

**YOUR GROUP  
TERM LIFE BENEFITS**



**FOR EMPLOYEES OF:**

**Merkel Independent School District**

**CLASS(ES):**

All Eligible Employees

**REVISION EFFECTIVE DATE:**

September 1, 2025

**PUBLICATION DATE:**

September 12, 2025

**NOTICE(S)**

**THIS CERTIFICATE DESCRIBES THE BENEFITS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU. PLEASE READ YOUR CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY. THE POLICY IS ISSUED IN THE STATE OF TEXAS AND PROVIDES ALL THE BENEFITS REQUIRED BY APPLICABLE TEXAS LAW.**

**THE INSURANCE POLICY UNDER WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED IS NOT A POLICY OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE. YOU SHOULD CONSULT YOUR EMPLOYER TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOUR EMPLOYER IS A SUBSCRIBER TO THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM.**

**FRAUD WARNING**

Any person who knowingly and with intent to defraud any insurance company or other person files an application for insurance or statement of claim containing any materially false information or conceals for the purpose of misleading, information concerning any fact material thereto commits a fraudulent insurance act, which is a crime and may subject such person to criminal and civil penalties.

## **NOTICE(S)**

If you have any questions about or concerns with this insurance, please first contact the Policyholder or your benefits administrator. If, after doing so, you still have a question or concern, you may contact us at:

**United of Omaha Life Insurance Company**  
**3300 Mutual of Omaha Plaza**  
**Omaha, Nebraska 68175**  
**Call Toll-Free: 1-800-775-8805**  
**[www.mutualofomaha.com](http://www.mutualofomaha.com)**

When contacting us, please have your Policy number available.

## HAVE A COMPLAINT OR NEED HELP?

If you have a problem with a claim or your premium, call your insurance company. If you can't work out the issue, The Texas Department of Insurance may be able to help.

Even if you file a complaint with the Texas Department of Insurance, you should also file a complaint or appeal through your insurance company. If you don't, you may lose your right to appeal.

### **United of Omaha Life Insurance Company**

To get information or file a complaint with your insurance company:

**Call: United of Omaha Life Insurance Company**

**Toll-free: 1-833-279-4358**

Email: [www.mutualofomaha.com](http://www.mutualofomaha.com)

Mail: United of Omaha Life Insurance Company  
3300 Mutual of Omaha Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68175

### **The Texas Department of Insurance**

To get help with an insurance question or file a complaint with the state:

Call with a question: 1-800-252-3439

File a complaint: [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)

Email: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov)

Mail: Consumer Protection

MC: CO-CP

Texas Department of Insurance

P.O. Box 12030

Austin, TX 78711-2030

## ¿TIENE UNA QUEJA O NECESITA AYUDA?

Si tiene un problema con una reclamación o con su prima de seguro, llame primero a su compañía de seguros o HMO. Si no puede resolver el problema, es posible que el Departamento de Seguros de Texas (Texas Department of Insurance, por su nombre en inglés) pueda ayudar.

Aun si usted presenta una queja ante el Departamento de Seguros de Texas, también debe presentar una queja a través del proceso de quejas o de apelaciones de su compañía de seguros. Si no lo hace, podría perder su derecho para apelar.

### **United of Omaha Life Insurance Company**

Para obtener información o para presentar una queja ante su compañía de seguros:

**Llame a: United of Omaha Life Insurance Company**

**Teléfono gratuito: 1-833-279-4358**

Correo electrónico: [www.mutualofomaha.com](http://www.mutualofomaha.com)

Dirección postal: United of Omaha Life Insurance  
Company  
3300 Mutual of Omaha Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68175

### **El Departamento de Seguros de Texas**

Para obtener ayuda con una pregunta relacionada con los seguros o para presentar una queja ante el estado:

Llame con sus preguntas al: 1-800-252-3439

Presente una queja en: [www.tdi.texas.gov](http://www.tdi.texas.gov)

Correo electrónico: [ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov](mailto:ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov)

Dirección postal: Consumer Protection

MC: CO-CP

Texas Department of Insurance

P.O. Box 12030

Austin, TX 78711-2030

## **ABOUT LIVING BENEFITS (ACCELERATED BENEFIT)**

### **LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS (BENEFITS PAYABLE BY REASON OF THE DEATH OF YOU) WILL BE REDUCED IF BENEFITS ARE PAID UNDER THE LIVING BENEFITS (ACCELERATED BENEFIT) PROVISION.**

This disclosure is a brief summary of the Living Benefits (Accelerated Benefit) provision and its effect on life insurance benefits.

An eligible Insured Person may receive payment of part of the amount of life insurance in effect for the Insured Person while living if the Insured Person has been diagnosed with a terminal condition. A terminal condition means an injury or sickness that is expected to result in death within the number of months stated in the Certificate, as certified by a Physician. Please refer to the Living Benefits (Accelerated Benefit) provision of this Certificate for information regarding who is eligible for this benefit and the complete definition of Terminal Condition in the Definitions section.

This benefit is included in the premium paid for life insurance. There is no separate premium charge for this benefit. The premium for life insurance does not change if benefits are paid under the Living Benefits (Accelerated Benefit) provision.

The Living Benefits offered under this contract **may or may not** qualify for favorable tax treatment under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as amended). Whether such benefits qualify depends on factors such as the life expectancy of you at the time benefits are accelerated or whether you use the benefits to pay for necessary long-term care expenses, such as nursing home care. If the Living Benefits qualify for favorable tax treatment, the benefits will be excludable from your income and not subject to federal taxation. Tax laws relating to Living Benefits are complex. You are advised to consult with a qualified tax advisor about circumstances under which you could receive Living Benefits excludable from income under federal law.

Receipt of Living Benefits may affect your, your Spouse's or your family's eligibility for public assistance programs such as medical assistance (Medicaid), Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), supplementary social security income (SSI), and drug assistance programs. You are advised to consult with a qualified tax advisor and with social service agencies concerning how receipt of such a payment will affect your, your Spouse's or your family's eligibility for public assistance.

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# CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

## UNITED OF OMAHA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Home Office:  
3300 Mutual of Omaha Plaza  
Omaha, Nebraska 68175

Capitalized terms used in this section have the meanings assigned to them in the Definitions section of this Certificate.

United of Omaha Life Insurance Company certifies that Group Policy Number GLUG-CRFL (the Policy) has been issued to Merkel Independent School District (the Policyholder).

Insurance is provided for Employees of the Policyholder subject to the terms and conditions of the Policy.

Please read this Certificate carefully. The benefits described in this Certificate are effective only if you are eligible for the insurance, become insured and remain insured as described in this Certificate and according to the terms and conditions of the Policy.

If the provisions of this Certificate and those of the Policy do not agree, the provisions of the Policy will apply. The Policy is part of a contract between United of Omaha Life Insurance Company and the Policyholder, and may be amended, changed or terminated without your consent or notice to you.

This Certificate replaces any certificate previously issued under the Policy.

UNITED OF OMAHA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

  
Chief Executive Officer

  
Corporate Secretary

## SCHEDULE

Capitalized terms used in this section have the meanings assigned to them in the Definitions section of this Certificate.

### CLASS(ES)

All Eligible Employees

### LIFE INSURANCE BENEFITS

If you die while insured under the Policy, we will pay the amount of life insurance in effect at the time of your death to your beneficiary.

### LIFE INSURANCE FOR YOU (THE EMPLOYEE)

Your amount of life insurance is \$10,000.

Your amount of life insurance is subject to any reductions indicated in the BENEFIT REDUCTIONS provision in this Schedule. If you have questions regarding the amount of your life insurance, you may contact the Policyholder.

### ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT (AD&D) INSURANCE FOR YOU

Your amount of accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance is equal to your amount of life insurance.

Your amount of AD&D insurance is also referred to as the Principal Sum. Your amount of AD&D insurance is subject to any reductions indicated in the BENEFIT REDUCTIONS provision in this Schedule. If you have questions regarding the amount of your AD&D insurance, you may contact the Policyholder.

### EVIDENCE OF INSURABILITY

Evidence of Insurability is not required for any amount of insurance under the Policy, unless otherwise stated in this Certificate.

### BENEFIT REDUCTIONS

As you grow older, the amount of life and AD&D insurance for you will be reduced according to the following schedule:

<b>At the Attained Age of:</b>	<b>The Original Amount of Insurance Will Reduce to:</b>
70.....	50%

Reductions become effective on the Policy Anniversary that coincides with or follows the day you reach the specified age. Any reduced amount of insurance will round to the nearest dollar.

If you are age 70 or older on the date insurance becomes effective, the amount of life and AD&D insurance for you will be reduced as shown above.

## ELIGIBILITY

Capitalized terms used in this section have the meanings assigned to them in the Definitions section of this Certificate.

### WHEN YOU BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR INSURANCE (ELIGIBILITY WAITING PERIOD)

If you are Actively Working on the Policy Effective Date, you become eligible for insurance on the Policy Effective Date.

If you are not Actively Working on the Policy Effective Date, or if you are hired after the Policy Effective Date, you become eligible for insurance on the day you begin Active Work.

The day you become eligible for insurance may not be the same as the day your insurance begins. The WHEN YOUR INSURANCE BEGINS provision describes the day your insurance begins.

### WHEN YOUR INSURANCE BEGINS

You become insured on the first day of the month that follows the latest of the day:

- a) you become eligible and are Actively Working; or
- b) your Written Request is properly completed and signed, if required.

You must provide Evidence of Insurability if it is required. You become insured for any amount of insurance that requires Evidence of Insurability on the first day of the month that follows the day we approve Evidence of Insurability.

### EXCEPTIONS TO WHEN YOUR INSURANCE BEGINS

This provision does not apply if you are eligible for insurance under the CONTINUITY OF INSURANCE UPON TRANSFER OF INSURANCE CARRIER provision.

If you are:

- a) not Actively Working due to Injury or Sickness;
- b) Totally Disabled;
- c) confined in a Hospital as an inpatient;
- d) confined or assigned to a bed as a resident inpatient in any institution or facility other than a Hospital; or
- e) confined at home and under the care or supervision of a Physician;

on the day insurance would otherwise begin, insurance will not take effect until the day after you are released by your Physician and you return to Active Work.

If you are not Actively Working when insurance would otherwise begin for reasons other than those listed above, insurance will not take effect until the day you return to Active Work.

### WAIVER OF COVERAGE

You may waive coverage:

- a) for religious or faith-based reasons;
- b) to avoid possible federal and/or state income tax liability; or
- c) for any other reason approved by us.

You must submit a Written Request to waive coverage. The request must be signed by you, and in community property states, your Spouse, if applicable. The waiver is effective on the date we receive and record the Written Request.

The waiver is irrevocable for one year from the date we record it. After one year, you may elect coverage by providing Evidence of Insurability at your own expense. You are eligible for insurance if we approve Evidence of Insurability.

## **CONTINUITY OF INSURANCE UPON TRANSFER OF INSURANCE CARRIER**

If there is a conflict between this provision and any other provision of the Policy, this provision controls.

If the Policy replaces a Prior Plan, the Policy will provide insurance for you if you:

- a) were insured under the Prior Plan on the day before the Policy Effective Date;
- b) are otherwise eligible, but not Actively Working on the Policy Effective Date due to:
  1. Injury or Sickness; or
  2. a leave of absence protected under:
    - a. the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and any amendments thereto; or
    - b. any other applicable federal or state law that allows for continuation of insurance in certain instances;
- c) are not insured under any provision of the Prior Plan;
- d) are not a retired Employee;
- e) are not Totally Disabled on the Policy Effective Date; and
- f) are approved by our authorized representative in our home office for insurance under this provision.

Insurance under this provision is subject to the following conditions:

- a) insurance may not exceed your amount of insurance under the Prior Plan on the day before the Policy Effective Date;
- b) the benefit payable will be the amount which would have been paid by the Prior Plan had insurance remained in-force under the Prior Plan, less the amount of any benefit payable under the Prior Plan;
- c) the Policyholder must notify us in writing prior to the Policy Effective Date of the amount of your insurance under the Prior Plan on the day before the Policy Effective Date;
- d) insurance is subject to uninterrupted payment of premium to us when due; and
- e) insurance is subject to any reductions shown in the Schedule section of this Certificate and all other terms and conditions of the Policy.

We reserve the right to request any information we need from the Policyholder to determine whether the conditions necessary to be eligible for insurance under this provision have been satisfied.

Insurance under this provision will end on the earliest of:

- a) the day you return to Active Work for the Policyholder or begin employment with any other employer;
- b) the last day you would have been insured under the prior Plan, if the Prior Plan had not ended or terminated;
- c) the day your insurance ends for any reason shown in the WHEN INSURANCE ENDS provision;
- d) the last day of the twelfth month following the Policy Effective Date; or
- e) the last day of the time period allowed by FMLA, USERRA or applicable federal or state law that allows for continuation.

If you are eligible for insurance under this provision, you will not be eligible for insurance under any continuation provision in this Certificate.

If your insurance under this provision ends and you have not returned to Active Work, you may be able to obtain insurance under the CONVERSION provision.

Persons who are not eligible for insurance under this provision may be eligible to apply for conversion of insurance under the Prior Plan and should contact the Policyholder for additional information.

## **CHANGES TO INSURANCE BENEFITS**

Any allowable change in the benefits, class or amount of insurance, whether requested by you or the Policyholder, or as a result of the terms of the Policy, will take effect on the first day of the month that follows the date of the request or the change, unless otherwise stated or allowed in the Policy.

For any increase in insurance, we will use the Policyholder's records and/or the premium we receive to verify that the amount of insurance requested is the appropriate insurance amount the Insured Person is eligible for under the terms of the Policy.

If you are not Actively Working on the day any increase in insurance would otherwise take effect, the increase becomes effective the first day of the month that follows the day you return to Active Work.

## **REINSTATEMENT OF INSURANCE**

You may be eligible to reinstate insurance that has ended in accordance with this provision.

Reinstated insurance will take effect on the first day of the month that follows the date you become eligible for insurance. If you are not Actively Working on the day the reinstated insurance would otherwise take effect, insurance becomes effective on the day you return to Active Work.

### **Involuntary Reduction in Hours**

If insurance ends because you are no longer Actively Working due to an involuntary reduction of hours worked, insurance may be reinstated if you return to Active Work within 90 days from the date insurance ended.

### **Rehired Employee Due to Layoff or Termination**

If insurance ends because you are no longer Actively Working due to layoff or termination of employment with the Policyholder, insurance may be reinstated if you are rehired and return to Active Work within 90 days from the date insurance ended.

### **Rehired Employee Due to Leave of Absence**

If insurance ends because you are no longer Actively Working due to an approved leave of absence, insurance may be reinstated within 90 days from the date insurance ended upon return to Active Work. If insurance ends because you are no longer Actively Working due to military leave, insurance may be reinstated upon return to Active Work within 31 days of your discharge from active duty without satisfying another Eligibility Waiting Period.

### **Transfer From Conversion**

If insurance is obtained under the CONVERSION provision while you are not Actively Working, insurance may be reinstated up to the amount of insurance that was in effect on the last day of Active Work. Any Conversion policies issued to you must be surrendered to us. If Conversion policies are not surrendered, Evidence of Insurability will be required to reinstate insurance.

## **WHEN INSURANCE ENDS**

Insurance ends:

- a) for all Insured Persons on the last day of the month in which you are no longer Actively Working;
- b) the last day of the month in which an Insured Person begins active duty in the Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves of any state or country (except for temporary active duty of 31 days or less), unless otherwise allowed in the Policy;
- c) the day the Policy terminates; or
- d) in accordance with the Grace Period provisions.

## **EXCEPTIONS TO WHEN INSURANCE ENDS**

If insurance for you would otherwise end, you may be able to continue or obtain insurance under one of the following provisions:

- a) CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR LAYOFF, LEAVE OR FURLOUGH
- b) CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR INJURY OR SICKNESS
- c) CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR PARTIAL DISABILITY
- d) CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR TOTAL DISABILITY WITH WAIVER OF PREMIUM
- e) CONVERSION

## **CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR LAYOFF, LEAVE OR FURLOUGH**

If there is a conflict between this provision and any other provision of the Policy, this provision controls.

You may be able to continue insurance from the day you cease to be Actively Working in the event of:

- a) a temporary involuntary layoff;
- b) a temporary furlough; or
- c) a leave of absence approved by the Policyholder due to any personal reason.

In addition, the federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and any amendments thereto, as well as other applicable federal or state laws, may allow continuation of insurance in certain instances. Contact the Policyholder for additional information regarding any other continuation options that may be available.

Any insurance continued under this provision is subject to the following conditions:

- a) insurance may not be continued beyond the earliest of:
  1. 12 weeks for your temporary involuntary layoff;
  2. 12 weeks for your temporary furlough;
  3. 12 weeks for your leave of absence due to any personal reason; or
  4. the time period allowed by FMLA, USERRA or applicable federal or state law that allows for continuation.
- b) the amount of insurance may not be increased while insurance is continued under this provision;
- c) we receive verification of the approved layoff, leave or furlough from the Policyholder upon request; and
- d) we continue to receive premium payment when due (premiums must be paid by you or on your behalf).

Insurance under this provision ends on the last day of the month which coincides with or follows the earliest of the day:

- a) the time period in a) in the preceding paragraph has been satisfied;
- b) your temporary involuntary layoff or furlough becomes permanent;
- c) you return to Active Work;
- d) you begin full-time employment with an employer other than the Policyholder; or
- e) the Policy terminates.

Insurance under this provision also ends in accordance with the GRACE PERIOD provision.

If continued insurance under this provision ends and you have not returned to Active Work, you may be able to continue or obtain insurance under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR INJURY OR SICKNESS provision or CONVERSION provision.

If your leave is due to an Injury or Sickness which may result in your Total Disability, we must receive notification of your potential Total Disability on our total disability claim form within 6 months of the date your Injury or Sickness occurred, or as soon as reasonably possible.

See the OPTIONS FOR PAYMENT OF PREMIUM FOR CONTINUED INSURANCE provision in the Premium Payments section of this Certificate for premium payment options.

## **CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR INJURY OR SICKNESS**

If there is a conflict between this provision and any other provision of the Policy, this provision controls.

When your insurance would otherwise end because you are no longer Actively Working due to your Injury or Sickness, you may be able to continue insurance under this provision. The total continuation period under this provision and the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR LAYOFF, LEAVE OR FURLOUGH provision will not exceed 12 months.

Insurance may be continued under this provision if the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) we receive verification of your Injury or Sickness from the Policyholder upon request; and
- b) we continue to receive premium payment when due (premiums must be paid by you or on your behalf).

The amount of insurance may not be increased while insured under this provision.

Insurance under this provision ends on the earliest of the last day of the month which coincides with or follows the day:

- a) that is 12 months from the day you cease Active Work;
- b) you return to Active Work;
- c) you begin full-time employment with an employer other than the Policyholder; or
- d) the Policy terminates.

Insurance under this provision also ends in accordance with the GRACE PERIOD provision.

If continued insurance under this provision ends and you have not returned to Active Work, you may be able to continue or obtain insurance under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR PARTIAL DISABILITY provision,

CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR TOTAL DISABILITY WITH WAIVER OF PREMIUM provision or CONVERSION provision.

If your leave is due to an Injury or Sickness which may result in your Total Disability, we must receive notification of your potential Total Disability on our total disability claim form within 6 months of the date your Injury or Sickness occurred, or as soon as reasonably possible.

See the OPTIONS FOR PAYMENT OF PREMIUM FOR CONTINUED INSURANCE provision in the Premium Payment section of this Certificate for premium payment options.

### **CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR PARTIAL DISABILITY**

If there is a conflict between this provision and any other provision of the Policy, this provision controls.

When your insurance ends under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR INJURY OR SICKNESS provision, you may be able to continue insurance under this provision due to your Partial Disability.

Insurance may be continued under this provision if the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) you are Partially Disabled, but not Totally Disabled;
- b) we receive verification of your Partial Disability from the Policyholder upon request; and
- c) we continue to receive premium payment when due (premiums must be paid by you or on your behalf).

The amount of insurance may not be increased while insured under this provision.

Insurance under this provision will end on the earliest of the last day of the month which coincides with or follows the day:

- a) that is 12 months from the day you become eligible for insurance under this provision;
- b) you return to Active Work;
- c) your Injury or Sickness results in your Total Disability and you are eligible to continue insurance under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR TOTAL DISABILITY WITH WAIVER OF PREMIUM provision;
- d) you begin full-time employment with an employer other than the Policyholder; or
- e) the Policy terminates.

Insurance under this provision will also end in accordance with the GRACE PERIOD provision.

If continued insurance under this provision ends and you have not returned to Active Work, you may be able to obtain insurance under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR TOTAL DISABILITY WITH WAIVER OF PREMIUM provision or CONVERSION provision.

If your Partial Disability may result in your Total Disability, we must receive notification of your potential Total Disability on our total disability claim form within 6 months of the date your Injury or Sickness occurred, or as soon as reasonably possible.

See the OPTIONS FOR PAYMENT OF PREMIUM FOR CONTINUED INSURANCE provision in the Premium Payments section of this Certificate for premium payment options.

### **CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR TOTAL DISABILITY WITH WAIVER OF PREMIUM**

If there is a conflict between this provision and any other provision of the Policy, this provision controls.

This provision only allows for continuation of life insurance. Accidental death and dismemberment insurance may not be continued under this provision.

When your insurance ends under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR INJURY OR SICKNESS provision or CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR PARTIAL DISABILITY provision, you may be able to continue insurance under this provision due to your Total Disability. After satisfaction of the Disability Elimination Period, and upon submission of proof of Total Disability acceptable to us, your insurance may be continued without payment of premium until insurance ends in accordance with this provision.

We must receive notification of your potential Total Disability on our total disability claim form within 6 months of the date your Injury or Sickness occurred, or as soon as reasonably possible.

Insurance may be continued under this provision if the following conditions are satisfied:

- a) you are Totally Disabled;
- b) you were under age 60 at the time you became Totally Disabled;
- c) the Disability Elimination Period is satisfied; and
- d) proof of Total Disability is provided to us (as described below in this provision).

The amount of insurance may not be increased while insured under this provision.

If you are age 60 or older and become Totally Disabled, you may be able to obtain insurance under the CONVERSION provision.

### **About the Disability Elimination Period**

The Disability Elimination Period is a period of 6 consecutive months. You do not have to be Totally Disabled while satisfying the Disability Elimination Period. Any period of time in which you are insured under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR INJURY OR SICKNESS provision will apply toward satisfaction of the Disability Elimination Period provided premiums are paid by you or on your behalf. Your insurance will continue during the Disability Elimination Period.

If your group life insurance ends before you are able to satisfy the Disability Elimination Period, you may be able to obtain insurance under the PORTABILITY provision or CONVERSION provision until the Disability Elimination Period is satisfied. If your continuation of insurance for Total Disability is approved, your insurance will be continued for the amount of life insurance in effect for you under the Policy on the last day of Active Work, subject to any reductions shown in the Schedule, you must surrender your Portability or Conversion policy and any premiums paid for such policy will be refunded.

### **Proof of Total Disability**

You must submit to us acceptable proof of Total Disability approved by our authorized representative in our home office before the end of the Disability Elimination Period or as soon as reasonably possible thereafter.

In order to confirm that you are Totally Disabled, we have the right to have you examined by a Physician of our choice at our expense.

If you are approved for continuation of insurance under this provision, we will periodically require proof of continuing Total Disability. We may have you examined by a Physician of our choice at any time during the first two years of Total Disability and once a year thereafter at our expense. If an additional examination is required due to questionable or disputed results of an examination, any additional examination may be at your expense.

### **When Continuation of Insurance for Total Disability is Approved**

We will notify you in writing if your proof of Total Disability is approved by us.

Once you are approved for insurance under this provision, a recurrent disability caused by, resulting from or contributed to by the prior Total Disability will be treated as part of your prior claim and you will not be required to satisfy another Disability Elimination Period if:

- a) you were continuously insured for the period between your prior claim and your recurrent disability; and
- b) your recurrent disability occurs within 6 months of the end of your prior claim.

### **When Continuation of Insurance for Total Disability is Not Approved**

We will notify you in writing if your proof of Total Disability is not approved by us. If at any time while you are insured under this provision we determine that you are no longer Totally Disabled, we will notify you in writing that you are no longer eligible to continue insurance under this provision.

If you are ineligible for insurance under this provision or your insurance under this provision ends, you will have 60 days from the date of our notice to submit a Written Request for insurance under the CONVERSION provision, if you have not returned to Active Work or you are not eligible for insurance under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR PARTIAL DISABILITY provision.

### **When Insurance Under this Provision Ends**

Insurance under this provision will end on the last day of the month which coincides with or follows the day:

- a) you are eligible to continue insurance under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR PARTIAL DISABILITY provision; or
- b) you return to Active Work.

Insurance under this provision will also end on the earliest of the day:

- a) you are no longer Totally Disabled;
- b) that is 90 days after the date of our request to you for proof of Total Disability if such proof has not been received by us;
- c) you fail to obtain an examination from a Physician of our choice as described in the PROOF OF TOTAL DISABILITY provision by a date established by us;
- d) you reach age 65; or
- e) you begin full-time employment with an employer other than the Policyholder.

In no event will insurance under this provision end less than one year from the day your Total Disability is approved by us.

Insurance under this provision also ends in accordance with the GRACE PERIOD provision.

## **CONVERSION**

This provision allows for conversion of life insurance. Conversion insurance is not available for accidental death and dismemberment insurance.

If group life insurance ends because your employment or membership in a class (as shown under Class(es) on the Schedule section of this Certificate) ends or your benefit amount reduces you may apply for an individual policy of life insurance other than term insurance ("Conversion Policy").

The Conversion Policy issued under this provision will be:

- a) any type of individual policy of life insurance then customarily issued by us for purposes of conversion, except term insurance;
- b) issued without any supplemental benefits; and
- c) for an amount of life insurance that is up to the amount of life insurance that ended or was reduced, less the amount of any other group life insurance the applicant becomes eligible for within 60 days after insurance ended or was reduced.

Premium is based on the standard premium rate for the Conversion Policy according to the amount of insurance, class of risk, gender and age of the applicant on the date the Conversion Policy takes effect.

The Conversion Policy will become effective on the later of the date of issue or 60 days after the date insurance ended or was reduced.

### **Notice of the Right to Obtain Insurance Under this Provision**

The conversion period is the period of time that is 60 days from the date insurance would otherwise end or reduce (Conversion Period). When insurance would otherwise end, notice of the right to convert may be given. If notice is not given at least 15 days after the start of the Conversion Period, an extension of the period of time to apply for continued insurance under this provision will be allowed. Any extension will expire on the earlier of:

- a) 15 days after notice has been received; or
- b) 60 days after the end of the Conversion Period, even if notice is not received.

If you are entitled to obtain a Conversion Policy and die within 60 days after insurance ends or reduces, we pay the amount of life insurance which could have been converted, even if you did not apply for a Conversion Policy.

### **How to Request Insurance Under this Provision**

Insurance is available without providing Evidence of Insurability. You must submit a Written Request for insurance under this provision. The Written Request and the initial premium due must be submitted to us within the Conversion Period.

### **Conversion Insurance and Your Return to Active Work**

If you are issued a Conversion Policy and again become eligible for insurance, insurance will become effective (subject to all eligibility requirements) only if any Conversion Policy(ies) is/are surrendered to us. If Conversion Policy(ies) are not surrendered, Evidence of Insurability will be required.

## **LIVING BENEFITS (ACCELERATED BENEFIT)**

Capitalized terms used in this section have the meanings assigned to them in the Definitions section of this Certificate.

This section only applies to the life insurance offered by the Policy. Accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance is not included under this section.

**The benefits received under this section may be taxable. Receipt of Living Benefits may adversely affect eligibility for Medicaid or other government benefits or entitlements. You should consult your personal tax advisor or the Social Security Administration before requesting Living Benefits.**

### **ABOUT LIVING BENEFITS**

If you incur a Terminal Condition while insured, you, your Spouse or your legal representative may submit a Written Request for Living Benefits.

The maximum amount of Living Benefits available is 80% of the amount of life insurance for you in effect at the time of the request or \$8,000, whichever is less. The minimum amount is 10% of the amount of life insurance in effect for you at the time of the request or \$1,000, whichever is greater.

We will pay Living Benefits to you in a lump sum, provided you are living at the time payment is made.

The amount of life insurance benefits payable for you in the event of death will be reduced by the amount of Living Benefits paid for you and will constitute full settlement of the amount of life insurance benefits payable under the Policy. Payment of Living Benefits has no effect on accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance benefits.

### **APPLYING FOR LIVING BENEFITS**

To apply for Living Benefits, you, your Spouse or your legal representative must provide us:

- a) a Written Request for Living Benefits; and
- b) satisfactory proof of your Terminal Condition, including an attending Physician's written statement.

You, your Spouse or your legal representative will receive information at the time of benefit payment about the amount of life insurance remaining in force after payment of Living Benefits.

### **CONDITIONS OF LIVING BENEFITS**

Living Benefits are subject to the following conditions:

- a) Living Benefits are payable for you only once;
- b) you can request Living Benefits in any \$1,000 increment, subject to the limits specified in this section;
- c) premium must continue to be paid on the full amount of life insurance, unless subject to waiver of premium under the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR TOTAL DISABILITY WITH WAIVER OF PREMIUM provision; and
- d) the amount of insurance you may obtain under the CONVERSION provision will be reduced by the amount of Living Benefits paid for you.

### **WHEN LIVING BENEFITS ARE NOT AVAILABLE**

Living Benefits are not available:

- a) when you have irrevocably assigned life insurance;
- b) if such benefits were paid under a Prior Plan;
- c) for any Terminal Condition caused by a suicide attempt or an intentionally self-inflicted Injury;
- d) during any Conversion Period;
- e) if the required premium is due and unpaid on the date the Written Request for Living Benefits is made;
- f) if requested after insurance ends; or
- g) if requested after the Policy terminates.

## ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT BENEFITS

Capitalized terms used in this section have the meanings assigned to them in the Definitions section of this Certificate.

### EXPOSURE AND DISAPPEARANCE

An Insured Person is presumed to have died, for the purposes of accidental death and dismemberment insurance, if after the forced landing, stranding, sinking or wrecking of a vehicle:

- a) the Insured Person disappears;
- b) the Insured Person's body is not found; and
- c) a valid death certificate is issued by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

Any loss that is due to exposure is covered as an Injury, provided such loss results directly from accidental exposure to the elements, is independent from all other causes and occurs while the Insured Person's coverage is in force.

### BENEFITS

#### Basic Benefits

If an Insured Person sustains one or more Injuries or dies as a result of an Accident, we will pay the benefit shown in the following table based upon the amount of the Principal Sum in effect at the time of the loss. If an Accident causes more than one loss shown in the table, we will pay only the largest benefit.

**Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits Table**

Loss	Benefit
Loss of Life	Principal Sum
Loss of Both Hands	Principal Sum
Loss of Both Feet	Principal Sum
Loss of Entire Sight of Both Eyes	Principal Sum
Loss of One Hand and One Foot	Principal Sum
Loss of One Hand and Entire Sight of One Eye	Principal Sum
Loss of One Foot and Entire Sight of One Eye	Principal Sum
Loss of Speech and Hearing (both ears)	Principal Sum
Loss of Entire Sight of One Eye	One-half Principal Sum
Loss of Speech or Hearing (both ears)	One-half Principal Sum
Loss of One Hand or One Foot	One-half Principal Sum
Loss of Thumb and Index Finger of same Hand	One-fourth Principal Sum
Quadriplegia (Paralysis of both upper and lower limbs)	Principal Sum
Triplegia (Paralysis of three limbs)	Three-quarters Principal Sum
Paraplegia (Paralysis of both lower limbs)	One-half Principal Sum
Hemiplegia (Paralysis of an upper and a lower limb)	One-half Principal Sum
Uniplegia (Paralysis of a limb)	One-fourth Principal Sum

Benefits for your insurance are payable to you or to the beneficiary for life insurance, unless otherwise indicated in a benefit provision included in this section.

#### Airbag Benefit

We will pay a benefit amount of 10% of the Principal Sum, up to a maximum of \$1,000 if an Insured Person dies as the result of an Accident from one or more Injuries sustained while driving or riding in the front seat of an Automobile directly behind an Airbag. This benefit amount is payable in addition to any other applicable benefits. A copy of the police accident report must be submitted with the claim. We will not pay this benefit if the Accident occurs while the Airbag was disengaged. This benefit amount is payable in addition to any other applicable benefits.

#### Common Carrier Benefit

We will pay a benefit amount equal to 100% of the Principal Sum if an Insured Person dies as the result of an Accident that occurs while a fare-paying passenger on a Common Carrier. This benefit amount is payable in addition to any other applicable benefits.

We will not pay this benefit if the Insured Person was an operator or member of the crew on the Common Carrier at the time of the Accident.

### **Seat Belt Benefit**

We will pay a benefit amount of 10% of the Principal Sum, up to a maximum of \$1,000 if an Insured Person dies as the result of an Accident from one or more Injuries sustained while driving or riding in an Automobile and wearing a Seat Belt.

This benefit amount is payable in addition to any other applicable benefits. A copy of the police accident report must be submitted with the claim. We will not pay this benefit if the Accident occurs while the Seat Belt was being used to restrain more than one person, or if the Seat Belt was an automatic Seat Belt and the lap belt was not fastened.

### **Child Education Benefit**

We will pay a benefit amount of 5% of the Principal Sum, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year, for the education of a Student if you die as the result of an Accident.

The Dependent child must become a Student within 365 days after the Accident (if not already a Student). The Student must continue to be enrolled for each consecutive term for the benefit to be payable. This benefit is payable to the Student or, if a minor child, to the individual that incurs the education expense, at the end of each school term for up to 4 consecutive years for each Student. This benefit amount is payable in addition to any other applicable benefits.

A Dependent child does not have to be insured for this benefit to be payable. If both parents of the Dependent child are insured, benefits under this provision will be limited to payment under only one parent. A copy of the Student's most recent grade report and tuition statement must be submitted with the claim.

For purposes of this benefit, the term Student does not include a Dependent child attending high school.

### **Coma Benefit**

We will pay a monthly benefit amount of 5% of the Principal Sum. Benefits will be payable to the Insured Person's legal representative or legally appointed guardian at the end of the month for up to 20 months if:

- a) the Insured Person sustains one or more Injuries as the result of an Accident and becomes Comatose within 31 consecutive days of the Injury; and
- b) the Insured Person remains Comatose for 31 consecutive days.

If the Insured Person's Glasgow Coma Score temporarily becomes nine (9) points or higher and then reverts to eight (8) points or less, this will not cause a discontinuance in the benefit payment if the lapses and subsequent Coma recurrences are due to the same Injury.

Benefits will be payable until the earlier of:

- a) the end of the month in which the Insured Person is no longer Comatose; or
- b) the end of the month in which the Insured Person dies.

## **EXCLUSIONS**

We will not pay for any loss which:

- a) results, whether the Insured Person is sane or insane, from:
  1. an intentionally self-inflicted Injury or Sickness; or
  2. suicide or attempted suicide;
- b) results from an Insured Person's voluntary Participation in a Riot, commission of or attempt to commit a felony, participation in illegal activities or participation in an illegal occupation;
- c) occurs while an Insured Person is incarcerated or imprisoned;
- d) results from an act of declared or undeclared war or armed aggression;
- e) occurs while an Insured Person is on active duty or training in the Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves of any state or country and for which any governmental body or its agencies are liable;
- f) is not permanent, unless specifically provided;
- g) occurs more than 365 days after the Injury, except that this 365 day limit will not apply if an Insured Person is Comatose or being kept alive by an artificial support system at the end of the 365 days;
- h) does not result from an Accident;

- i) results from an Insured Person's intentional or voluntary use of poison, gas or fumes, whether by ingestion, injection, inhalation or absorption, including self-infliction of carbon monoxide poisoning emanating from a motor vehicle;
- j) occurs when an Insured Person is operating, learning to operate, riding as a passenger, departing or jumping from any aircraft (including those that are not motor driven, such as a hot air balloon), unless riding as a fare-paying passenger in a commercial aircraft on a regularly scheduled flight or while Traveling on Business of the Policyholder;
- k) occurs while an Insured Person is riding in or on any motorized vehicle or aircraft engaged in racing, endurance tests, off-road activities (for motorized vehicles), acrobatic tricks or stunts (for motorized vehicles), or acrobatic or stunt flying (for aircraft);
- l) occurs while an Insured Person is practicing for, participating in or officiating any semi-professional or professional competitive athletic contest for which any type of compensation or remuneration is received by the Insured Person;
- m) occurs while an Insured Person is engaged in skydiving, scuba diving, parachuting, hang gliding, bungee jumping, sail gliding, parasailing, parakiting, mountain climbing, base jumping, rock climbing or other similar high risk activities or extreme sports;
- n) is caused by the Insured Person, and is a result of Injuries the Insured Person receives due to:
  - 1. the voluntary use of illegal drugs;
  - 2. the intentional taking of over the counter medication not in accordance with recommended dosage and warning instruction; or
  - 3. the intentional misuse of prescription drugs;
- o) is caused by the Insured Person and is a result of Injuries the Insured Person receives while voluntarily Intoxicated.

## **PREMIUM PAYMENTS**

Capitalized terms used in this section have the meanings assigned to them in the Definitions section of this Certificate.

### **OPTIONS FOR PAYMENT OF PREMIUM FOR APPROVED CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE**

When insurance is continued we must receive premium payment when due for insurance to remain effective, unless otherwise stated or allowed in the Policy. Premium payment may be made in the following ways:

- a) the Policyholder may pay the premium; or
- b) you may pay premium to the Policyholder who will then submit premium to us.

Contact the Policyholder to determine which option is available to you.

Payment of premium does not guarantee eligibility for coverage.

### **GRACE PERIOD**

There is a grace period of 60 days for payment of premium. This means that, except for the initial premium, if premium is not paid on or before the date it is due, the premium must be paid in the 60-day grace period that follows. We consider premium to be paid on the date we receive it.

Insurance will stay in force during the grace period as long as premium is paid before the end of the grace period. If we receive written notice requesting cancellation of insurance on a current or future date, the grace period will not apply. Coverage will end on the cancellation date specified in such notice, as long as the full premium has been paid up to that date.

If premium is not paid by the end of the grace period, insurance will end the day after the last day of the grace period.

### **PREMIUM AND PREMIUM CHANGES**

The premium for insurance under the Policy is a monthly rate for each coverage option shown in the Schedule section of this Certificate.

The premium for insurance under the Policy is paid (in full) by the Policyholder. Contact the Policyholder for additional information on the current premium for the Policy.

If you request a change in the amount of insurance, the Policyholder will provide you with notice of your new premium amount upon request if you are responsible for the payment of premiums for insurance.

If there is a change in the amount of the premium for insurance in accordance with the terms of the Policy, or a change in the amount of insurance as the result of a request of the Policyholder, the Policyholder will provide you with notice of the change at least 15 days prior to the date of the change if you are responsible for the payment of premium for insurance.

Premium amounts will change if:

- a) you reach an age when benefits are reduced as described in the BENEFIT REDUCTIONS provision in the Schedule section of this Certificate; or
- b) premium rates under the Policy are changed.

## **CLAIMS PROVISIONS**

Capitalized terms used in this section have the meanings assigned to them in the Definitions section of this Certificate.

### **CLAIM FORMS**

Before benefits are considered, we must be given written proof of loss. A claim form can be requested from the Plan Administrator, from us or obtained on our website.

### **PROOF OF LOSS**

Written proof of loss must be given to us within 90 days from the date of loss. If it is not reasonably possible to give us proof within the required time, we will not reduce or deny a claim for this reason if the proof is supplied as soon as reasonably possible.

Written proof of loss includes a claim form we supply or be in a form and content acceptable to us. Proof of loss may also include statements completed by the claimant, the Policyholder or Physician which provide:

- a) the nature of the loss;
- b) the date of loss;
- c) the cause of loss; and
- d) a certified copy of the Insured Person's death certificate.

We may require supporting information which may include, but is not limited to, clinical records, charts, x-rays, and other diagnostic aids.

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION AND AUTOPSY**

We may require an Insured Person to be examined by a Physician as we direct to assist in determining whether benefits are payable. You may not impose any conditions on an examination such as pre-approval of the examiner, attendance of a third party or audio/video recording of the examination.

We will pay for these examinations; however, you may be responsible for fees associated with failure to notify the examination office of your appointment cancellation within the required amount of time specified by the examiner. We may recover this fee by reducing benefits that are payable. We will not require more than a reasonable number of examinations. Where not prohibited by law, we may also require an autopsy. We will pay for this autopsy.

### **HOW TO OBTAIN PLAN BENEFITS**

Forward the completed claim form to:  
United of Omaha Life Insurance Company  
3300 Mutual of Omaha Plaza  
Omaha, Nebraska 68175

### **CLAIM ASSISTANCE**

For assistance with filing a claim or an explanation of how a claim was paid, contact:  
United of Omaha Life Insurance Company  
3300 Mutual of Omaha Plaza  
Omaha, Nebraska 68175  
Call Toll-Free: 1-800-775-8805

## **PAYMENT OF CLAIMS**

Benefits will be paid immediately after we receive acceptable written proof of loss and any other required supporting information, but not later than two months after receipt of such proof or supporting information.

We will pay interest on any death benefit from the date of death to the date of payment at the interest rate credited to proceeds left on deposit with us.

Unless you have assigned this insurance, benefits for any Insured Person will be paid to you, except benefits payable due to your death will be paid to:

- a) your designated beneficiary(ies) or your designated beneficiary's assignee; if none, then to
- b) your surviving Spouse; if none, then to
- c) your surviving natural and/or adopted children, in equal shares; if none, then to
- d) your surviving parents, in equal shares; if none, then to
- e) your estate.

## **CLAIM REVIEW AND APPEAL PROCESS**

### **Claim Review**

We will notify the Claimant in writing of our decision to either approve or deny a claim within:

- a) 90 days of the date a life or accidental death and dismemberment claim is received by us; or
- b) 45 days of the date a continuation of insurance for total disability claim is received by us.

If we deny a claim in whole or in part, we will explain the reasons for our denial in our notice. If the Claimant disagrees with the reasons given, the Claimant, or authorized representative of such person, may ask that we reconsider the claim through the appeal process.

### **Appeal Process**

To appeal a denied claim, the Claimant must notify us and ask that we reconsider our original benefit decision within:

- a) 60 days after receiving notice of our denial of a life or accidental death and dismemberment claim; or
- b) 180 days after receiving notice of our denial of a continuation of insurance for total disability claim.

The Claimant's appeal request must be submitted to us in writing or electronically and should state the reasons the Claimant believes the claim denial was incorrect. Any additional information, documents or other materials that might allow us to change our original decision should also be included. Appeal requests must be sent to us at our Omaha, Nebraska address shown in the CLAIMS ASSISTANCE provision.

We will notify the Claimant in writing of our final claim decision within:

- a) 60 days after receiving a life or accidental death and dismemberment appeal request; or
- b) 45 days after receiving a continuation of insurance for total disability appeal request.

If we need more time due to circumstances beyond our control, we will inform the Claimant of our need for an extension prior to the end of this time frame.

### **Notice**

If the administration of the Policy is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Claimant may contact the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) for further review of a claim or to ask questions about the Claimant's rights under ERISA.

## **BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION**

In the event of your death, a beneficiary should be designated. Beneficiary records will be kept by the Policyholder, Plan Administrator or the office where beneficiary records for the Policy are kept. The most current beneficiary designation in effect under a Prior Plan will be accepted as a beneficiary designation under the Policy.

Certain states are community property states. If you live in a community property state and you designate someone other than your Spouse as a beneficiary, state law may require that your Spouse consent to such designation. If you do not obtain your Spouse's consent to the designation, then such designation may not be effective. Community property states as of the Policy Effective Date include: Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

Your beneficiary may be changed at any time by you or your assignee (if you have assigned this insurance). To make a change, a Written Request should be provided to the Policyholder, Plan Administrator or to the office where beneficiary records for the Policy are kept. When received by the Policyholder, the change will take effect as of the date the Written Request is signed. The change will not apply to any payments or other action taken by us before the Written Request was communicated to us by the Policyholder.

## **FACILITY OF PAYMENT**

We may pay an amount of up to \$250 to any person or entity that has incurred expenses related to your death and subsequent burial. An amount, if paid, will be deducted from the amount of life insurance benefits payable.

## **MODE OF PAYMENT**

Life insurance benefits will be paid by us in one lump sum. Accidental death and dismemberment benefits will be paid in one lump sum unless otherwise indicated in the Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits section of this Certificate.

## **REFUND TO US**

If it is found that we paid more benefits than we should have paid under the Policy, we will have the right to a refund from you or the recipient of benefits.

We also have a right to a refund for any payments due to:

- a) fraud or misrepresentation;
- b) any error we make in processing a claim;
- c) you or your agent's failure to provide complete information; or
- d) an Insured Person not being eligible for coverage.

You or the recipient of benefits must reimburse us in full. We will determine the method the repayment is to be made, including without limitation, reducing or withholding any benefits payable to you, your survivors or your estate under this or any other group insurance policy issued by us. We will credit any such payments to the refund until the refund is fully recovered.

If it is found that we paid less benefits than we should have paid under the Policy, we will make additional payments, as necessary.

## STANDARD PROVISIONS

Capitalized terms used in this section have the meanings assigned to them in this section or in other sections of the Policy.

### INSURANCE CONTRACT

The insurance contract consists of:

- a) the Policy (which includes this Certificate);
- b) the Policyholder's signed application attached to the Policy; and
- c) any signed application for you.

### CHANGES IN THE INSURANCE CONTRACT

The insurance contract may be changed (including reducing or terminating benefits or increasing premium costs) any time we and the Policyholder both agree to a change. No one else has the authority to change the insurance contract. A change in the insurance contract:

- a) does not require the consent of any Insured Person or beneficiary; and
- b) must be:
  1. in writing;
  2. made a part of the Policy; and
  3. signed by our authorized representative in our home office.

A change may affect any class of Insured Persons included in the Policy.

### INCONTESTABILITY

We will not contest this Policy after it has been in force two years, during an Insured Person's lifetime, except for nonpayment of premium.

In the absence of fraud, statements in an application are considered representations and not warranties. We will not use any statements in an Insured Person's application, to deny a claim or to contest the validity of this insurance unless we provide you, your beneficiary or legal representative with a copy of that application.

### LEGAL ACTIONS

No legal action can be brought until at least 60 days after we have been given written proof of loss. No legal action can be brought more than three years after the date written proof of loss is required, unless otherwise required by state law in your state of residence.

### CONFORMITY WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAW

Any provisions of the Policy which, on its effective date, is in conflict with the law of the federal government or the state in which an Insured Person resides on such date is hereby amended to conform to the minimum requirements of such law.

## DEFINITIONS

The defined terms used in this Certificate and Policy are shown in this section. With the exception of *our, we, us, you* and *your*, we have capitalized these terms wherever they appear to make them easier for you to find.

The definitions set forth below apply to both the singular and plural versions of the defined term.

*Accident, Accidental* means a sudden, unexpected and unforeseeable event resulting in one or more Injuries that occurs after the Policy Effective Date and while insurance is in effect for an Insured Person. Accident does include bacterial infection that is the natural and foreseeable result of an accidental Injury or accidental food poisoning.

*Actively Working, Active Work* means you are:

- a) performing the normal duties of your job for the Policyholder on a regular and continuous basis 20 or more hours each week; and
- b) receiving compensation from the Policyholder for work performed for the Policyholder.

You will be considered to be actively working on any day that is a regular paid holiday or day of vacation, or regular or scheduled non-working day, provided you were actively working on the last preceding regular work day.

*Airbag* means any factory-installed, inflatable, supplemental restraint device which meets published federal safety standards.

*Automobile* means an appropriately licensed private passenger motor vehicle for use on public roadways.

*Certificate* means this document that describes the benefits, terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the insurance provided under the Policy.

*Claimant* means the person who submits a claim for benefits for any Insured Person, including the authorized representative of such person.

*Coma, Comatose* means the Insured Person is in a profound stupor or state of complete and total unconsciousness with a Glasgow Coma Score of eight (8) points or less, requiring intubation for respiratory assistance. A coma does not include a medically induced coma or a coma that is the result of any alcohol or drug abuse.

*Common Carrier* means a method of common public transport with defined published routes, time schedules and rates approved by regulators. A common carrier includes public airlines, railroads, subways, trolleys, boats and bus lines. A common carrier does not include taxis, limousines, any privately chartered mode of transportation or any mode of transportation owned, operated or leased for by the Policyholder.

*Dependent* means a citizen, permanent resident or lawful resident of the United States who is:

- a) your Spouse;
- b) your natural born, legally adopted child or foster child;
- c) your stepchild;
- d) a child that you or your Spouse are required to provide insurance for under the terms of a decree, judgment or order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction; or
- e) any other child who lives with you in a regular parent/child relationship and who qualifies as your dependent as defined in the United States Internal Revenue Code.

A dependent does not include:

- a) anyone who is a member of the Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves of any state or country on active duty (except for temporary duty of 31 days or less);
- b) your divorced, legally separated or former Spouse;
- c) your child who is married (or in a domestic partnership, civil union partnership or equivalent);
- d) a stillborn child;
- e) your child if the child has been legally adopted by another person; or
- f) a child placed in your home by a social service agency which retains control over the child.

*Disability Elimination Period* means the period of time that must be satisfied before you are eligible to continue benefits, beginning on the date your Injury or Sickness occurred. The length of the disability elimination period is shown in the CONTINUATION OF INSURANCE FOR TOTAL DISABILITY WITH WAIVER OF PREMIUM provision.

*Dismemberment* means the removal of a body part by trauma, prolonged constriction, or surgery (amputation).

*Eligibility Waiting Period* means a continuous period of Active Work that you must satisfy before becoming eligible for insurance as described in the WHEN YOU BECOME ELIGIBLE FOR INSURANCE (ELIGIBILITY WAITING PERIOD) provision.

*Employee* means a person who is:

- a) a citizen or permanent resident of the United States; or
- b) lawfully and legally able to work in the United States pursuant to applicable federal and state laws; and
- c) receiving compensation from the Policyholder for work performed for the Policyholder at:
  1. the Policyholder's usual place of business;
  2. an alternative work site at the direction of the Policyholder; or
  3. a location to which the employee must travel to perform the job.

An employee does not include a person:

- a) who resides outside the United States for a period in excess of 12 consecutive months unless written approval has been received from our authorized representative in our home office;
- b) working for the Policyholder on a seasonal or temporary basis; or
- c) performing services for the Policyholder as an independent contractor, including persons for whom income is reported on a 1099 form or subject to the terms of a leasing agreement between the Policyholder and a leasing organization.

*Evidence of Insurability* means proof of good health acceptable to us. This proof may be obtained through questionnaires, physical exams or written documentation, as required by us.

*Family* means Spouse, former Spouse, children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and the spouses (or domestic partners, civil union partners or equivalent) of such individuals.

*Hospital* means a facility that is accredited, approved, certified or licensed as a general hospital by the proper authority of the state in which it is located to provide care and treatment for the condition causing confinement. A hospital does not include a facility or institution or part thereof which is licensed or used principally as a clinic, convalescent home, rest home, nursing home or home for the aged, halfway house or board and care facilities.

*Incapacitated* means that a Dependent child is continuously incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of intellectual disability, developmental disability, mental illness or physical disability.

*Injury* means bodily harm that:

- a) is a direct result of an Accident requiring treatment by a Physician;
- b) is independent of bodily infirmity, Sickness or medical or surgical treatment and all other causes; and
- c) occurs after the Policy Effective Date and while insurance is in effect for an Insured Person.

*Insured Persons* means you who is insured under the Policy.

*Intoxicated* means having a blood alcohol or drug level, at the time of the Accident, which equals or exceeds the legal limit for operating a motor vehicle as defined by the laws of the state where the Accident occurs.

*Living Benefits* means an advance payment of part of your life insurance death benefit.

*Loss of Both Feet, Loss of One Foot* means Severance of the foot or both feet above the ankle joint. Loss of a foot includes the Severance of an entire leg or Severance of any part of a leg that includes an entire foot.

*Loss of Both Hands, Loss of One Hand* means Severance of at least four whole fingers from one hand or both hands. Loss of a hand includes the Severance of an entire arm or Severance of any part of an arm that includes an entire hand.

*Loss of Entire Sight of Both Eyes, Loss of Entire Sight of One Eye* means total and permanent loss of sight in one or both eyes which cannot be corrected by any means, or Severance of one or both eyes.

*Loss of Hearing* means total and permanent loss of hearing in both ears which cannot be corrected by any means.

*Loss of Speech* means total and permanent loss of audible communication which cannot be corrected by any means.

*Loss of a Thumb and Index Finger of same Hand* means Severance of the thumb and index finger of the same hand at or proximal to the metacarpophalangeal joints (the joints that connect the fingers and the hand).

*Our, We, Us* means United of Omaha Life Insurance Company.

*Paralysis* means total and permanent loss of use of a limb without Severance. This loss must be determined by a Physician to be complete and irreversible. Forms of paralysis include quadriplegia, triplegia, hemiplegia, paraplegia and uniplegia.

*Partial Disability, Partially Disabled* means that, because of an Injury or Sickness lasting longer than 12 months, you are unable to perform the normal duties of your regular job for the Policyholder on a regular or continuous basis, but are able to satisfy all other requirements of the Active Work definition.

*Participation in a Riot* means actively participating in a tumultuous disturbance of the peace by three or more persons assembling together of their own authority with intent to mutually assist one another in an illegal or legal act.

*Physician* means a legally qualified medical doctor who is licensed to practice medicine, prescribe drugs or perform surgery, or any other licensed healthcare provider who is deemed to be the same as a legally qualified medical doctor. The physician must be acting within the scope of his/her license. A physician does not include the Insured Person or any Family member.

*Plan Administrator* means the person or entity designated as the plan administrator for the Policyholder's group life insurance plan.

*Policy* means the group policy issued to the Policyholder by us, including this Certificate.

*Policyholder* means Merkel Independent School District.

*Policy Anniversary* means September 1 of each Policy Year.

*Policy Effective Date* means September 1, 2025.

*Policy Year* means the period commencing on the Policy Effective Date and ending on the next succeeding Policy Anniversary and, thereafter, each 12-month period commencing on the Policy Anniversary.

*Prior Plan* means any similar insurance policy:

- a) replaced by insurance under part or all of the Policy; and
- b) in effect and maintained, sponsored by or available through the Policyholder on the day before the Policy Effective Date.

*Seat Belt* means a factory-installed lap and shoulder seat belt or other similar restraint device which meets published federal safety standards.

*Severance* means the complete separation and Dismemberment of the part from the body.

*Sickness* means a physical or mental disease, illness, infection, disorder or condition, including pregnancy and any drug or alcohol disorder, that requires treatment by a Physician, occurs after the Policy Effective Date and while insurance is in effect for an Insured Person.

*Spouse* means the person to whom you are legally married.

*Student* means your Dependent child who attends an accredited high school, trade school, college, university or other institution of higher learning and is enrolled full-time as indicated by evidence acceptable to us. Student includes a Dependent child who would otherwise qualify as a student but cannot maintain full-time enrollment due to Sickness or Injury.

*Terminal Condition* means an Injury or Sickness that is expected to result in your death within the next 12 months as certified by an attending Physician's written statement.

*Total Disability, Totally Disabled* means that because of an Injury or Sickness you are completely and continuously unable to perform any work or engage in any occupation.

*Traveling on Business of the Policyholder* means any trip made by you on assignment by or with authorization of the Policyholder for the purpose of furthering the business of the Policyholder. If this trip is made on a private aircraft, then the aircraft must:

- a) have a current and valid Federal Aviation Administration of the United States (FAA) standard airworthiness certificate; and
- b) be operated by a person holding a current and valid FAA pilot's certificate authorizing him or her to operate the aircraft.

*Written Request* means a request that is signed, dated and submitted to the Policyholder or us. The request must be on a form we supply or be in a form and content acceptable to us.

*You, Your* means the Employee who may be eligible or insured under the Policy.

**Group Term Life Benefits**

**Merkel Independent School District**

**Group Number: G000CRFL**

**United of Omaha Life Insurance Company**

**Home Office:  
3300 Mutual of Omaha Plaza  
Omaha, Nebraska 68175**

