation or physical handicap and is dependent on a parent(s) for support, the above age of twenty-five (25) shall not apply. Proof of such incapacity and dependency must be furnished to the Company within thirty-one (31) days following such 25th birthday.

**Doctor or Physician** means any licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within the scope of his license in treating a Critical Illness. It doesn't include an Insured or their family member.

**Employee** means the Insured as shown in the Certificate Schedule.

**Family Member** means an Insured's spouse, son, daughter, mother, father, sister, or brother.

Full-time Work - Please see the Master Application for the Full-Time hours worked, as defined by the Employer.

Illness means sickness or disease which first manifests while the Insured's coverage is in force and after any

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applicable Waiting Period. Any loss due to illness must begin while the Insured's coverage is in force.

**Injury** means bodily injury solely due to an accident. It includes all complications of and all injuries from the same accident.

# Insured(s) -

- 1. If Employee coverage is shown in the Certificate Schedule, we insure the Employee.
- 2. If coverage is for the Spouse of an eligible Employee, we insure the Insured as shown on the Certificate Schedule.
- 3. Coverage for Dependent Children may be included in an attached rider (if applicable).
- 4. If any person who would otherwise be an Insured is specifically excluded from coverage by endorsement to the Certificate or by the application, then such person shall not be an Insured.
- 5. Any other additions to the Insured class must be added by endorsement after applying to the Company.

**Pathologist** means a doctor, other than an Insured or a family member, who is licensed to practice medicine and who is also licensed to practice pathologic anatomy by the American Board of Pathology. A Pathologist also means an Osteopathic Pathologist who is certified by the Osteopathic Board of Pathology.

**Spouse** means an Employee's legal wife or husband.

**Successor Insured** - If an Employee dies while covered under a Certificate, then their surviving Spouse shall become the Insured if such Spouse is an Insured. If there is no surviving Spouse covered under the Certificate, then the Certificate shall terminate on the next premium due date.

**Treatment** means consultation, care or services provided by a physician including diagnostic measures and taking prescribed drugs and medicines.

**Treatment free** means a period of time without the consultation, care or services provided by a physician including diagnostic measures and taking prescribed drugs and medicines.

**Waiting Period** means the number of days after the Effective Date before we will pay benefits for loss due to a Critical Illness. We won't pay benefits for a Critical Illness that begins during the Waiting Period.

#### BENEFIT DEFINITIONS

**Heart Attack (Myocardial Infarction)** means the death of a portion of the heart muscle (myocardium) resulting from a blockage of one or more coronary arteries. Heart Attack does not include any other disease or injury involving the cardiovascular system. Cardiac Arrest not caused by a Myocardial Infarction is not a Heart Attack. The diagnosis must include all of the following criteria:

- 1. New and serial Electrocardiographic (EKG) findings consistent with Myocardial Infarction;
- 2. Elevation of cardiac enzymes above generally accepted laboratory levels of normal in case of creatine physphokinase (CPK), a CPK-MB measurement must be used; and
- 3. Confirmatory imaging studies such as thallium scans, MUGA scans, or stress echocardiograms.

Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery means undergoing open heart surgery to correct narrowing or blockage of one or more coronary arteries with bypass grafts, but excluding procedures such as, but not limited to balloon angioplasty, laser relief, stints or other non-surgical procedures.

**Major Organ Transplant** means undergoing surgery as a recipient of a transplant of a human heart, lung, liver, kidney, or pancreas.

**Stroke** means apoplexy (due to rupture or acute occlusion of a cerebral artery), or a cerebral vascular accident or incident, which is first manifested on or after an Insured's Effective Date. Stroke does not include Transient Ischemic Attacks and attacks of Verterbrobasilar Ischemia. We will pay a benefit for Stroke which produces permanent clinical neurological sequela following an initial diagnosis made after any applicable Waiting Period. We must receive evidence of the permanent neurological damage provided from Computed Axial Tomography (CAT scan) or magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). **Stroke does not mean head injury, transient ischemic attack or chronic cerebrovascular insufficiency.** 

**Kidney Failure (Renal Failure)** means the end stage renal failure presenting as chronic, irreversible failure of both kidneys to function. The Kidney Failure must necessitate regular renal dialysis, hemo-dialysis or peritoneal dialysis (at least weekly); or which results in kidney transplantation. Renal failure is covered, provided it is not caused by a traumatic event, including surgical traumas.

# **SECTION IV - BENEFITS**

# **Critical Illness Benefit**

We will pay this benefit when an Insured is diagnosed with one of the Critical Illnesses shown on the Certificate Schedule if:

- 1. The date of diagnosis is after the Waiting Period;
- 2. The date of diagnosis is while the his coverage is in force; and
- 3. It is not excluded by name or specific description in the Certificate.

If the date of diagnosis of a Critical Illness occurs during the Waiting Period, the Certificate may be returned for a full refund of premium.

The Certificate's Initial Maximum Benefit amount is shown in the Schedule. If the Schedule shows a Maximum Benefit Reduction Date, a Certificate's Maximum Benefit will be reduced to the Reduced Maximum Benefit Amount, also shown in the Schedule, on that date. Benefits will be based on the Maximum Benefit amount in effect on the Critical Illness Date of Diagnosis. Any partial benefits paid will be deducted from the appropriate Critical Illness.

Payment of benefits is subject to the following:

- 1. We will pay benefits for a Critical Illness in the order the events occur.
- 2. No benefits are payable for each different Critical Illness after the first unless its date of diagnosis is separated from the prior different Critical Illness by at least 6 months and it is not caused by or contributed to by a Critical Illness for which benefits have been paid.
- 3. Once benefits have been paid for a Critical Illness, no additional benefits are payable for that same Critical Illness unless the dates of diagnosis are separated by at least 12 months or for cancer 12 months treatment free) Cancer that has spread (metastasized) even though there is a new tumor, will not be considered an additional occurrence unless you have been treatment free for 12 months.

# **Health Screening Benefit** (Calendar Year Limit)

We will pay the amount shown in the Benefit Schedule for Health Screening Tests performed after the Waiting Period and while an Insured's coverage is in force. This Benefit is payable once per calendar year up to the Maximum Benefit amount shown in the Benefit Schedule. Payment of this benefit will not reduce the benefit amount payable for Critical Illness.

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# **Health Screening Tests** include but are not limited to:

- 1. Stress test on a bicycle or treadmill,
- 2. Fasting blood glucose test,
- 3. Blood test for triglycerides,
- 4. Serum cholesterol test to determine level of HDL and LDL,
- 5. Bone marrow testing,
- 6. Breast ultrasound,
- 7. CA 15-3 (blood test for breast cancer),
- 8. CA 125 (blood test for ovarian cancer),
- 9. CEA (blood test for colon cancer),
- 10. Chest X-ray,
- 11. Colonoscopy,
- 12. Flexible sigmoidoscopy,
- 13. Hemocult stool analysis,
- 14. Mammography,
- 15. Pap smear,
- 16. PSA (blood test for prostate cancer),
- 17. Serum Protein Electrophoresis (blood test for myeloma),
- 18. Thermography.

There is no limit to the number of years an Insured can receive benefits for Health Screening Tests, as long as this Plan is in force.

We will pay this benefit regardless of the results of the test.

# SECTION V - LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

When not caused by an accident, the following waiting period will apply.

This Rider contains a 30-day Waiting Period. This means no benefits are payable for any Insured who has been diagnosed before coverage has been in force 30 days from the Insured's Effective Date shown in the Rider Schedule. If an Insured is first diagnosed during the Waiting Period, benefits for treatment of that medically related Specified Critical Illness will apply only to loss commencing after twelve months from the Insured's Effective Date; or, at your option, you may elect to void this rider from the beginning and receive a full refund of premium.

# PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS LIMITATION

"Pre-existing Condition" means a sickness or physical condition which, within the 12-month period prior to the Effective Date of the Certificate, either: (1) resulted in You receiving medical advice or treatment; or (2) caused symptoms for which an ordinarily prudent person would seek medical advice or treatment.

We will not pay benefits for any condition or illness starting within 12 months of the Effective Date of the Certificate which is caused by, contributed to, or resulting from a Pre-existing Condition.

A claim for benefits for loss starting after 12 months from the Effective Date of the Certificate will not be reduced or denied on the grounds that it is caused by a Pre-existing Condition.

A condition will no longer be considered Pre-existing at the end of 12 consecutive months starting and ending after the Effective Date of the Certificate.

"Treatment" means consultation, care or services provided by a physician including diagnostic measures and taking prescribed drugs and medicines.

#### **EXCLUSIONS**

We won't pay for loss due to:

- 1. Intentionally self inflicted injury or action.
- 2. Suicide or attempted suicide while sane or insane.
- 3. Illegal activities or participation in an illegal occupation.
- 4. War -declared or undeclared or military conflicts, participation in an insurrection or riot, civil commotion or state of belligerence.
- 5. Substance Abuse.

Diagnosis must be made and treatment received in the United States.

# **SECTION VI - CLAIM PROVISIONS**

**Notice of Claim**: Written notice of claim must be given within sixty (60) days after a covered loss starts, or as soon as reasonably possible. The notice can be given to the Company at P.O. Box 427, Columbia, South Carolina 29202. Notice should include the name of the Insured and the Certificate number.

**Claim Forms:** When we receive a notice of claim, we will send the Claimant forms for filing proof of loss. If the forms are not given within 15 working days, proof of loss requirements can be met by giving us a written statement of the nature and extent of the loss within the time limit stated in the Proof of Loss Section.

**Proof of Loss:** Written Proof of Loss must be furnished to the Company at P.O. Box 427, Columbia, South Carolina 29202 within ninety (90) days after the date of such loss. Failure to furnish such proof within the time required shall not invalidate nor reduce any claim if it was not reasonably possible to give proof within such time. However, such proof must be furnished as soon as reasonably possible and in no event (except in the absence of legal capacity) later than one year from the time proof is otherwise required.

**Time of Payment of Claims:** Benefits payable under this Plan will be paid immediately upon receipt of acceptable Proof of Loss.

**Payment of Claims:** All benefits will be payable to the employee unless assigned by them or by operation of law. Any accrued benefit unpaid at the Insured's death may be paid to their estate.

**Conformity with State Statutes:** Any provision of this Plan which, on its Effective Date, is in conflict with the statutes of the state in which it was issued is hereby amended to conform to the minimum requirements of such statutes.

**Additional Coverage with the Company:** We will only pay benefits for covered Critical Illness under one Critical Illness Certificate if an Insured is covered by more than one of our Critical Illness Certificates. An Insured may choose which Certificate they wish to keep in force by sending us written notice of their choice. We will return the premiums paid for any of our other Critical Illness Certificates during the period there was more than one Certificate in force.

# **SECTION VII - GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Questions or Comments:** If you have any questions about this Plan, its benefits, the filing of claims, a complaint or a compliment, please call us at the toll free number listed on the front of this Plan.

**Entire Contract, Changes:** This Policy together with the application, endorsements, benefit agreements, certificates and riders, if any, is the Entire Contract of Insurance. No change in this Plan shall be valid until approved in writing by an Executive Officer of the Company. Any change must be noted on or attached hereto. No agent may change this Plan or waive any of its Provisions. Any Rider, Endorsement or Application that modifies, limits or excludes coverage under this Plan must be signed by the Employee to be valid.

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**Physical Examination and Autopsy:** We, at our expense, have the right to have an Insured examined as often as reasonable necessary while a claim is pending. In the case of death, we may also have any autopsy done unless prohibited by law.

**Legal Action:** No legal action may be brought to recover on this Plan within 60 days after written Proof of Loss has been given as required by this Plan. No such action may be brought after 3 years from the time written Proof of Loss is required to be given.

**Time Limit on Certain Defenses:** (1) After two years from an Insured's effective date of coverage, no misstatements, except fraudulent misstatements, made by the applicant in the application shall be used to void the coverage or to deny a claim for loss incurred commencing after the expiration of such two-year period; (2) No claim for loss incurred commencing after two years from an Insured's Effective Date of coverage shall be reduced or denied on the grounds that a disease or physical condition, not excluded from coverage by name or specific description, had existed prior to such Effective Date.

**Clerical Error:** Clerical error by the Policyholder will not end coverage or continue terminated coverage. In the event of such clerical error, a premium adjustment will be made.

**Misstatement of Age:** If an age has been misstated on the application, the benefits will be those the premium paid would have purchased at the correct age.

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# **SECTION VIII - BENEFIT SCHEDULE**

Initial Maximum Benefit: See Certificates

Reduced Maximum Benefit Amount: See Certificates

Reduced Benefit Date: First Renewal Date after age 70

Waiting Period: 30 Days

Percentage for Partial Benefits: 25% of applicable Maximum Benefit

The applicable Maximum Benefit (Initial or Reduced) is payable for the following Critical Illnesses

Stroke

Kidney Failure

Heart Attack

Major Organ Transplant

# **PARTIAL BENEFITS**

# **HEART ATTACK**

Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery - When this Partial Benefit is paid, it will reduce the Heart Attack Benefit by 25%.

**Maximum Health Screening Benefit Amount:** \$100 per insured Employee and Spouse per calendar year.

# SECTION IX - OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS Benefit eligible employees that are Actively Employed, per the Master Application's requirements, with the Policyholder.