

## **NOTICE CONCERNING COVERAGE LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS UNDER THE SOUTH DAKOTA LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION ACT**

Residents of South Dakota who purchase life insurance, annuities or health insurance should know that the insurance companies licensed in this state to write these types of insurance are members of the South Dakota Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association. The purpose of this association 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 should happen, the Guaranty Association 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. The valuable extra protection provided by these insurers through the Guaranty Association is not unlimited, however. And, as noted in the box below, this protection is not a substitute for consumers' care in selecting companies that are well managed and financially stable.

**The Guaranty Association does not provide coverage for all types of life, health, or annuity benefits, and the Guaranty Association may not provide coverage for this policy. If coverage is provided, it may be subject to substantial limitations or exclusions, and require continued residency in South Dakota. You should not rely on coverage by the South Dakota Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association in selecting an insurance company or in selecting an insurance policy.**

**Coverage is NOT provided for your policy or any portion of it that is not guaranteed by the insurer or for which you have assumed the risk, such as a variable contract sold by prospectus.**

**Insurance companies or their agents are required by law to give or send you this notice. However, insurance companies and their agents are prohibited by law from using the existence of the Guaranty Association for the purpose of sales, solicitation, or inducement to purchase any kind of insurance policy.**

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The state law that provides for this safety-net coverage is called the South Dakota Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act. Below is a brief summary of this law's coverages, exclusions and limits. This summary does not cover all provisions of the law, nor does it in any way change anyone's rights or obligations under the act or the rights or obligations of the Guaranty Association.

### **COVERAGE**

Generally, individuals will be protected by the Guaranty Association if they live in this state and hold a life or health insurance contract, or an annuity, or if they are an insured certificate holder under a group insurance contract, issued by a member insurer. The beneficiaries, payees or assignees of insured persons are protected as well, even if they live in another state. Coverage is also provided by the Guaranty Association to persons eligible to receive payment under structured settlement annuities who are residents of this state and, under certain conditions, such persons even if they are not a resident of this state.

## **EXCLUSIONS FROM COVERAGE**

However, persons holding such policies are **not** protected by the Guaranty Association 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;
- their policy was issued by an HMO, a fraternal benefit society, a mandatory state pooling plan, a mutual assessment company or similar plan in which the policyholder is subject to future assessments, or by an insurance exchange.

The Guaranty Association also does **not** provide coverage for:

- any policy or portion of a policy which is not guaranteed by the insurer or for which the individual has assumed the risk, such as a variable contract sold by prospectus;
- claims based on marketing materials or other documents which are not approved policy forms, claims based on misrepresentations of policy benefits, and other extra-contractual claims;
- any policy of reinsurance (unless an assumption certificate was issued);
- interest rate yields that exceed an average rate specified by statute;
- dividends;
- credits given in connection with the administration of a policy by a group contractholder;
- employers' plans to the extent they are self-funded (that is, not insured by an insurance company, even if an insurance company administers them);
- unallocated annuity contracts (which give rights to group contractholders, not individuals);
- certain contracts which establish benefits by reference to a portfolio of assets not owned by the insurer.

## **LIMITS ON AMOUNT OF COVERAGE**

The Guaranty Association in no event will pay more than what an insurance company would owe under a policy or contract. In addition, state law limits the amount of benefits the guaranty association will pay for any one insured life, and no matter how many policies or contracts there are with the same company, as follows: (i) for life insurance, not more than \$300,000 in death benefits and not more than \$100,000 in net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values, (ii) for health insurance, not more than \$500,000 for basic hospital, medical and surgical insurance, not more than \$300,000 for disability insurance and long term care insurance, and not more than \$100,000 for other types of health insurance; and (iii) for annuities, not more than \$250,000 in the present value of annuity benefits, including net cash surrender and net cash withdrawal values. However, in no event will the Guaranty Association be obligated to cover more than an aggregate of \$300,000 in benefits with respect to any one life except with respect to benefits for basic hospital, medical and surgical insurance, for which the aggregate liability of the guaranty association may not exceed \$500,000. These general statements of the limits on coverage are only summaries and the actual limitations are set forth in South Dakota law.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The statutes which govern the Guaranty Association are contained in SDCL Chapter 58-29C. Additional information about the Guaranty Association may be found at [www.sdlifeqa.org](http://www.sdlifeqa.org), which contains a link to SDCL Chapter 58-29C.

Information about the financial condition of insurers is available from a variety of sources, including financial rating agencies such as AM Best Company, Fitch Inc., Moody's Investors Service, Inc., and Standard & Poor's. Additional information about financial rating agencies may be obtained by clicking on "Insurance Related Links" on the website of the South Dakota Division of Insurance at [www.state.sd.us/dcr/insurance](http://www.state.sd.us/dcr/insurance).

The Guaranty Association is subject to supervision and regulation by the director of the South Dakota Division of Insurance. Persons who desire to file a complaint to allege a violation of the statutes governing the Guaranty Association may contact the Division of Insurance. State law provides that any suit against the Guaranty Association shall be brought in Hughes County, South Dakota.