

TEXAS PERSONAL AUTO POLICY



WACO, TEXAS

(A COUNTY MUTUAL COMPANY)

AGENT



4500 Fuller Dr., Suite 400
Irving, TX 75038

YOUR TEXAS PERSONAL AUTO POLICY – QUICK REFERENCE

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Where you can get information or make a complaint

If you have a question or a problem with a claim or your premium, contact your insurance company first. You can also get information or file a complaint with the Texas Department of Insurance.

Home State County Mutual Insurance Company

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

Call: Texas State Low Cost Insurance at 1-866-424-9514

Toll-free: 1-866-424-9514

Email: compliance@afaclaims.com

Mail: P.O. Box 143279, Irving, TX 75014

The Texas Department of Insurance

To get help with an insurance question, learn about your rights, or file a complaint with the state:

Call: 1-800-252-3439

Online: www.tdi.texas.gov

Email: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

Mail: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091

To compare policies and prices

Visit HelpInsure.com to compare prices and coverages on home and auto insurance policies. The website is a service of the Texas Department of Insurance and the Office of Public Insurance Counsel.

Donde puede obtener información o presentar una queja

Si tiene una pregunta o un problema con una reclamación o con su prima de seguro, comuníquese primero con su compañía de seguros. Usted también puede obtener información o presentar una queja ante el Departamento de Seguros de Texas (Texas Department of Insurance, por su nombre en inglés).

Home State County Mutual Insurance Company

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

Llame a: Texas State Low Cost Insurance at 1-866-424-9514

Teléfono gratuito: 1-866-424-9514

Correo electrónico: compliance@afaclaims.com

Dirección postal: P.O. Box 143279, Irving, TX 75014

El Departamento de Seguros de Texas

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

Llame: 1-800-252-3439

En línea: www.tdi.texas.gov

Correo electrónico: ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov

Dirección postal: MC 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091

Para comparar pólizas y precios

Visite HelpInsure.com para comparar precios y coberturas en pólizas de seguro para el hogar y automóvil. El sitio web es un servicio del Departamento de Seguros de Texas y de la Oficina del Asesor Público de Seguros (Office of Public Insurance Counsel, por su nombre en inglés).

TEXAS PERSONAL AUTO POLICY

AGREEMENT

In return for payment of the premium and subject to all the terms of this policy we agree with you as follows:

DEFINITIONS

- A. Throughout this policy, “you” and “your” refer to:
1. The “named insured” shown in the Declarations, and
 2. The spouse if a resident of the same household.
- B. “We”, “us” and “our” refer to the company providing this insurance.
- C. For purposes of this policy, a private passenger type auto or pickup or van shall be deemed to be owned by a person if leased:
1. Under a written agreement to that person; and
 2. For a continuous period of at least six months.

Other words and phrases are defined. They are boldfaced when used.

- D. “**Family member**” means a person who is a resident of your household and related to you by blood, marriage or adoption. This definition includes a ward or foster child who is a resident of your household, and also includes your spouse even when not a resident of your household during a period of separation in contemplation of divorce.
- E. “**Occupying**” means in, upon, getting in, on, out or off.
- F. “**Trailer**” means a vehicle designed to be pulled by a:
1. Private passenger auto; or
 2. Pickup or van.

It also means a farm wagon or farm implement while towed by a vehicle listed in F.1. or F.2. above.

- G. “**Your covered auto**” means:
1. Any vehicle shown in the Declarations;
 2. I. Any of the following types of vehicles on the date you became the owner:
 - a. a private passenger auto; or
 - b. a utility type vehicle, with a G.V.W. of 25,000 lbs. or less, of the pickup body, sedan delivery, panel truck, van type and multi-use type, not used for the delivery or transportation of goods, materials or supplies other than samples; unless, (1) the delivery of goods, materials or supplies is not the primary usage of the vehicle, or (2) used for farming or ranching.II. This provision (G.2) applies only if you:
 - a. acquire the vehicle during the policy period; and
 - b. notify us within 30 days after you become the owner.If the vehicle you acquire replaces one shown in the Declarations, it will have the same coverage as the vehicle it replaced. You must notify us of a replacement vehicle within 30 days only if you wish to add or continue Coverage for Damage to Your Auto. If the vehicle you acquire is in addition to any shown in the Declarations, it will have the broadest coverage we now provide for any vehicle shown in the Declarations.
 3. Any **trailer** you own.
 4. Any auto or **trailer** you do not own while used as a temporary substitute for any other vehicle described in this definition which is out of normal use because of its
 - a. breakdown;
 - b. repair;
 - c. servicing;
 - d. loss; or
 - e. destruction.
- H. “**Business day**” means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or holiday recognized by the state of Texas.

PART A – LIABILITY COVERAGE

INSURING AGREEMENT

- A. We will pay damages for bodily injury or property damage for which any **covered person** becomes legally responsible because of an auto accident. Property damage includes loss of use of the damaged property. Damages include prejudgment interest awarded against the **covered person**. We will settle or defend, as we consider appropriate, any claim or suit asking for these damages. In addition to our limit of liability, we will pay all defense costs we incur. Our duty to settle or defend ends when our limit of liability for this coverage has been exhausted.
- B. “**Covered person**” as used in this Part means:
1. You or any **family member** for the ownership, maintenance or use of any auto or **trailer**.
 2. Any person using **your covered auto**.
 3. For **your covered auto**, any person or organization but only with respect to legal responsibility for acts or omissions of a person for whom coverage is afforded under this Part.
 4. For any auto or **trailer**, other than **your covered auto**, any person or organization but only with respect to legal responsibility for acts or omissions of you or any **family member** for whom coverage is afforded under this Part. This provision (B.4.) applies only if the person or organization does not own or hire the auto or **trailer**.

SUPPLEMENTARY PAYMENTS

- In addition to our limit of liability, we will pay on behalf of a **covered person**:
1. Up to \$250 for the cost of bail bonds required because of an accident including related traffic law violations. The accident must result in bodily injury or property damage covered under this policy.
 2. Premiums on appeal bonds and bonds to release attachments in any suit we defend.

3. Interest accruing after a judgment is entered in any suit we defend. Our duty to pay interest ends when we offer to pay that part of the judgment which does not exceed our limit of liability for this coverage.
4. Up to \$50 a day for loss of earnings, but not other income, because of attendance at hearings or trials at our request.
5. Other reasonable expenses incurred at our request.

EXCLUSIONS

- A. We do not provide Liability Coverage for any person:
1. Who intentionally causes bodily injury or property damage;
 2. For damage to property owned or being transported by that person;
 3. I. For damage to property:
 - a. rented to;
 - b. used by; or
 - c. in the care of; that person.II. This exclusion (A.3.I.) does not apply to damage to:
 - a. a residence or private garage; or
 - b. any of the following type vehicles not owned by or furnished or available for the regular use of you or any **family member**:
 - (1) private passenger autos;
 - (2) **trailers**; or
 - (3) pickups or vans.However, the exclusion 3.I. does apply to a loss due to or as a consequence of a seizure of an auto listed in 3.II.b. by a federal or state law enforcement officers as evidence in a case against you under the Texas Controlled Substances Act or the federal Controlled Substances Act if you are convicted in such case.
 4. For bodily injury to an employee of that person during the course of employment. This exclusion (A.4.) does not apply to bodily injury to a domestic employee unless workers' compensation benefits are re-quired or available for that domestic employee.
 5. For that person's liability arising out of the ownership or operation of a vehicle while it is;
 - a. being used to carry persons for a fee; this does not apply to a share-the-expense car pool.
 - b. being used to carry property for a fee; this does not apply to you or any **family member** unless the primary usage of the vehicle is to carry property for a fee; or
 - c. rented or leased to another; this does not apply if you or any **family member** lends **your covered auto** to another for reimbursement of operating expenses only.
 6. While employed or otherwise engaged in the business or occupation of:
 - a. selling;
 - b. repairing;
 - c. servicing;
 - d. storing; or
 - e. parking;vehicles designed for use mainly on public highways. This includes road testing and delivery. This exclusion (A.6.) does not apply to the ownership, maintenance or use of **your covered auto** by:
 1. you;
 2. any **family member**; or
 3. any partner, agent or employee of you or any **family member**.
 7. Maintaining or using any vehicle while that person is employed or otherwise engaged in any business or occupation not described in Exclusion A.6. This exclusion (A.7.) does not apply to the maintenance or use of a:
 - a. private passenger auto;
 - b. pickup or van that is **your covered auto**; or
 - c. **trailer** used with a vehicle described in 7.a. or 7.b. above.
 8. Using a vehicle without a reasonable belief that that person is entitled to do so. This exclusion (8.) does not apply to you or any **family member** while using **your covered auto**.
 9. I. For bodily injury or property damage for which that person:
 - a. is an insured under a nuclear energy liability policy; or
 - b. would be an insured under a nuclear energy liability policy but for its termination upon exhaustion of its limit of liability.II. A nuclear energy liability policy is a policy issued by any of the following or their successors:
 - a. American Nuclear Insurers;
 - b. Mutual Atomic Energy Liability Underwriters; or
 - c. Nuclear Insurance Association of Canada.
- B. We do not provide Liability Coverage for the ownership, maintenance or use of:
1. Any motorized vehicle having fewer than four wheels;
 2. Any vehicle, other than **your covered auto**, which is:
 - a. owned by you; or
 - b. furnished or available for your regular use.
 3. I. Any vehicle, other than **your covered auto**, which is:
 - a. owned by any **family member**; or
 - b. furnished or available for the regular use of any **family member**.II. However, this exclusion (B.3.) does not apply to your maintenance or use of any vehicle which is:
 - a. owned by a **family member**; or
 - b. furnished or available for the regular use of a **family member**.

C. We do not provide Liability Coverage for you or any **family member** for bodily injury to you or any **family member**, except to the extent of the minimum limits of Liability Coverage required by Texas Civil Statutes, Article 6701h, entitled "Texas Motor Vehicle Safety - Responsibility Act."

LIMIT OF LIABILITY

A. If separate limits of liability for bodily injury and property damage liability are shown in the Declarations for this coverage the limit of liability for "each person" for bodily injury liability is our maximum limit of liability for all damages for bodily injury sustained by any one person in any one auto accident. Subject to this limit for "each person", the limit of liability shown in the Declarations for "each accident" for bodily injury liability is our maximum limit of liability for all damages for bodily injury resulting from any one auto accident. The limit of liability shown in the Declarations for "each accident" for property damage liability is our maximum limit of liability for all damages to all property resulting from any one auto accident.

If the limit of liability shown in the Declarations for this coverage is for combined bodily injury and property damage liability, it is our maximum limit of liability for all damages resulting from any one auto accident. This is the most we will pay regardless of the number of:

1. **Covered persons**;
2. Claims made;
3. Vehicles or premiums shown in the Declarations; or
4. Vehicles involved in the auto accident.

We will apply the limit of liability to provide any separate limits required by law for bodily injury and property damage liability. However, this provision will not change our total limit of liability.

B. Any payment under the Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists Coverage or the Personal Injury Protection Coverage of this policy to or for a **covered person** will reduce any amount that person is entitled to recover under this coverage.

OUT OF STATE COVERAGE

If an auto accident to which this policy applies occurs in any state or province other than the one in which **your covered auto** is principally garaged, we will interpret your policy for that accident as follows:

A. If the state or province has:

1. A financial responsibility or similar law specifying limits of liability for bodily injury or property damage higher than the limit shown in the Declarations, your policy will provide the higher specified limit.
2. A compulsory insurance or similar law requiring a nonresident to maintain insurance whenever the non-resident uses a vehicle in that state or province, your policy will provide at least the required minimum amounts and types of coverage.

B. No one will be entitled to duplicate payments for the same elements of loss.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY REQUIRED

When this policy is certified as future proof of financial responsibility, this policy shall comply with the law to the extent required.

OTHER INSURANCE

If there is other applicable liability insurance we will pay only our share of the loss. Our share is the proportion that our limit of liability bears to the total of all applicable limits.

However, any liability insurance we provide to a **covered person** for the maintenance or use of a vehicle you do not own shall be excess over any other applicable liability insurance.

PART B1 – MEDICAL PAYMENTS COVERAGE

INSURING AGREEMENT

A. We will pay reasonable expenses incurred for necessary medical and funeral services because of bodily injury:

1. Caused by accident; and
2. Sustained by a **covered person**.

We will pay only those expenses incurred within three years from the date of the accident.

B. "**Covered person**" as used in this Part means:

1. You or any **family member**:
 - a. while **occupying**; or
 - b. when struck by;
a motor vehicle designed for use mainly on public roads or a **trailer** of any type.
2. Any other person while **occupying your covered auto**.

EXCLUSIONS

We do not provide Medical Payments Coverage for any person for bodily injury:

1. Sustained while **occupying** any motorized vehicle having fewer than four wheels.
2. Sustained while **occupying your covered auto** when it is:
 - a. being used to carry persons for a fee; this does not apply to a share-the-expense car pool; or
 - b. being used to carry property for a fee; this does not apply to you or any **family member** unless the primary usage of the vehicle is to carry property for a fee; or
 - c. rented or leased to another; this does not apply if you or any **family member** lends **your covered auto** to another for reimbursement of operating expenses only.
3. Sustained while **occupying** any vehicle located for use as a residence or premises.
4. Occurring during the course of employment if workers' compensation benefits are required or available for the bodily injury.
5. Sustained while **occupying** or, when struck by, any vehicle (other than **your covered auto**) which is:
 - a. owned by you; or
 - b. furnished or available for your regular use.
6. Sustained while **occupying** or, when struck by, any vehicle (other than **your covered auto**) which is:
 - a. owned by any **family member**; or
 - b. furnished or available for the regular use of any **family member**.However, this exclusion (6.) does not apply to you.

7. Sustained while **occupying** a vehicle without a reasonable belief that person is entitled to do so. This exclusion (7.) does not apply to you or any **family member** while using **your covered auto**.
8. Sustained while **occupying** a vehicle when it is being used in the business or occupation of a **covered person**. This exclusion (8.) does not apply to bodily injury sustained while **occupying** a:
 - a. private passenger auto;
 - b. pickup or van that you own; or
 - c. **trailer** used with a vehicle described in (8.a. or 8.b.) above.
9. Caused by or as a consequence of:
 - a. discharge of a nuclear weapon (even if accidental);
 - b. war (declared or undeclared);
 - c. civil war;
 - d. insurrection; or
 - e. rebellion or revolution.
10. From or as a consequence of the following whether controlled or uncontrolled or however caused:
 - a. nuclear reaction;
 - b. radiation; or
 - c. radioactive contamination.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY

- A. The limit of liability shown in the Declarations for this coverage is our maximum limit of liability for each person injured in any one accident. This is the most we pay regardless of the number of:
1. **Covered persons**;
 2. Claims made;
 3. Vehicles or premiums shown in the Declarations; or
 4. Vehicles involved in the accident.
- B. Any amounts otherwise payable for expenses under this coverage shall be reduced by any amounts paid or payable for the same expenses under any Auto Liability or Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists Coverage provided by this policy.
- C. No payment will be made unless the injured person or that person's legal representative agrees in writing that any payment shall be applied toward any settlement or judgment that person receives under any Auto Liability or Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists Coverage provided by this policy.

OTHER INSURANCE

If there is other applicable auto medical payments insurance we will pay only our share of the loss. Our share is the proportion that our limit of liability bears to the total of all applicable limits. However, any insurance we provide with respect to a vehicle you do not own shall be excess over any other collectible auto insurance providing payments for medical or funeral expenses.

ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS

Payments for medical expenses will be paid directly to a physician or other health care provider if we receive a written assignment signed by the **covered person** to whom such benefits are payable.

PART B2 – PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION COVERAGE

INSURING AGREEMENT

- A. We will pay Personal Injury Protection benefits because of bodily injury:
1. resulting from a motor vehicle accident; and
 2. sustained by a **covered person**.
- Our payment will only be for losses or expenses incurred within three years from the date of accident.
- B. Personal Injury Protection benefits consist of:
1. Reasonable expenses incurred for necessary medical and funeral services.
 2. I. Eighty percent of a **covered person's** loss of income from employment. These benefits apply only if, at the time of the accident, the **covered person**
 - a. was an income producer; and
 - b. was in an occupational status.
 These benefits do not apply to any loss after the **covered person** dies.
 - II. Loss of income is the difference between
 - a. income which would have been earned had the **covered person** not been injured; and
 - b. the amount of income actually received from employment during the disability.
 - III. If the income being earned as of the date of accident is a salary or fixed remuneration, it shall be used in determining the amount of income which would have been earned. Otherwise, the average monthly income earned during the period (not more than 12 months) preceding the accident shall be used.
 3. I. Reasonable expenses incurred for obtaining services. These services must replace those a **covered person** would normally have performed:
 - a. without pay;
 - b. during a period of disability; and
 - c. for the care and maintenance of the family or household.
 - II. These benefits apply only if, at the time of the accident, the **covered person**:
 - a. was not an income producer; and
 - b. was not in an occupational status.
 The benefits do not apply to any loss after the **covered person** dies.
- C. "**Covered person**" as used in this Part means:
1. You or any **family member**:
 - a. while **occupying**; or
 - b. when struck by;
 - a motor vehicle designed for use mainly on public roads or a **trailer** of any type.
 2. Any other person while **occupying your covered auto** with your permission.

EXCLUSIONS

- We do not provide Personal Injury Protection Coverage for any person for bodily injury sustained:
1. In an accident caused intentionally by that person.

2. By that person while in the commission of a felony.
3. By that person while attempting to elude arrest by a law enforcement official.
4. While **occupying**, or when struck by, any motor vehicle (other than **your covered auto**) which is owned by you.
5. By a **family member** while **occupying**, or when struck by any motor vehicle (other than **your covered auto**) which is owned by a **family member**.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY The limit of liability shown in the Declarations for this coverage is our maximum limit of liability for each person injured in any one accident. This is the most we will pay regardless of the number of:

1. **Covered persons**;
2. Claims made;
3. Vehicles or premiums shown in the Declarations; or
4. Vehicles involved in the accident.

OTHER INSURANCE If there is other Personal Injury Protection Insurance, we will pay only our share. Our share is the proportion that our limit of liability bears to the total of all applicable limits. However, any insurance we provide with respect to a vehicle you do not own shall be excess over any other collectible Personal Injury Protection insurance.

OTHER PROVISIONS

A. Loss Payments. Benefits are payable:

1. Not more frequently than every two weeks; and
2. Within 30 days after satisfactory proof of claim is received.

B. Modification. The General Provision part of this policy entitled "Our Right To Recover Payment" does not apply to this coverage.

ASSIGNMENT OF BENEFITS Payments for medical expenses will be paid directly to a physician or other health care provider if we receive a written assignment signed by the **covered person** to whom such benefits are payable.

PART C – UNINSURED/UNDERINSURED MOTORISTS COVERAGE

INSURING AGREEMENT

A. We will pay damages which a **covered person** is legally entitled to recover from the owner or operator of an **uninsured motor vehicle** because of bodily injury sustained by a **covered person**, or **property damage**, caused by an accident.
The owner's or operator's liability for these damages must arise out of the ownership, maintenance or use of the **uninsured motor vehicle**.
Any judgment for damages arising out of a suit brought without our consent is not binding on us. If we and you do not agree as to whether or not a vehicle is actually uninsured, the burden of proof as to that issue shall be on us.

B. "Covered person" as used in this Part means:

1. You or any **family member**;
2. Any other person **occupying your covered auto**;
3. Any person for damages that person is entitled to recover because of bodily injury to which this coverage applies sustained by a person described in B.1. or B.2. above.

C. "Property damage" as used in this Part means injury to, destruction of or loss of use of:

1. **Your covered auto**, not including a temporary substitute auto.
2. Any property owned by a person listed in B.1. or B.2. of **covered person** while contained in **your covered auto**.
3. Any property owned by you or any **family member** while contained in any auto not owned, but being operated, by you or any **family member**.

D. I. "Uninsured motor vehicle" means a land motor vehicle or trailer of any type,

1. To which no liability bond or policy applies at the time of the accident,
2. Which is a hit and run vehicle whose operator or owner cannot be identified and which hits:
 - a. you or any **family member**;
 - b. a vehicle which you or any **family member** are **occupying**; or
 - c. **your covered auto**.
3. To which a liability bond or policy applies at the time of the accident but the bonding or insuring company:
 - a. denies coverage; or
 - b. is or becomes insolvent.
4. Which is an underinsured motor vehicle. An underinsured motor vehicle is one to which a liability bond or policy applies at the time of the accident but its limit of liability either:
 - a. is not enough to pay the full amount the **covered person** is legally entitled to recover as damages; or
 - b. has been reduced by payment of claims to an amount which is not enough to pay the full amount the **covered person** is legally entitled to recover as damages.

II. However, "**uninsured motor vehicle**" does not include any vehicle or equipment:

1. Owned by or furnished or available for the regular use of you or any **family member**.
2. Owned or operated by a self-insurer under any applicable motor vehicle law.
3. Owned by any governmental body unless:
 - a. the operator of the vehicle is uninsured; and
 - b. there is no statute imposing liability for damage because of bodily injury or **property damage** on the governmental body for an amount not less than the limit of liability for this coverage.
4. Operated on rails or crawler treads.
5. Designed mainly for use off public roads while not on public roads.
6. While located for use as a residence or premises.

EXCLUSIONS

- A. We do not provide Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists Coverage for any person:
1. For bodily injury sustained while **occupying**, or when struck by, any motor vehicle or trailer of any type owned by you or any **family member** which is not insured for this coverage under this policy.
 2. If that person or the legal representative settles the claim without our written consent.
 3. When **your covered auto** is:
 - a. being used to carry persons for a fee; this does not apply to a share-the-expense car pool; or
 - b. being used to carry property for a fee; this does not apply to you or any **family member** unless the primary usage of the vehicle is to carry property for a fee; or
 - c. rented or leased to another; this does not apply if you or any **family member** lends **your covered auto** to another for reimbursement of operating expenses only.
 4. For the first \$250 of the amount of damage to the property of that person as the result of any one accident.
 5. Using a vehicle without a reasonable belief that the person is entitled to do so. This exclusion (A.5.) does not apply to you or any **family member** while using **your covered auto**.
 6. For bodily injury or **property damage** resulting from the intentional acts of that person.
- B. This coverage shall not apply directly or indirectly to benefit:
1. Any insurer or self-insurer under any workers' compensation, disability benefits or similar law;
 2. Any insurer of property.
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LIMIT OF LIABILITY

- A. I. If separate limits of liability for bodily injury and **property damage** liability are shown in the Declarations for this coverage the limit of liability for "each person" for bodily injury liability is our maximum limit of liability for all damages for bodily injury sustained by any one person in any one motor vehicle accident. Subject to this limit for "each person", the limit of liability shown in the Declarations for "each accident" for bodily injury liability is our maximum limit of liability for all damages for bodily injury resulting from any one motor vehicle accident. The limit of liability shown in the Declarations for "each accident" for **property damage** liability is our maximum limit of liability for all damages to all property resulting from any one motor vehicle accident.
- If the limit of liability shown in the Declarations for this coverage is for combined bodily injury and **property damage** liability, it is our maximum limit of liability for all damages resulting from any one motor vehicle accident.
- This is the most we will pay regardless of the number of:
- a. **Covered persons**;
 - b. Claims made;
 - c. Policies or bonds applicable;
 - d. Vehicles or premiums shown in the Declarations; or
 - e. Vehicles involved in the accident.
- II. Subject to this maximum, our limit of liability will be the lesser of:
- a. The difference between the amount of a **covered person's** damages for bodily injury or **property damage** and the amount paid or payable to that **covered person** for such damages, by or on behalf of persons or organizations who may be legally responsible; and
 - b. The applicable limit of liability for this coverage.
- B. In order to avoid insurance benefits payments in excess of actual damages sustained, subject only to the limits set out in the Declarations and other applicable provisions of this coverage, we will pay all covered damages not paid or payable under any workers' compensation law, disability benefits law, any similar law, auto medical expense coverage or Personal Injury Protection Coverage.
- C. Any payment under this coverage to or for a **covered person** will reduce any amount that person is entitled to recover for the same damages under the Liability Coverage of this policy.
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OTHER INSURANCE

- A. If there is other applicable similar insurance we will pay only our share of the loss. Our share is the proportion that our limit of liability bears to the total of all applicable limits. However, any insurance we provide with respect to a vehicle you do not own shall be excess over any other collectible insurance.
- B. For any **property damage** to which the Coverage for Damage to Your Auto of this policy (or similar coverage from another policy) and this coverage both apply, you may choose the coverage from which damages will be paid. You may recover under both coverages, but only if:
1. Neither one by itself is sufficient to cover the loss;
 2. You pay the higher deductible amount (but you do not have to pay both deductibles); and
 3. You will not recover more than the actual damages.
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PART D – COVERAGE FOR DAMAGE TO YOUR AUTO**INSURING AGREEMENT**

- A. We will pay for direct and accidental loss to **your covered auto**, including its equipment less any applicable deductible shown in the Declarations. However, we will pay for loss caused by **collision** only if the Declarations indicate that Collision Coverage is provided.
- B. "**Collision**" means the upset, or **collision** with another object of **your covered auto**. However, loss caused by the following are not considered "**collision**":
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Missiles or falling objects; | 6. Hail, water or flood; |
| 2. Fire; | 7. Malicious mischief or vandalism; |
| 3. Theft or larceny; | 8. Riot or civil commotion; |
| 4. Explosion or earthquake; | 9. Contact with bird or animal; or |
| 5. Windstorm; | 10. Breakage of glass. |

If breakage of glass is caused by a **collision** or if loss is caused by contact with a bird or animal, you may elect to have it considered a loss caused by **collision**.

TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES

In addition, we will pay up to \$20 per day, to a maximum of \$600 for transportation expenses incurred by you. This applies only in the event of the total theft of **your covered auto**. We will pay only transportation expenses incurred during the period:

1. Beginning 48 hours after the theft; and
 2. Ending when **your covered auto** is returned to use or we pay for its loss.
-

EXCLUSIONS

We will not pay for:

1. Loss to **your covered auto** while it is:
 - a. being used to carry persons for a fee; this does not apply to a share-the-expense car pool; or
 - b. being used to carry property for a fee; this does not apply to you or any **family member** unless the primary usage of the vehicle is to carry property for a fee; or
 - c. rented or leased to another; this does not apply if you or any **family member** lends **your covered auto** to another for reimbursement of operating expenses only.
 2. Damage due and confined to:
 - a. wear and tear;
 - b. freezing;
 - c. mechanical or electrical breakdown or failure; or
 - d. road damage to tires.

This exclusion (2.) does not apply if the damage results from the total theft of **your covered auto**.
 3. Loss due to or as a consequence of:
 - a. radioactive contamination;
 - b. discharge of any nuclear weapon (even if accidental);
 - c. war (declared or undeclared);
 - d. civil war;
 - e. insurrection; or
 - f. rebellion or revolution.
 4. Loss to stereos, radios, and other sound reproducing equipment. This exclusion (4.) does not apply if the equipment is permanently installed in **your covered auto**.
 5. Loss to tapes, records or other devices for use with equipment designed for the reproduction of sound.
 6. Loss to a camper body or **trailer** not shown in the Declarations. This exclusion (6.) does not apply to a camper body or **trailer** you:
 - a. acquire during the policy period; and
 - b. notify us within thirty days after you become the owner.
 7. Loss to any vehicle while used as a temporary substitute for a vehicle you own which is out of normal use because of its:
 - a. breakdown;
 - b. repair;
 - c. servicing;
 - d. loss; or
 - e. destruction.
 8. When in or upon any **trailer**, loss to:
 - a. TV antennas;
 - b. awnings or cabanas; or
 - c. equipment designed to create additional living facilities.
 9. Loss to any of the following or their accessories:
 - a. citizens band radio;
 - b. two-way mobile radio;
 - c. telephone;
 - d. scanning monitor receiver; or
 - e. any device or instrument used for detection of radar or other speed measuring equipment.

This exclusion (9.) does not apply if the equipment is permanently installed in the opening of the dash or console of the auto. This opening must be normally used by the auto manufacturer for the installation of a radio.
 10. Loss to any custom furnishings or equipment in or upon any pickup or van. Custom furnishings or equipment include but are not limited to:
 - a. special carpeting and insulation, furniture, bars or television receivers;
 - b. facilities for cooking and sleeping;
 - c. height-extending roofs; or
 - d. custom murals, paintings or other decals or graphics.

This exclusion (10.) does not apply if the value of the custom furnishings or equipment has been reported to us prior to a loss and included in the premium for this coverage.
 11. Loss due to or as a consequence of a seizure of **your covered auto** by federal or state law enforcement officers as evidence in a case against you by the Texas Controlled Substances Act or the federal Controlled Substances Act if you are convicted in such case.
-

LIMIT OF LIABILITY

Our limit of liability for loss will be the lesser of the:

1. Actual cash value of the stolen or damaged property;
2. Amount necessary to repair or replace the property with other of like kind and quality; or
3. Amount stated in the Declarations of this policy.

The most we will pay for loss to equipment listed in Exclusion 4. is \$1500. Our payment for loss will be reduced by any applicable deductible shown in the Declarations.

At the mutual agreement of you and us, we will not apply the applicable deductible for a glass loss if the glass is repaired rather than replaced.

PAYMENT OF LOSS We may pay for loss in money or repair or replace the damaged or stolen property. We may, at our expense, return any stolen property to:

1. You; or
2. The address shown in this policy.

If we return stolen property we will pay for any damage resulting from the theft. We may keep all or part of the property at an agreed or appraised value.

NO BENEFIT TO BAILEE This insurance shall not directly or indirectly benefit any carrier or other bailee for hire.

OTHER INSURANCE

A. If other insurance also covers the loss we will pay only our share of the loss. Our share is the proportion that our limit of liability bears to the total of all applicable limits.

B. For any loss to which Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists Coverage (from this or any other policy) and this coverage both apply, you may choose the coverage from which damages will be paid.

You may recover under both coverages, but only if:

1. Neither one by itself is sufficient to cover the loss;
2. You pay the higher deductible amount (but you do not have to pay both deductibles); and
3. You will not recover more than the actual damages.

APPRAISAL If we and you do not agree on the amount of loss, either may demand an appraisal of the loss. In this event, each party will select a competent appraiser. The two appraisers will select an umpire. The appraisers will state separately the actual cash value and the amount of loss. If they fail to agree, they will submit their differences to the umpire. A decision agreed to by any two will be binding. Each party will:

1. Pay its chosen appraiser; and
2. Bear the expenses of the appraisal and umpire equally.

We do not waive any of our rights under this policy by agreeing to an appraisal.

PART E – DUTIES AFTER AN ACCIDENT OR LOSS

GENERAL DUTIES

A. We must be notified promptly of how, when and where the accident or loss happened. Notice should also include the names and addresses of any injured persons and of any witnesses. If we show that your failure to provide notice prejudices our defense, there is no liability coverage under the policy.

B. A person seeking any coverage must:

1. Cooperate with us in the investigation, settlement or defense of any claim or suit.
2. Promptly send us copies of any notices or legal papers received in connection with the accident or loss.
3. Submit, as often as we reasonably require, to physical exams by physicians we select. We will pay for these exams.
4. Authorize us to obtain:
 - a. medical records which are reasonably related to the injury or damage asserted; and
 - b. other pertinent records.
5. When required by us:
 - a. submit a sworn proof of loss;
 - b. submit to examination under oath.

C. Within 15 days after we receive your written notice of claim, we must:

1. acknowledge receipt of the claim.
If our acknowledgment of the claim is not in writing, we will keep a record of the date, method and content of our acknowledgment.
2. begin any investigation of the claim.
3. specify the information you must provide in accordance with paragraph B. above.
We may request more information, if during the investigation of the claim such additional information is necessary.

D. After we receive the information we request, we must notify you in writing whether the claim will be paid or has been denied or whether more information is needed:

1. within **15 business days**; or
2. within 30 days if we have reason to believe the loss resulted from arson.

E. If we do not approve payment of your claim or require more time for processing your claim, we must:

1. give the reasons for denying your claim, or
2. give the reasons we require more time to process your claim. But, we must either approve or deny your claim within 45 days after our requesting more time.

F. In the event of a weather-related catastrophe or major natural disaster, as defined by the Texas Department of Insurance, the claim-handling deadlines as stated above are extended for an additional 15 days.

G. Loss Payment

1. If we notify you that we will pay your claim, or part of your claim, we must pay within **5 business days** after we notify you.
2. If payment of your claim or part of your claim requires the performance of an act by you, we must pay within **5 business days** after the date you perform the act.

H. Notice of Settlement of Liability Claim

1. We will notify you in writing of any initial offer to compromise or settle a claim against you under the liability section of this policy. We will give you notice within 10 days after the date the offer is made.
2. We will notify you in writing of any settlement of a claim against you under the liability section of this policy. We will give you notice within 30 days after the date of the settlement.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES FOR UNINSURED/ UNDERINSURED MOTORISTS COVERAGE

- A person seeking Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists Coverage must also:
1. Promptly notify the police if a hit and run driver is involved;
 2. Promptly send us copies of the legal papers if a suit is brought;
 3. Take reasonable steps after loss, at our expense, to protect damaged property from further loss; and
 4. Permit us to inspect and appraise the damaged property before its repair or disposal.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES FOR COVERAGE FOR DAMAGE TO YOUR AUTO

- A person seeking Coverage for Damage to Your Auto must also:
1. Take reasonable steps after loss, to protect **your covered auto** and its equipment from further loss. We will pay reasonable expenses incurred to do this;
 2. Promptly notify the police if **your covered auto** is stolen; and
 3. Permit us to inspect and appraise the damaged property before its repair or disposal.

PART F – GENERAL PROVISIONS

BANKRUPTCY

Bankruptcy or insolvency of the **covered person** shall not relieve us of any obligations under this policy.

CHANGES

- A.** This policy contains all the agreements between you and us. Its terms may not be changed or waived except by endorsement issued by us.
- B.** If a change requires a premium adjustment, we will adjust the premium as of the effective date of change in accordance with rules prescribed by the Texas Department of Insurance or its successor. Changes during the policy term that may result in a premium increase or decrease include, but are not limited to, changes in:
1. The number, type or use classification of the insured autos;
 2. Operators using insured autos;
 3. The place of principal garaging of insured autos;
 4. Coverage, deductible or limits.
- C.** If this policy form is revised to provide more coverage without additional premium charge, we will automatically provide the additional coverage as of the date the revision is effective.
- D.** We will compute the premium at the rates in effect on each anniversary date of the policy's inception date for a policy written for more than a full year.

LEGAL ACTION AGAINST US

- A.** No legal action may be brought against us until there has been full compliance with all the terms of this policy. In addition, under Liability Coverage, no legal action may be brought against us until:
1. We agree in writing that the **covered person** has an obligation to pay; or
 2. The amount of that obligation has been finally determined by judgment after trial.
- B.** No person or organization has any right under this policy to bring us into any action to determine the liability of a **covered person**.

OUR RIGHT TO RECOVER PAYMENT

- A.** If we make a payment under this policy and the person to or for whom payment was made has a right to recover damages from another we shall be subrogated to that right. That person shall do:
1. Whatever is necessary to enable us to exercise our rights; and
 2. Nothing after loss to prejudice them.
- (A release of the insurer of an underinsured motor vehicle does not prejudice our rights.)
However, our rights in this paragraph do not apply under Part D, against any person using **your covered auto** with a reasonable belief that person is entitled to do so.
- B.** If we make a payment under this policy and the person to or for whom payment is made recovers damages from another, that person shall:
1. Hold in trust for us the proceeds of the recovery; and
 2. Reimburse us to the extent of our payment. (However, we may not claim the amount recovered from an insurer of any underinsured motor vehicle.)

POLICY PERIOD AND TERRITORY

- A.** This policy applies only to accidents and losses which occur:
1. During the policy period as shown in the Declarations; and
 2. Within the policy territory.
- B.** The policy territory is:
1. The United States of America, its territories or possessions;
 2. Puerto Rico; or
 3. Canada.
- This policy also applies to loss to, or accidents involving, **your covered auto** while being transported between their ports.

TERMINATION

- A.** Cancellation. This policy may be cancelled during the policy periods as follows:
1. The named insured shown in the Declarations may cancel by:
 - a. returning this policy to us; or
 - b. giving us advance written notice of the date cancellation is to take effect.
 2. We may cancel by mailing at least 10 days notice to the named insured shown in the Declarations at the address shown in this policy.
 3. After this policy is in effect for 60 days or if this is a renewal or continuation policy, we will cancel only:
 - a. if you submit a fraudulent claim; or
 - b. for nonpayment of premium; or
 - c. if your driver's license or motor vehicle registration or that of:
 - (1) any driver who lives with you; or
 - (2) any driver who customarily uses **your covered auto**has been suspended or revoked. However, we will not cancel if you consent to the attachment of an endorsement eliminating coverage when **your covered auto** is being operated by the driver whose license has been suspended or revoked.

4. We may not cancel this policy based solely on the fact that you are an elected official.
- B. Non-renewal.** If we decide not to renew or continue this policy, we will mail notice to the named insured shown in the Declarations at the address shown in this policy. Notice will be mailed at least 30 days before the end of the policy period. If the policy period is other than 1 year, we will have the right not to renew or continue it only at each anniversary of its original effective date. We will not refuse to renew because of a **covered person's** age. We may not refuse to renew this policy based solely on the fact that you are an elected official.
- C. Automatic Termination.** If, at any time, you obtain other insurance on **your covered auto**, any similar insurance provided by this policy will terminate as to that auto on the effective date of the other insurance. If we offer to renew or continue and you or your representative do not accept, this policy will automatically terminate at the end of the current policy period. Failure to pay the required renewal or continuation premium when due shall mean that you have not accepted our offer.
- D. Other Termination Provisions.**
1. We may deliver any notice instead of mailing it. Proof of mailing of any notice shall be sufficient proof of notice.
 2. If this policy is cancelled, you may be entitled to a premium refund. If so, we will send you the refund promptly. The premium refund, if any, will be computed pro rata, subject to the policy minimum premium. However, making or offering to make the refund is not a condition of cancellation.
 3. The effective date of cancellation stated in the notice shall become the end of the policy period.
 4. Any cancellation or restriction of coverage made without your consent will be of no effect, except as
 - a. provided for in this Termination provision under:
 - (1) Cancellation;
 - (2) Non-renewal; or
 - (3) Automatic Termination; or
 - b. required by the Texas Department of Insurance.

TRANSFER OF YOUR INTEREST IN THIS POLICY

- A.** Your rights and duties under this policy may not be assigned without our written consent. However, if a named insured shown in the Declarations dies, coverage will be provided for:
1. The surviving spouse if resident in the same household at the time of death. Coverage applies to the spouse as if a named insured shown in the Declarations.
 2. The legal representative of the deceased person as if a named insured shown in the Declarations. This applies only with respect to the representative's legal responsibility to maintain or use **your covered auto**.
- B.** Coverage will be provided until the end of the policy period.
- NOTE:** Refer to Medical Payments and/or Personal Injury Protection Coverages for Assignment of Benefits.

TWO OR MORE AUTO POLICIES

If this policy and any other auto insurance policy issued to you by us apply to the same accident, the maximum limit of our liability under all the policies shall not exceed the highest applicable limit of liability under one policy.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

This Company is licensed to operate under Chapter 912, Texas Insurance Code, and such statutes shall apply to and form a part of this policy the same as if written or printed upon, attached or appended hereto.

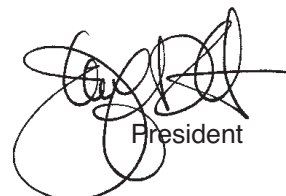
This policy is issued subject to the constitution and bylaws and all amendments thereto of the company, which shall form a part of this policy.

MUTUALS – MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING NOTICE – The insured is notified that by virtue of this policy, he is a member of the Home State County Mutual Insurance Company of Waco, Texas, and is entitled to vote either in person or by proxy at any and all meetings of said Company. The Annual Meetings are held in its Home Office at 4315 Lake Shore Drive, Suite J, Waco, Texas, on the first Tuesday following the second Monday in February in each year, at 10:00 o'clock A.M.

MUTUALS – PARTICIPATION CLAUSE WITHOUT CONTINGENT LIABILITY – No Contingent Liability: This policy is non-assessable. The policyholder is a member of the company and shall participate, to the extent and upon the conditions fixed and determined by the Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of law, in the distribution of dividends so fixed and determined.

In Witness Whereof, the company has caused this policy to be executed and attested.


Secretary


President

515A. EXCLUSION OF NAMED DRIVER AND PARTIAL REJECTION OF COVERAGES

WARNING

READ THIS ENDORSEMENT CAREFULLY!

This acknowledgement and rejection is applicable to all renewals issued by us or any affiliated insurer.

However, we must provide a notice with each renewal as follows: "This policy contains a named driver exclusion."

You agree that none of the insurance coverages afforded by this policy shall apply while

ANY LISTED EXCLUDED DRIVER

(The Excluded Driver)

is operating **your covered auto** or any other motor vehicle. You further agree that this endorsement will also serve as a rejection of Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists Coverage and Personal Injury Protection Coverage while **your covered auto** of any other motor vehicle is operated by the excluded driver.

523C. RENTAL REIMBURSEMENT COVERAGE

The provisions and exclusions that apply to Coverage For Damage To Your Auto also apply to this endorsement except as changed by this endorsement. No deductible applies to this coverage.

When there is a loss to **your covered auto** described in the Declarations for which a specific premium charge indicates that Rental Reimbursement Coverage is afforded:

We will reimburse you for expenses you incur to rent a substitute auto. We will pay up to the maximum of the limits described in the Declarations. This coverage applies only if:

1. **Your covered auto** is withdrawn from use for more than 24 hours, and
2. The loss to **your covered auto** is covered under Coverage For Damage To Your Auto of this policy.

When there is a total theft of the auto, the limit of \$20 per day (maximum of \$600) provided under Coverage For Damage To Your Auto will be supplemented to the extent the limits in the Declarations exceed that \$20 per day limit.

Our payment will be limited to that period of time reasonably required to repair or replace the auto.

524A. TOWING AND LABOR COSTS COVERAGE

We will pay towing and labor costs incurred each time **your covered auto** is disabled, up to the amount shown in the Declarations as applicable to that vehicle. We will only pay for labor performed at the place of disablement.

This coverage applies only to **your covered auto** for which a premium charge is shown in the Declarations for Towing and Labor Costs Coverage.

530.A LOSS PAYABLE CLAUSE

Loss or damage under Coverage for Damage to Your Auto shall be paid as interest may appear to you and the loss payee shown in the Declarations. This insurance covering the interest of the loss payee shall not become invalid because of your fraudulent acts or omissions, unless the loss results from your conversion, secretion or embezzlement of **your covered auto**. However, we reserve the right to cancel the policy as permitted by policy terms and the cancelation shall terminate this agreement as to the loss payee's interest. We will give the same advance notice of cancelation to the loss payee as we give to the named insured shown in the Declarations.

When we pay the loss payee we shall, to the extent of payment, be subrogated to the loss payee's rights of recovery.

551 MEXICO COVERAGE – LIMITED

WARNING

READ THIS ENDORSEMENT CAREFULLY!

Auto accidents in Mexico are subject to the laws of Mexico only—NOT the laws of the United States of America. Unlike the United States, the Republic of Mexico considers an auto accident a **CRIMINAL OFFENSE** as well as a civil matter.

In some cases, the coverage under this endorsement may NOT be recognized by Mexican authorities and the company may not be allowed to implement this coverage at all in Mexico. You should consider purchasing auto coverage from a licensed Mexican Insurance Company before driving into Mexico.

This endorsement does not apply to trips into Mexico that exceed 25 miles from the boundary of the United States of America.

The coverages for **your covered auto** provided by this policy are extended to accidents occurring in Mexico within 25 miles of the United States border. This extension only applies for infrequent trips into Mexico that do not exceed ten days at any one time.

Additional Exclusions

We do not provide any coverage:

1. if **your covered auto** is not principally garaged and used in the United States; and
2. to any **covered person** who does not live in the United States.

Special Conditions

1. Other Insurance. The insurance we provide by this endorsement will be excess over any other collectible insurance.
2. Losses Payable Under Coverage for Damage to Your Auto. We will pay losses under Coverage for Damage to Your Auto in the United States, not in Mexico. If **your covered auto** must be repaired in Mexico in order to be driven, we will not pay more than the actual cash value of such loss at the nearest United States point where the repairs can be made.

571A. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CERTIFICATION (SR-22 Filings)

For the additional premium shown in the Declarations of the policy we certify this policy as proof of financial responsibility as required by the Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act. If this policy is cancelled or terminated, we will give written notice to the Texas Department of Public Safety in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Act prior to the date of such cancellation or termination.

573A. SUPPLEMENTARY DEATH BENEFIT

Coverage under this endorsement is provided and payable only when other benefits are paid or payable under: Personal Injury Protection Coverage, Medical Payments Coverage and/or Auto Death Indemnity as afforded by this policy. This coverage is subject to the provisions of Personal Injury Protection Coverage, Medical Payments Coverage and/or Auto Death Indemnity except as limited by this endorsement.

It is agreed that Medical Payments Coverage, Personal Injury Protection Coverage and/or Auto Death Indemnity are extended to add the following:

INSURING AGREEMENT AND LIMIT OF LIABILITY.

We will pay a supplementary death benefit equal to the limit shown for the applicable coverages but not more than \$10,000 per person because of death:

1. Caused by an auto accident; and
2. Sustained by a **covered person** while wearing a **seat belt** or protected by an **airbag**.

We will pay benefits only if an auto accident was the proximate cause of death occurring within three years of the date of such accident. However, under Auto Death Indemnity, death must occur within one year of the date of such accident.

PROOF OF CLAIM.

We will pay benefits under this endorsement if the **beneficiary** gives us proof of death of the **covered person** along with a police report or other proof, that the **covered person** at the time of the auto accident, was wearing a **seat belt** or protected by an **airbag**.

OTHER COVERAGE PROVIDED BY THIS POLICY.

Any amounts payable under this endorsement shall not be reduced by any other amounts paid or payable under this policy.

DEFINITIONS.

“**Covered Person**” as used in this endorsement means the same as “**Covered Person**” as defined in the applicable Medical Payments Coverage and/or Personal Injury Protection Coverage. It also means the person or persons designated in Auto Death Indemnity if afforded.

“**Seat Belt**” means manual or automatic safety belts or seat and shoulder restraints or a child restraint device.

“**Airbag**” is a functioning airbag designed to protect the occupant of a seat in an auto.

“**Beneficiary**” means (in order of priority of payment):

1. the surviving spouse if a resident in the same household as the deceased at the time of the accident, or
2. if the deceased is an unmarried minor, either of the surviving parents who had legal custody at the time of the accident, or
3. the estate of the deceased.

578A. NAMED NON-OWNER COVERAGE

SCHEDULE

Named Non-Owner Special Vehicle Coverage as provided by this endorsement applies if a premium charge is shown below.

Premium \$ _____

I. DEFINITIONS

The Definitions Section is amended as follows:

A. The definition of “**your covered auto**” is replaced by the following:

“**Your covered auto**” means a motor vehicle designed for use mainly on public roads or a **trailer** of any type on the date you become the owner.

This provision applies only if you:

- a. acquire the vehicle during the policy period, and
- b. ask us to insure it within 30 days after you become the owner. The coverages will only apply for 30 days after you become the owner. Permanent coverage must be afforded under a separate policy.

This insurance does not apply if other insurance applies with respect to newly acquired autos or beyond the expiration date of this policy.

B. The definition of “**mobile equipment**” is added:

This insurance applies to liability for your use of any non-owned land vehicle (including any machinery or apparatus attached thereto), whether or not self-propelled, (1) not subject to motor vehicle registration, or (2) maintained for use exclusively on premises owned by or rented to the owner of such vehicle including the ways immediately adjoining, or (3) designed for use principally off public roads, or (4) designed or maintained for the sole purpose of affording mobility to equipment of the following types forming an integral part of or permanently attached to such vehicle: power cranes, shovels, loaders, diggers and drills; concrete mixers (other than the mix-in-transit type); graders, scrapers, rollers and other road construction or repair equipment; air compressors, pumps and generators, including spraying, welding and building cleaning equipment; and geophysical exploration and well servicing equipment which is an auto and not **mobile equipment**.

However, this insurance does not apply to liability arising out of the operation of any air compressors, sand blasting or other building surface cleaning machinery, vacuum cleaners (not street cleaners), welding apparatus, power cranes, ditch or trench diggers, loaders, drills, shovels, geophysical exploration equipment, oil well servicing equipment, tree or other spraying equipment and well drilling machinery attached to, mounted on or forming a part of such vehicle, whether such liability occurs in the course of such operation or subsequent thereto.

II. LIABILITY COVERAGE

Part A is amended as follows:

A. The definition of “**covered person**” is replaced by the following:

“**Covered person**” means:

1. You for the maintenance or use of any auto or **trailer** or **mobile equipment**.
2. For **your covered auto**, any person or organization but only with respect to legal responsibility for acts or omissions of a person for whom coverage is afforded under this Part.
3. For any auto or **trailer** or **mobile equipment**, other than **your covered auto**, any person or organization but only with respect to legal responsibility for acts or omissions of you for whom coverage is afforded under this Part. This provision

applies only if the person or organization does not own or hire the auto or **trailer** or **mobile equipment**.

B. The Exclusions Section is amended as follows:

1. Exclusion A.3. is replaced by the following:

For damage to property:

- a. rented to;
- b. used by; or
- c. in the care of,

that person.

This exclusion does not apply to damage to a residence or private garage caused by an auto which is insured under this endorsement.

2. Exclusion A.5. is deleted.

3. Exclusions A.6. and A.7. are replaced by the following:

Maintaining or using any vehicle in the business or occupation of that person. This exclusion does not apply to an auto operated or occupied by you.

4. Exclusion B.1. is deleted.

5. Exclusion B.2. is replaced by the following:

Any vehicle, other than **your covered auto**, which is owned by you.

6. Exclusion B.3. is replaced by the following:

Any vehicle other than **your covered auto**, which is owned by any **family member**. However, this exclusion does not apply to your maintenance or use of any vehicle which is owned by a **family member**.

C. The Out of State Coverage provision is replaced by the following:

OUT OF STATE COVERAGE

If an auto accident to which this policy applies occurs in any state or province other than where you reside, we will interpret your policy for that accident as follows:

If the state or province has:

1. A financial responsibility or similar law specifying limits of liability for bodily injury or property damage higher than the limit shown in the Schedule or in the Declarations, your policy will provide the higher specified limit.
2. A compulsory insurance or similar law requiring a nonresident to maintain insurance whenever the nonresident uses a vehicle in that state or province, your policy will provide at least the required minimum amounts and types of coverage.

No one will be entitled to duplicate payments for the same elements of loss.

III. MEDICAL PAYMENTS COVERAGE

Part B.1. is amended as follows:

A. The definition of "**covered person**" is replaced by the following:

"**Covered person**" means:

1. You:
 - a. while **occupying**; or
 - b. when struck by;

a motor vehicle designed for use mainly on public roads or a **trailer** of any type.

2. Any other person while **occupying your covered auto**.

B. The Exclusions Section is amended as follows:

1. Exclusion 1. and 2. do not apply.
2. Exclusion 5. is replaced by the following:

Sustained while **occupying** or, when struck by, any vehicle (other than **your covered auto**) which is owned by you.

3. Exclusion 6. does not apply.

4. Exclusion 8. is replaced by the following:

Sustained while **occupying** any vehicle used in the business or occupation of that person. This exclusion does not apply to a vehicle operated or occupied by you.

IV. UNINSURED/UNDERINSURED MOTORISTS COVERAGE

Part C is amended as follows:

A. The definition of “**covered person**” is replaced by the following:

“**Covered person**” means:

1. You,
2. Any other person **occupying your covered auto**.
3. Any person for damages that person is entitled to recover because of bodily injury to which the coverage applies sustained by a person described in 1. or 2. above.

B. The definition of “**property damage**” is replaced by the following:

“**Property damage**” means injury to, destruction of or loss of use of:

1. **Your covered auto**, not including a temporary substitute auto.
2. Any property owned by a person listed in 1. or 2. of **covered person** while contained in **your covered auto**.
3. Any property owned by you while contained in any auto not owned, but being operated, by you.

C. The definition of “**uninsured motor vehicle**” is replaced by the following:

“**Uninsured motor vehicle**” means a land motor vehicle or **trailer** of any type:

1. To which no liability bond or policy applies at the time of the accident.
2. Which is a hit and run vehicle whose operator or owner cannot be identified and which hits:
 - a. you;
 - b. a vehicle which you are **occupying**; or
 - c. **your covered auto**.
3. To which a liability bond or policy applies at the time of the accident but the bonding or insuring company:
 - a. denies coverage; or
 - b. is or becomes insolvent;
4. Which is an underinsured motor vehicle. An underinsured motor vehicle is one to which a liability bond or policy applies but its limit of liability:
 - a. is not enough to pay the full amount the **covered person** is legally entitled to recover as damages; or
 - b. has been reduced by the payment of claims to an amount which is not enough to pay the full amount the **covered person** is legally entitled to recover as damages.

However, “**uninsured motor vehicle**” does not include any vehicle or equipment:

1. Owned by or furnished or available for the regular use of you or any **family member**.
2. Owned or operated by a self-insurer under any applicable motor vehicle law.
3. Owned by any governmental body unless:
 - a. the operator of the vehicle is uninsured; and
 - b. there is no statute imposing liability for damage because of bodily injury or **property damage** on the governmental body for an amount not less than the limit of liability for this coverage.
4. Operated on rails or crawler treads.
5. Designed mainly for use off public roads while not on public roads.
6. While located for use as a residence or premises.

THIS ENDORSEMENT CHANGES THE POLICY. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

TEMPVEH.HSCM.2020 - TEMPORARY VEHICLE ENDORSEMENT

The parties agree to the following amendments to the policy:

DEFINITIONS

Definition **G** is amended by adding paragraph 5:

5. Any **temporary vehicle**.

The following definitions are added to the policy:

- I. **“Temporary vehicle”** includes a vehicle that is loaned or provided to a **covered person** by an **automobile repair facility** for the **covered person’s** use while the **covered person’s** vehicle is at the facility for service, repair, maintenance, or damage or to obtain an estimate and is:
1. in the lawful possession of the **covered person** or **family member** of the **covered person**;
 2. not owned by the **covered person**, any **family member** of the **covered person**, or any other person residing in the **covered persons** household; and
 3. operated by or in the possession of the **covered person** or **family member** of the covered person until the vehicle is returned to the **automobile repair facility**.

However, **temporary vehicle** does not include any vehicle that is not:

1. a private passenger automobile; or
2. a pickup, utility vehicle, or van with a gross vehicle weight of 14,000 pounds or less that is not used for the delivery or transportation of goods, materials, or supplies, other than samples, unless:
 - a. the delivery of the goods, materials, or supplies is not the primary use for which the vehicle is employed; or
 - b. the vehicle is used for farming or ranching.

- J. **“Automobile Repair Facility”** means a person who rebuilds, repairs, or services a motor vehicle for consideration or under a warranty, service, or maintenance contract.

PART A - LIABILITY COVERAGE EXCLUSIONS

Exclusion **A.3.II** is replaced by:

- II. This exclusion (A.3.1.) does not apply to damage to:
- a. a residence or private garage; or
 - b. any of the following type vehicles not owned by or furnished or available for the regular use of **you** or any **family member**:
 - (1) private passenger autos;
 - (2) trailers; or
 - (3) pickups or vans.
 - c. **Any “temporary vehicle”**.
- However, the exclusion **3.I** does apply to a loss due to or as a consequence of a seizure of an auto listed in **3.II.b** or **3.II.c** by a federal or state law enforcement officers as evidence in a case against you under the Texas Controlled Substances Act or the federal Controlled Substances Act if you are convicted in such case.

Exclusion **A.5.b** is replaced by:

- b. being used to carry property for a fee; this does not apply to a **temporary vehicle** or to you or any **family member** unless the primary usage of the vehicle is to carry property for a fee; or

OTHER INSURANCE

Other Insurance is replaced by:

If there is other applicable liability insurance we will pay only our share of the loss. Our share is the proportion that our limit of liability bears to the total of all applicable limits.
However, any liability insurance we provide to a **covered person** for the maintenance or use of a vehicle you do not own shall be excess over any other applicable liability insurance. However, we will provide primary insurance for a **temporary vehicle**.

PART D - COVERAGE FOR DAMAGE TO YOUR AUTO EXCLUSIONS

Exclusion 12. Is added:

12. Loss to any **temporary vehicle**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NON-RENEWALS FOR NOT-AT-FAULT ACCIDENTS OR CLAIMS (28 TAC §5.7016)

We may not use any of the following types of accidents or claims as the only reason for refusing to renew your personal auto policy:

1. A claim involving damage from a weather-related incident that does not involve a collision (some examples being hail, flood, tornado, winds or hurricanes);
2. an accident or claim involving damage by contact with an animal or a fowl;
3. an accident or claim involving damage caused by flying gravel, missiles or falling objects; however, if you have three of these losses in any 36-month period, we may increase your deductible to the higher of \$250 or the next available deductible increment higher than your present deductible amount, at your renewal date;
4. a claim under towing and labor protection; however, if you have four claims of this type in any 36-month period, we have the option of eliminating this coverage from your policy;
5. any other not-at-fault accident or claim unless there are two or more of these accidents or claims in any 12-month period.

“Refusal to renew” means our refusal to renew your personal auto policy in the same company which originally issued the policy.

To the extent of any possible conflict between this notice and the Texas Administrative Code (28 TAC §5.7016), the latter will be controlling.

CONSUMER BILL OF RIGHTS

Personal Automobile Insurance

AVISO: Este documento es un resumen de sus derechos como asegurado. Usted tiene el derecho a llamar a su compañía y pedir una copia de estos derechos en español.

What is the Bill of Rights?

This Bill of Rights is a summary of your rights and does not become a part of your policy. The Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) adopted the Bill of Rights and requires insurance companies to provide you a copy when they issue your policy.

Texas law gives you certain rights regarding your personal automobile insurance. This Bill of Rights identifies your rights specified by rule or by state statute, but it does not include all of your rights. Also, some exceptions to the rights are not listed here. Legislative or regulatory changes to statutes or rules may affect your rights as an insured. If your agent, company, or adjuster tells you that one of these rights does not apply to you, contact TDI's Consumer Protection Program at 1-800-252-3439 (1-800-252-3439 in Austin), by mail at Mail Code 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091, or by email at ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov. For a list of the specific law(s) and/or rule(s) summarized in each item of this Bill of Rights, or if you have questions or comments, contact the Office of Public Insurance Counsel (OPIC) at 1-877-611-6742, by mail at 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-120, Austin, TX 78701, or visit the OPIC website at www.opic.texas.gov.

This Bill of Rights does not address your responsibilities. Your responsibilities concerning your insurance can be found in your policy. Failure to meet your obligations may affect your rights.

Getting information from the Department of Insurance and your insurance company

1. **INFORMATION FROM TDI.** You have the right to call TDI free of charge at 1-800-252-3439 or 1-800-252-3439 in Austin to learn more about:

- your rights as an insurance consumer;
- the license status of an insurance company or agent;
- the financial condition of an insurance company;
- the complaint ratio and type of consumer complaints filed against an insurance company;
- use of credit information by insurance companies, including which insurance companies use it and access to each company's credit scoring model;
- an insurance company's rates filed with the state;
- an insurance company's underwriting guidelines (subject to exemptions in the Public Information Act, also known as the Open Records Act); and
- other consumer concerns.

You can also find some of this information on the TDI website at www.tdi.texas.gov.

At www.helpinsure.com, Texans can find more detailed information on their current and prospective insurers. TDI, in conjunction with OPIC, maintains this website to help Texans shop for residential property insurance and personal automobile insurance. For companies writing in Texas that are in the top 25 company groups nationally, the site also includes:

- a list of insurers by county and/or ZIP code;
- detailed contact information for each insurer;
- sample rates and a brief history of increases and/or decreases in the rates;
- policy form comparisons;
- a list of policy forms, exclusions, endorsements, and discounts offered by each insurer; and
- non-confidential disciplinary actions against each insurer.

2. INFORMATION FROM YOUR INSURANCE COMPANY.

You have the right to a toll-free number to call your insurance company free of charge with questions or complaints. You can find this number on a notice accompanying your policy. This requirement does not apply to small insurance companies.

What you should know before you buy insurance

3. **PROHIBITED STATEMENTS.** Your insurance company or agent is prohibited from making false, misleading, or deceptive statements to you relating to insurance.

4. **EXCESS LIMITS.** An insurer or agent cannot require you to purchase liability limits greater than the minimum limits required by law or require you to purchase other types of coverage as a condition of offering or renewing insurance. The current minimum limits are 30/60/25, which references the maximum amount the policy will pay for each accident: \$30,000 per person for a bodily injury claim /\$60,000 for all bodily injury claims combined /\$25,000 for property damage claims per accident.

NOTE: Texas law requires that automobile insurance policies include personal injury protection (PIP) and uninsured motorist protection (UM/UIM) unless you reject these coverages in writing. Also, as a condition of your automobile loan, your lender may require you to purchase other types of coverages, such as collision or comprehensive coverage, to pay for any damage to your vehicle.

5. **CREDIT INFORMATION.** An insurance company cannot deny you insurance solely on the basis of credit information. Insurers who use credit information must also consider other underwriting factors independent of credit information when deciding whether to offer coverage. (For additional information see section of this Bill of Rights titled *What you should know about insurance companies' use of credit information.*)

6. **SAFETY NET.** You have the right to buy minimum liability, personal injury protection, and uninsured motorist insurance through the Texas Automobile Insurance Plan Association, also known as TAIPA, if you have been denied coverage by two insurance companies.

7. **PAYMENT PLANS.** You have the right to pay your automobile insurance premium in installments. Insurance companies will charge a fee for each installment.

8. **ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS.** If you authorize your insurer to withdraw your premium payments directly from your financial institution, your insurer cannot increase the amount withdrawn unless:

- the insurer notifies you by U.S. mail of the increase in premium at least 30 days prior to its effective date; and
- you do not notify the insurer that you object to the increase in the amount to be withdrawn at least five days prior to the increase.

The notice provided by the insurer must include a toll-free number, a mailing address and an email address (if applicable), through which you can contact the insurer to object to the increase.

NOTE: This does not apply to premium increases specifically scheduled in the original policy, to increases based on policy changes you request, or to an increase that is less than \$10 or 10 percent of the previous month's payment.

9. **NOTICE OF REDUCED COVERAGE.** If an insurer uses an endorsement to reduce the amount of coverage provided by your policy, the insurer must give you a written explanation of the change made by the endorsement. The insurer must provide the explanation not later than the 30th day before the effective date of the new or renewal policy. An insurance company cannot reduce coverage during the policy period unless you request the change. If you request the change, the company is not required to provide notice.
10. **EXPLANATION OF DENIAL.** Upon request, you have the right to be told in writing why you have been denied coverage. The written statement must fully explain the decision, including the precise incidents, circumstances, or risk factors that disqualified you. It must also state the sources of information used.

NOTE: The obligation to provide a written explanation applies to insurance companies directly. An independent agent does not have a specific duty to quote the lowest possible rate to a consumer or to provide a written statement explaining why the agent did not offer the consumer the lowest possible rate.

11. **RATE DIFFERENTIAL WITHIN A COUNTY.** If an insurance company subdivides a county for the purpose of charging different rates for each subdivision, the difference between the lowest and the highest rate cannot exceed 15 percent unless actuarially justified.
12. **RIGHT TO PRIVACY.** You have the right to prevent an insurance company, agent, adjuster or financial institution from disclosing your personal financial information to companies that are not affiliated with the insurance company or financial institution. Some examples are income, social security number, credit history, and premium payment history.

If you apply for a policy, the insurance company or financial institution must notify you if it intends to share financial information about you and give you at least 30 days to refuse. This refusal is called "opting out." If you buy a policy, the insurance company or financial institution must tell you what information it collects about you and whether it intends to share any of the information, and give you at least 30 days to opt out. Agents and adjusters who intend to share your information with anyone other than the insurance company or financial institution must give you similar notices.

You can opt out at any time. Your decision to opt out remains in effect unless you revoke it.

These protections do not apply to information:

- publicly available elsewhere;

- insurance companies or financial institutions are required by law to disclose; or
- insurance companies or financial institutions must share in order to conduct ordinary business activities.

What you should know about cancellation and nonrenewal

Cancellation means that **before the end** of the policy period the insurance company:

- terminates the policy;
- reduces or restricts coverage under the policy; or
- refuses to provide additional coverage to which you are entitled under the policy.

Refusal to renew and **nonrenewal** mean the policy terminates **at the end** of the policy period.

The **policy period** is shown on the declarations page at the front of your policy.

13. **LIMITATION ON CANCELLATION.** After your initial policy with your company has been in effect for 60 days, that insurance company cannot cancel your policy unless:

- you don't pay your premium when due;
- you file a fraudulent claim;
- your driver's license or car registration is revoked or suspended;
- the driver's license of any household resident or person who customarily drives a covered auto is suspended or revoked. If you agree to exclude coverage for that person, the insurance company cannot cancel your policy for this reason; or
- TDI determines continuation of the policy would result in violation of insurance laws.

14. **NOTICE OF CANCELLATION.** To cancel your policy, your insurance company must mail notice at least 10 days prior to the effective date of the cancellation. Your policy may provide for even greater notice.

15. **POLICYHOLDER'S RIGHT TO CANCEL.** You have the right to cancel your policy at any time and receive a refund of the remaining premium. The refund will be paid to you unless your premium was financed through a premium finance company. In that case, the refund will be paid to the premium finance company to reduce the amount you owe on your loan.

16. **CHANGE IN MARITAL STATUS.** If your marital status changes, you have the right to continue your insurance coverage. You have a right to a new policy in your name that has coverages which most nearly approximate the coverages of your prior policy, including the same expiration date. The insurance company cannot date the new policy so that a gap in coverage occurs.

17. **NOT-AT-FAULT CLAIMS.** Your insurance company cannot refuse to renew your policy solely because of any of the following types of claims:

- claims involving damage from a weather-related incident that does not involve a collision, like damage from hail, wind or flood;

- accidents or claims involving damage by contact with animals or fowls;
 - accidents or claims involving damage caused by flying gravel or flying objects; however, if you have three of these claims in a three-year period, the insurance company may raise your deductible on your next renewal date;
 - towing and labor claims; however, once you have made four of these claims in a three-year period, the company may eliminate this coverage from your policy on your next renewal date; and
 - any other accident or claim that was not your fault unless you have two or more of these claims or accidents in a one-year period.
18. **USE OF AGE TO NONRENEW.** Your insurance company cannot refuse to renew your policy based solely on the age of any person covered by the policy. This includes placing you in a higher priced company or requiring a named driver exclusion for a teenager who reaches driving age.
19. **USE OF CREDIT INFORMATION TO NONRENEW.** An insurance company cannot refuse to renew your policy solely on the basis of credit information. Insurers who use credit information must also consider other underwriting factors independent of credit information when deciding whether to renew coverage. (For additional information see the section of this Bill of Rights titled *What you should know about insurance companies' use of credit information.*)
20. **LENGTH OF POLICY TERM.** If the term of your insurance policy is less than one year, your insurance company must renew that policy until it has been in effect for one year. Your insurance company may only refuse to renew your policy effective on the anniversary of the policy's original effective date. For instance, if your policy was originally effective on January 1, Year 1, the insurance company must renew your policy to provide coverage until January 1, Year 2, and thereafter, may only refuse to renew your policy effective January 1 of any subsequent year.
21. **NOTICE OF NONRENEWAL.** If the insurance company does not mail you notice of nonrenewal at least 30 days before your policy expires, you have the right to require the insurance company to renew your policy.
22. **EXPLANATION OF CANCELLATION OR NONRENEWAL.** Upon request, you have the right to a written explanation of an insurance company's decision to cancel or non-renew your policy. The written statement must fully explain the decision, including the precise incidents, circumstances, or risk factors that disqualified you. It must also state the sources of information used.
- What you should know when you file a claim**
23. **FAIR TREATMENT.** You have the right to be treated fairly and honestly when you make a claim. If you believe an insurance company has treated you unfairly, call the Department of Insurance at 1-800-252-3439 (1-800-252-3439 in Austin) or download a complaint form from the TDI website at www.tdi.texas.gov. You can complete a complaint form on-line via the Internet or fax it to TDI at 512-490-1007.
24. **SETTLEMENT OFFER.** You have the right to reject any settlement amount, including any unfair valuation, offered by the insurance company. If you reject a settlement offer,
- your options include continuing to negotiate with the insurer or pursuing legal remedies, such as mediation, arbitration, or filing a lawsuit.
25. **EXPLANATION OF CLAIM DENIAL.** Your insurance company must tell you in writing why your claim or part of your claim was denied.
26. **TIME FRAMES FOR CLAIM PROCESSING AND PAYMENT.** When you file a claim on your own policy, you have the right to have your claim processed and paid promptly. If the insurance company fails to meet required claims processing and payment deadlines, you have the right to collect 18 percent annual interest and attorney's fees in addition to your claim amount.
- Generally, within **15 calendar days**, your insurance company must acknowledge receipt of your claim and request any additional information reasonably related to your claim. Within **15 business days** after receipt of all requested information, the company must approve or deny your claim in writing. The law allows the insurance company to extend this deadline up to **45 days** if it notifies you that more time is needed and tells you why.
- After notifying you that your claim is approved, your insurance company must pay the claim **within five business days**.
- If your claim results from a weather-related catastrophe or other major natural disaster as defined by TDI, these claims handling deadlines are extended for an additional 15 days.
27. **CHOICE OF REPAIR SHOP AND REPLACEMENT PARTS.** You have the right to choose the repair shop and replacement parts for your vehicle. An insurance company may not specify the brand, type, kind, age, vendor, supplier, or condition of parts or products used to repair your automobile. The insurance company must provide you notice of the above requirements as follows:
- claims submitted by telephone – written notice within three business days or immediate verbal notice, followed by written notice within 15 days;
 - claims submitted in person – immediate written notice at the time you present your vehicle to an insurer or an insurance adjuster or other person in connection with a claim for damage repair; or
 - claims submitted in writing – written notice must be provided within three business days of the insurance company's receipt of the notice.
28. **DEDUCTIBLE RECOVERY.** If another person is liable for damage to your auto and you filed a claim and paid a deductible on your own policy, your insurance company must make a reasonable and diligent effort to recover the deductible from that person within twelve months from the date your claim is paid. If not, your company must:
- authorize you, at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the statute of limitations, to pursue your own collection efforts, or
 - refund your deductible.
29. **NOTICE OF LIABILITY CLAIM SETTLEMENT.** Your insurance company must notify you if it intends to pay a liability claim against your policy. The company must notify

you in writing of an initial offer to compromise or settle a claim against you no later than the 10th day after the date the offer is made. The company must notify you in writing of any settlement of a claim against you no later than the 30th day after the date of the settlement.

30. **INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED FOR CLAIM PROCESSING.** You have the right to refuse to provide your insurance company with information that does not relate to your claim. In addition, you may refuse to provide your federal income tax records unless your insurer gets a court order or your claim involves lost income or a fire loss.

What you should know about prohibited discrimination

31. **PROTECTED CLASSES.** An insurance company cannot discriminate against you by refusing to insure you; limiting the amount, extent or kind of coverage available to you; charging you a different rate for the same coverage; or refusing to renew your policy:

- because of race, color, religion, or national origin; or
- unless justified by actual or anticipated loss experience, because of age, gender, marital status, geographic location, or disability or partial disability.

32. **UNDERWRITING GUIDELINES.** Underwriting guidelines may not be unfairly discriminatory and must be based on sound actuarial principles.

33. **EQUAL TREATMENT.** Unless based on sound actuarial principles, an insurance company may not treat you differently from other individuals of the same class and essentially the same hazard. If you sustain economic damages as a result of such unfair discrimination, you have the right to sue that insurance company in Travis County District Court.

If your suit prevails, you may recover economic damages, court costs and attorney and necessary expert witness fees. If the court finds the insurance company knowingly violated your rights, it may award up to an additional \$25,000 per claimant.

You must bring the suit on or before the second anniversary of the date you were denied insurance or the unfair act occurred or the date you reasonably should have discovered the occurrence of the unfair act. If the court determines your suit was groundless and you brought the lawsuit in bad faith, or brought it for the purposes of harassment, you will be required to pay the insurance company's court costs and attorney fees.

What you should know about insurance companies' use of credit information

34. **REQUIRED DISCLOSURE.** If an insurance company uses credit information to make underwriting or rating decisions, the company must provide you a disclosure statement within 10 days after receiving your completed application for insurance.

The disclosure indicates whether the insurer will obtain and use your credit information and lists your specific legal rights, including:

- credit information insurance companies cannot use against you;
- how you can get reasonable exceptions that your

insurer is required to make to its use of credit information if certain life events, such as divorce, death of a close family member, or identity theft, hurt your credit;

- the notice* an insurer must send you when making a credit-based decision that harms your ability to get or keep insurance or requires you to pay a higher premium; and
- how you can dispute credit information and require an insurer to re-rate your policy if the rate was increased because of inaccurate or unverifiable credit information.

*The notice must include a description of up to four primary factors that influenced the action taken by the insurer.

Insurers must use the disclosure form (CD-1) adopted by the commissioner or an equivalent disclosure form filed prior to use with TDI. The CD-1 is available at www.tdi.texas.gov/forms/pcpersonal/pc328crtdts.pdf or by calling 1-800-252-3439. Additional information regarding insurers' use of credit information is available at www.tdi.texas.gov/credit/credit.html.

What you should know about enforcing your rights

35. **FILING YOUR COMPLAINTS.** You have the right to complain to TDI about any insurance company and/or insurance matter and to receive a prompt investigation and response to your complaint. To do so, you should:

- call TDI's **Consumer Help Line** at 1-800-252-3439 (1-800-252-3439 in Austin) for service in both English and Spanish;
- write to the Texas Department of Insurance, Consumer Protection, Mail Code 111-1A, P.O. Box 149091, Austin, Texas 78714-9091;
- e-mail TDI at ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov;
- fax your complaint to 512-490-1007;
- download or complete a complaint form online from the TDI website at www.tdi.texas.gov; or
- call the TDI Publications/Complaint Form order line at 1-800-599-SHOP (7467), (1-800-252-3439 in Austin). The order line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

NOTE: TDI offers interpreter services and publications in alternate formats. Persons needing more information in alternate layouts or languages can call the *TDI Consumer Help Line* listed above.

36. **RIGHT TO SUE.** If an insurance company violates your rights, you may be able to sue that company in court, including small claims court, with or without an attorney.

37. **BURDEN OF PROOF.** If you sue to recover under your insurance policy, the insurance company has the burden of proof as to any application of an exclusion in the policy and any exception to or other avoidance of coverage claimed by the insurer.

38. **REQUESTING NEW RULES.** You have the right to ask in writing that TDI make or change rules on any automobile insurance issue that concerns you. Send your written request to: Texas Department of Insurance, Attn: Commissioner (113-2A), P.O. Box 149104, Austin, TX 78714-9104.

DECLARACIÓN DE DERECHOS DEL CONSUMIDOR SEGUROS DE AUTOMÓVIL PERSONAL

¿Qué es la Declaración de Derechos?

Esta Declaración de Derechos es un resumen de sus derechos, y no forma parte de su póliza. El Departamento de Seguros de Texas (Texas Department of Insurance – TDI, por su nombre y siglas en inglés) adoptó la Declaración de Derechos y exige que la compañía de seguros le proporcione una copia cuando le expida su póliza.

La ley de Texas le otorga ciertos derechos respect a su seguro de automóvil. Esta Declaración de Derechos identifica sus derechos, los cuales han sido especificados por reglamento o por estatuto estatal, pero no incluye todos sus derechos. Tampoco se incluyen aquí algunas de las excepciones. Si su agente, compañía o ajustador le dice que alguno de estos derechos no le corresponde a usted, comuníquese con el Programa de Protección al Consumidor de TDI (TDI Consumer Protection Program, por su nombre en inglés) al 1-800-252- 3439, o por medio de correo postal a (111-1A), P. O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091, o por correo electrónico a ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov. Para obtener una lista de la ley(es) y/o reglamento(s) en específico que hemos resumido en esta Declaración de Derechos, o si tiene alguna pregunta o comentario, comuníquese con la Oficina del Asesor Público de Seguros (Office of Public Insurance Counsel – OPIC, por su nombre y siglas en inglés) al 1-877-611-6742, por correo postal al 333 Guadalupe, Suite 3-120, Austin, TX 78701, o visite el sitio Web de OPIC en www.opic.state.tx.us.

Esta Declaración de Derechos no menciona las responsabilidades suyas. Sus responsabilidades referentes a su seguro pueden ser encontradas en su póliza. No cumplir con sus obligaciones podría afectar sus derechos.

Cómo obtener información por parte del Departamento de Seguros y su compañía de seguros

1. INFORMACIÓN QUE PUEDE OBTENER DE TDI.

Usted tiene derecho a llamar gratis a TDI al 1-800-252-3439 o al para obtener más información sobre:

- sus derechos como consumidor de seguros;
- el estado de la licencia de una compañía de seguros o agente;
- la situación económica de una compañía de seguros;
- el promedio y tipo de quejas que los consumidores han presentado en contra de una compañía de seguros;
- la manera en que las compañías de seguros usan el historial de crédito, incluso cuáles la usan y la fórmula que cada compañía utiliza para las calificaciones de crédito;
- los precios que la compañía de seguros tiene registrados en el estado;
- las guías de aseguramiento de la compañía de seguros (sujeto a las excepciones provistas en la Ley de Información Pública, también conocida como la Ley de Archivos Públicos); y

- otros asuntos de interés al consumidor.

También puede encontrar alguna de esta información en el sitio Web de TDI en www.tdi.texas.gov.

En www.helpinsure.com, las personas en Texas pueden encontrar más información detallada sobre sus aseguradores actuales y futuros. TDI, en conjunto con OPIC, mantienen este sitio Web para ayudar a las personas en Texas a encontrar un seguro de propiedad residencial y de automóvil personal. Para obtener información sobre las compañías que expiden seguros en Texas, que se encuentran en los 25 principales grupos a nivel nacional, el sitio Web también incluye:

- una lista de las aseguradoras por condado y/o código postal;
- información de contacto detallada para cada aseguradora;
- muestras de los precios y un breve historial de los incrementos y/o reducciones en los precios;
- una lista de las formas de pólizas, exclusiones, endosos, y descuentos ofrecidos por cada aseguradora; y
- medidas disciplinarias no confidenciales en contra de cada aseguradora.

2. INFORMACIÓN QUE PUEDE OBTENER DE SU COMPAÑÍA DE SEGUROS.

Usted tiene derecho a que la compañía de seguros tenga un número telefónico al que pueda llamar gratis para hacer preguntas o presentar quejas. Este número lo puede encontrar en un aviso adjunto a su póliza. Las compañías de seguros pequeñas no están obligadas a cumplir con este requisito.

Lo que debe saber antes de comprar un seguro

3. **DECLARACIONES PROHIBIDAS.** Su compañía de seguros o agente tienen prohibido hacer declaraciones falsas, engañosas o embaucadoras con respecto a los seguros.

4. **EXCESO DE LOS LÍMITES.** Una aseguradora o un agente no pueden exigirle que compre un seguro de responsabilidad civil en cantidades superiores a los límites mínimos que son requeridos por la ley o exigirle que compre otros tipos de cobertura como condición para venderle o renovarle un seguro. Los límites mínimos actuales son 30/60/25, los cuales se refieren a las cantidades máximas que la póliza pague por cada accidente: \$30,000 por persona por una reclamación de lesiones corporales /\$60,000 por todas las reclamaciones combinadas de lesiones corporales /\$25,000 por reclamaciones de daños a la propiedad por cada accidente.

AVISO: La ley de Texas requiere que las pólizas de seguros de automóvil incluyan la protección para reclamaciones de lesiones personales (Personal Injury

Protection – PIP, por su nombre y siglas en inglés) y la cobertura de protección contra conductores sin seguro o con insuficiente seguro (Uninsured/Uninsured Motorist Coverage – UM/UIM, por su nombre y siglas en inglés) a menos que usted rechace estas coberturas por escrito. Además, es posible que como condición para autorizarle el préstamo para su auto, el prestamista le exija que compre otros tipos de cobertura, tal como la cobertura contra choque o cobertura amplia, que paguen por los daños al vehículo suyo.

5. INFORMACIÓN DE CRÉDITO. Una compañía de seguros no puede negarle el seguro basándose solamente en la información de su información de crédito. Las aseguradoras que utilizan el historial de crédito también tienen que considerar otros factores de aseguramiento independientes al historial de crédito cuando deciden ofrecerle cobertura. (Para obtener información adicional vea la sección de esta Declaración de Derechos titulada *Lo que usted debe saber sobre cómo usan el historial de crédito las compañías de seguros.*)

6. RED DE SEGURIDAD. Si dos compañías de seguros se han negado a venderle un seguro, usted tiene derecho a comprar cobertura mínima de responsabilidad civil, protección para reclamaciones de lesiones personales, así como la cobertura contra conductores sin seguro mediante la Asociación de Plan de Seguros de Automóvil de Texas (Texas Automobile Insurance Plan Association – TAIPA, por su nombre y siglas en inglés).

7. PLANES DE PAGO. Usted puede tener derecho a pagar su prima de seguro de automóvil a plazos. Las compañías de seguros le cobrarán una cuota por cada pago a plazos.

8. PAGOS ELECTRÓNICOS. Si usted autoriza que su aseguradora retire los pagos de su prima directamente de su cuenta bancaria, su aseguradora no puede aumentar la cantidad que retira, a menos que:

- le notifique por medio del correo postal de los Estados Unidos sobre el aumento de prima mínimo 30 días antes de la fecha en que el aumento entrará en vigor; y
- usted no notifique a la aseguradora que usted se opone al aumento en la cantidad que va a ser retirada de su cuenta, mínimo cinco días antes de la fecha en que el aumento entrará en vigor.

El aviso proporcionado por la aseguradora tiene que incluir un número de teléfono gratuito, una dirección postal y una dirección de correo electrónico (si es que aplica), mediante los cuales usted pueda comunicarse con la aseguradora para oponerse al aumento.

AVISO: Esto no aplica a los aumentos de prima específicamente programados en la póliza original, ni a los aumentos debido a cambios que usted solicita en la póliza, o a un aumento que es menos de \$10 o el 10 por ciento del pago del mes anterior.

9. AVISO DE REDUCCIÓN DE COBERTURA. Si una aseguradora usa un endoso para reducir la cantidad de la cobertura que es proporcionada por su póliza, la aseguradora tiene que darle una explicación por escrito sobre el cambio hecho mediante el endoso. La aseguradora tiene que darle esta explicación a no más tardar del día 30, antes de la fecha en que la nueva póliza o la renovación de la póliza entran en vigor. Una compañía de seguros no puede reducir la cobertura durante la vigencia de la póliza, a menos que usted solicite el cambio. Si usted solicita el cambio, la compañía no está obligada a darle aviso.

10. EXPLICACIÓN DE RECHAZO. A petición suya, usted tiene derecho a que se le informe por escrito el motivo por el que se le negó la cobertura. El aviso por escrito tiene que explicar detalladamente el motivo por el que decidieron negarle la cobertura, incluyendo los percances precisos, las circunstancias o los factores de riesgo que lo descalificaron. También tiene que informarle las fuentes de información que utilizó.

AVISO: La obligación de darle una explicación por escrito le corresponde directamente a las compañías de seguros. Los agentes independientes no tienen el deber específico de cotizarle el precio más bajo posible o darle una explicación por escrito del motivo por el que no le ofrecieron el precio más bajo posible.

11. PRECIOS DIFERENTES DENTRO DEL MISMO CONDADO. Si una compañía de seguros subdivide un condado con el propósito de cobrar diferentes precios en cada subdivisión, la diferencia entre el precio más bajo y el más alto no puede exceder el 15 por ciento, a menos que esté justificado por datos actuariales.

12. DERECHO A LA PRIVACIDAD. Usted tiene derecho a evitar que una compañía de seguros, agente, ajustador, o institución financiera revele sus datos financieros personales a las compañías que no están afiliadas a la compañía de seguros o institución financiera. Algunos ejemplos son: su ingreso, número de seguro social, información de crédito, y su historial de pago de primas.

Si usted solicita una póliza, la compañía de seguros o institución financiera tiene que avisarle si intenta compartir su información financier, y darle un mínimo de 30 días para que usted pueda rehusarse a permitir que los revelen. El rehusarse a que revelen sus datos se conoce como optar por no participar (opting out, por su nombre en inglés). Si usted compra una póliza, la compañía de seguros o institución financier tiene que decirle cuál información reúne sobre usted y si intenta compartirla, y darle un mínimo de 30 días para que pueda optar por no participar. Los agentes y ajustadores que intentan compartir sus datos con cualquiera ajeno a la aseguradora o institución financier también tienen que darle un aviso semejante.

Usted puede optar por no participar (opt out) en cualquier momento. Su decisión para optar por no participar permanece vigente, a menos que usted la revoque.

Estas protecciones no aplican a:

- la información que en otros lugares está a disposición del público;
- la información que las compañías de seguros o instituciones financieras están obligadas por ley a revelar; o
- la información que las compañías de seguros o instituciones financieras tienen que compartir para conducir sus actividades normales de negocios.

Lo que usted debe saber sobre las cancelaciones y no renovaciones

Cancelación significa que antes de terminar la vigencia de la póliza la compañía de seguros:

- termina la póliza;
- reduce o restringe la cobertura de la póliza; o
- se rehúsa a ofrecer cobertura adicional a la que usted tiene derecho bajo la póliza.

Rehuarse a renovar y no renovación significa que la póliza termina cuando termina la vigencia de la póliza.

El **período de vigencia de la póliza** se muestra en la página de declaraciones al frente de su póliza.

13. LIMITACIÓN EN LA CANCELACIÓN. Una vez que el período inicial de la póliza que expidió la compañía ha estado en vigor por 60 días, la compañía de seguros no puede cancelar la póliza a menos que:

- usted no pague la prima a su debido tiempo;
- usted presente una reclamación fraudulenta;
- su licencia de conducir o el registro de su auto sea revocado o suspendida;
- la licencia de conducir de cualquier residente de su hogar o individuo que regularmente maneja el auto asegurado sea suspendida o revocada. La compañía de seguros no puede cancelarle la póliza por este motivo si usted acepta excluir al individuo de la cobertura de su póliza; o
- si TDI determina que continuar la póliza resultaría en una infracción a las leyes de seguros.

14. AVISO DE CANCELACIÓN. Para cancelar su póliza, su compañía de seguros tiene que enviarle un aviso al menos 10 días antes de la fecha en que la cancelación entrará en vigor. Su póliza podría estipular más tiempo para este tipo de aviso.

15. EL DERECHO DEL ASEGURADO PARA CANCELAR LA PÓLIZA. Usted tiene derecho a cancelar su póliza en cualquier momento y recibir reembolso de la prima no devengada. El reembolso se lo pagaran a usted, a menos que la prima haya sido financiada por medio de una compañía financier de primas. En ese caso, el reembolso se le pagara a la compañía financier de primas para disminuir lo que usted debe en el préstamo.

16. CAMBIO EN SU ESTADO CIVIL. Si su estado civil cambi, usted tiene derecho a continuar con su cobertura de seguro. Usted tiene derecho a una póliza nueva, a su nombre, con coberturas que más se aproximen a las coberturas de su póliza anterior, incluso con la misma fecha de vencimiento. La compañía de seguros no puede fechar la nueva póliza de manera que entre la póliza anterior y la nueva haya un lapso de cobertura.

17. RECLAMACIONES QUE NO SON POR SU CULPA. Su compañía de seguros no puede rehusarse a renovar su póliza basándose únicamente en cualquiera de los siguientes tipos de reclamaciones:

- percances relacionados al mal tiempo en los que no estuvo involucrado un choque, or ejemplo danos causados por el granizo, viento, o inundaciones;
- accidents o reclamaciones por danos causados por collision con animals o aves;
- accidents o reclamaciones por danos causados por grava suelta u objetos volatiles; sin embargo, si usted presenta tres reclamaciones de este tipo en el transcurso de tres años, la compañía de seguros podria aumentar su deducible en la siguiente fecha de renovacion;
- gastos de grua y mano de obra; sin embargo, una vez que usted ha presentado cuatro reclamaciones de este tipo en el transcurso de tres años la compañía podria eliminar esta cobertura de su póliza en la siguiente fecha de renovacion; y
- cualquier otro accidente o reclamacion que no haya sido culpa suya, a menos que tenga dos o más de este tipo de reclamaciones o accidents en el transcurso de un año.

18. USO DE LA EDAD PARA NO RENOVAR. Su compañía de seguros no puede rehusarse a renovar la póliza basándose únicamente en la edad de cualquiera de las personas cubiertas por la póliza. Esto incluye asignarlo a usted a una compañía que cobra precios más caros o exigirle que excluya por nombre a un adolescente que cumple la edad de manejar.

19. EL USO DEL HISTORIAL DE CRÉDITO PARA NO RENOVAR. Una compañía de seguros no puede rehusarse a renovar su póliza basándose únicamente en su historial de crédito. Las aseguradoras que utilizan el historial de crédito para decidir si renuevan o no la póliza también tienen que considerar otros factores de aseguramiento independientes a la información de su historial de crédito. (Para obtener más información vea la sección de esta Declaración de Derechos titulada *Lo que usted debe saber sobre cómo usan el historial de crédito las compañías de seguros.*)

20. EL PERÍODO DE VIGENCIA DE LA PÓLIZA. Si el período de vigencia de su póliza de seguro es menos de un año, la compañía de seguros tiene que renovársela hasta que se complete un año. Su compañía de seguros solamente puede rehusarse a renovar la póliza en el aniversario de la fecha original de la póliza. Por ejemplo,

si el período de vigencia del primer año de su póliza comenzó el 1° de enero, la aseguradora tiene que renovar la póliza hasta el siguiente 1° de enero; el segundo año y posteriormente solamente puede rehusarse a renovarla el 1° de enero del cualquier año posterior.

21. AVISO DE NO RENOVACIÓN. Si la compañía de seguros no le envía por correo postal un aviso de no renovación al menos 30 días antes del vencimiento de su póliza, usted tiene derecho a exigir que la compañía de seguros renueve su póliza.

22. EXPLICACIÓN DE CANCELACIÓN O DE NO RENOVACIÓN. Usted tiene derecho, sujeto a que usted lo solicite, que la compañía de seguros le explique por escrito el motivo por el que decidió cancelar o no renovar la póliza. La explicación por escrito tiene que explicar totalmente el motivo, incluyendo los percances precisos, las circunstancias o los factores de riesgo que lo descalificaron. También tiene que informarle las fuentes de información que utilizó.

Lo que usted debe saber cuándo presenta una reclamación

23. TRATO JUSTO. Usted tiene derecho a que lo traten justa y honestamente cuando presenta una reclamación. Si cree que una compañía de seguros lo ha tratado injustamente, llame al Departamento de Seguros de Texas al 1-800-252-3439 o descargue un formulario de queja del sitio Web de TDI en www.tdi.texas.gov. Usted puede llenar el formulario directamente en nuestro sitio Web o enviarla por fax a TDI al 512-490-1007.

24. OFRECIMIENTO DE LIQUIDACIÓN. Usted tiene derecho a rechazar cualquier cantidad que la compañía de seguros le ofrezca para liquidar la reclamación, incluso cualquier valuación injusta. Si usted rechaza el ofrecimiento de una liquidación, sus opciones incluyen el continuar negociando con la aseguradora o buscar remedios legales tales como la mediación, el arbitraje o presentar una demanda.

25. EXPLICACIÓN DEL RECHAZO DE UN RECLAMACIÓN. Su compañía de seguros tiene que informarle por escrito el motivo por el que la reclamación o parte de la reclamación fue rechazada.

26. MARCOS DE TIEMPO PARA EL PROCESO Y PAGO DE LAS RECLAMACIONES. Cuando presenta una reclamación a cargo de su propia póliza usted tiene derecho a que sea procesada y pagada prontamente. Si la compañía de seguros no cumple con los marcos de tiempo estipulados para el proceso y pago de las reclamaciones, usted tiene derecho a cobrar un interés anual del 18 por ciento y honorarios de abogado, además de la suma de su reclamación.

Generalmente, dentro de **15 días naturales**, su compañía de seguros tiene que acusar recibo de la reclamación y solicitar cualquier información razonablemente relacionada a la misma. Dentro de **15 días hábiles**,

después de haber recibido la información que fue solicitada, la compañía tiene que apropar o denegar la reclamación por escrito. La ley permite que la compañía de seguros extienda este período de tiempo hasta por **45 días** si le avisa a usted que necesita más tiempo y le explica el motivo.

Después de notificarle que su reclamación ha sido aprobada, su compañía de seguros tiene que pagarla **dentro de los siguientes 5 días hábiles**.

Si su reclamación es a consecuencia de una catástrofe relacionada al mal tiempo u otro desastre grande de la naturaleza, según lo definido por TDI, los marcos de tiempo para el proceso de estas reclamaciones son extendidos a 15 días adicionales.

27. SU DERECHO A ESCOGER EL TALLER Y LAS REFACCIONES. Usted tiene derecho a escoger el taller y las refacciones para reparar su vehículo. Una compañía de seguros no puede especificar la marca, tipo, clase, edad, vendedor, proveedor, o la condición de las refacciones o productos usados para reparar su automóvil. La compañía de seguros tiene que darle aviso de los requisitos arriba mencionados de la siguiente manera:

- reclamaciones presentadas por teléfono – aviso por escrito dentro de tres días hábiles o aviso verbal inmediato, seguido por un aviso por escrito dentro de los siguientes 15 días;
- reclamaciones presentadas en persona – aviso inmediato por escrito a la hora que presenta su vehículo a la aseguradora o al ajustador o a otra persona en conexión con la reclamación para la reparación de los daños; o
- reclamaciones presentadas por escrito – aviso por escrito tiene que ser proporcionado dentro de tres días hábiles, a partir de la fecha en que la compañía de seguros recibe el aviso.

28. RECUPERACIÓN DEL DEDUCIBLE. Si otra persona es responsable por los daños a su vehículo y usted, bajo su póliza, presentó una reclamación y pagó el deducible, su compañía de seguros tiene que hacer un esfuerzo razonable y diligente para recuperar, de la otra persona, el deducible que usted pagó, y tiene que hacer esto en el transcurso de los 12 meses a partir de la fecha en que su reclamación es pagada. De no ser así, su compañía debe:

- darle autorización a usted, mínimo 90 días antes del vencimiento del estatuto de limitaciones (statute of limitations, por su nombre en inglés), para que usted pueda ejercer sus propios trámites de cobro, o
- reembolsarle el deducible.

29. AVISO DE PAGO DE RECLAMACIÓN POR RESPONSABILIDAD CIVIL. Su compañía de seguros tiene que avisarle si intent pagar una reclamación de responsabilidad civil a cargo de su póliza. La compañía tiene que avisarle a usted por escrito sobre cualquier

ofrecimiento que está haciendo para resolver o liquidar la reclamación en contra suya, y tiene que avisarle a más tardar el décimo día, a partir de la fecha en que se hace el ofrecimiento. La compañía tiene que avisarle por escrito cuando liquida cualquier reclamación en contra suya, y tiene que avisarle a más tardar el treinta día, a partir de la fecha en que se hace la liquidación.

30. INFORMACIÓN NO REQUERIDA PARA EL PROCESO DE UNA RECLAMACIÓN. Usted tiene derecho a rehusarse a proporcionar a su compañía de seguros información que no está relacionada con su reclamación. Además, usted puede rehusarse a proporcionar sus reportes de declaración de impuestos (federal income tax records, por su nombre en inglés), a menos que su aseguradora obtenga una orden judicial (court order, por su nombre en inglés) o si su reclamación está relacionada con la pérdida de ingresos debido a un incendio.

Lo que usted debe saber sobre lo que está prohibido en cuestión de discriminación

31. SECTORES PROTEGIDOS. Una compañía de seguros no puede discriminar en contra suya al rehusarse a asegurarlo, limitarle la cantidad, grado o clase de cobertura a disposición suya; tampoco puede cobrarle un precio diferente por la misma cobertura o rehusarse a renovar la póliza debido a:

- su raza, color, religión, u origen nacional; o
- su edad, sexo, estado civil, ubicación geográfica, incapacidad o incapacidad parcial, a menos que lo justifique con una experiencia de pérdidas reales o anticipadas.

32. GUIAS DE ASEGURAMIENTO. Las guías de aseguramiento no pueden ser injustamente discriminatorias, y tienen que estar basadas en principios sólidos de actuario.

33. IGUALDAD DE TRATO. A menos que se base en principios sólidos de actuario, la compañía de seguros no puede tratarlo de manera diferente a como trata a otros individuos de su misma clase y que esencialmente presentan el mismo riesgo. Si sostiene pérdidas económicas como resultado de este tipo de discriminación, usted tiene derecho a demandar a la compañía de seguros en una Corte de Distrito del Condado de Travis.

Si el veredicto es a su favor, usted podría recuperar sus pérdidas económicas, los costos de la corte, los honorarios de su abogado y de los testigos peritos necesarios. Si la corte determina que la compañía de seguros intencionadamente infraccionó sus derechos, también podría otorgar a cada reclamante una cantidad de hasta \$25,000.

La demanda tendría que presentarla a más tardar para el segundo aniversario de la fecha en que la aseguradora le negó el seguro o cuando la acción injusta ocurrió o en la fecha en que usted razonablemente debió haber descubierto que la acción injusta ocurrió. Si la corte

determina que la demanda no tiene fundamento y que usted la presentó de mala fe, o que la presentó con propósitos de acoso, usted estará obligado a pagar los costos de la corte y los honorarios del abogado de la compañía de seguros.

Lo que usted debe saber sobre cómo usan el historial de crédito las compañías de seguros

34. LA ASEGURADORA ESTA OBLIGADA A AVISARLE. Si una compañía de seguros utiliza el historial de crédito para hacer decisiones de aseguramiento o clasificación de póliza, la compañía está obligada a darle una declaración de divulgación del uso del historial de crédito dentro de los 10 días a partir de la fecha en que usted completó la solicitud de seguro.

Esa declaración revelará si la aseguradora obtendrá y utilizará su información de crédito, y enumerará sus derechos legales específicos, incluyendo:

- el historial de crédito que las compañías de seguros no pueden usar en contra suya;
- cómo es que usted puede conseguir que se le hagan excepciones razonables que su aseguradora está obligada a hacer cuando usa el historial de crédito si ciertas circunstancias de la vida afectan negativamente el historial de crédito, por ejemplo: un divorcio, fallecimiento de un familiar cercano o robo de identidad;
- el aviso* que una aseguradora tiene que enviarle cuando hace una decisión basada en su información de crédito que negativamente afecta su habilidad para obtener o mantener el seguro o requiere que usted pague una prima más alta; y
- cómo puede usted disputar el historial de crédito y requerir que la aseguradora reclasifique su póliza si el precio fue aumentado debido a información de crédito incorrecta o no verificable.

*El aviso tiene que incluir una descripción de hasta cuatro factores primarios que influenciaron la decisión de la aseguradora. Los términos generalizados, tal como "mala calificación de crédito" (poor credit rating, por su nombre en inglés), no son suficientes.

Las aseguradoras tienen que usar el formulario de Declaración de Divulgación del Uso de Información de Crédito (CD-1), el cual fue adoptado por el Comisionado o un formulario equivalente que antes de usar hayan registrado en TDI. El formulario CD-1 se encuentra disponible en nuestro sitio Web en www.tdi.texas.gov/forms/pcpersonal/pc328crdtds.pdf o puede pedirlo llamando al 1-800-252-3439. En nuestro sitio Web www.tdi.texas.gov/credit/credit.html, usted encontrará información adicional sobre el uso que hacen las aseguradoras del historial de crédito.

Lo que usted debe saber para ejercer sus derechos

35. PRESENTACIÓN DE QUEJAS. Usted tiene derecho a presentar una queja ante TDI sobre cualquier compañía de seguros y/o asunto de seguros y recibir una pronta investigación y respuesta a su queja. Para hacer esto, usted debe:

- llamar a la **Línea de Ayuda al Consumidor** de TDI (TDI's Consumer Help Line, por su nombre en inglés), al 1-800-252-3439 para obtener servicio en inglés y en español;
- escribir a la siguiente dirección, Texas Department of Insurance, Consumer Protection, (111-1A), P. O. Box 149091, Austin, TX 78714-9091;
- enviar un correo electrónico a TDI a ConsumerProtection@tdi.texas.gov;
- enviar su queja por fax al 512-490-1007;
- descargar o completar el formulario de queja en nuestro sitio Web en www.tdi.texas.gov; o
- llamar a nuestra Línea para Pedidos de Publicaciones/Formulario de Queja (TDI Publications/Complaint Form Order Line, por su nombre en inglés) al 1-800-599-SHOP (7467). La línea de pedidos de publicaciones está disponible las 24 horas del día, siete días a la semana.

AVISO: TDI ofrece servicios de intérprete y publicaciones en diferentes formatos. Las personas que necesitan información en diferentes formatos o idiomas pueden llamar a la *Línea de Ayuda al Consumidor de TDI* que se muestra en la parte de arriba.

36. DERECHO A DEMANDAR. Si alguna compañía de seguros infracciona sus derechos, usted puede demandar a la compañía en una corte, incluso en una corte para demandas pequeñas, con o sin abogado.

37. QUIEN TIENE LA OBLIGACIÓN DE PRESENTAR LAS PRUEBAS. Si usted demanda para recuperar bajo su póliza de seguro, la compañía de seguros es la que está obligada a presentar las pruebas del motivo por el que dice que ejercitó la exclusión, excepción o evasión de cobertura.

38. SOLICITUD PARA REGLAMENTOS NUEVOS. Usted tiene derecho a pedir por escrito que TDI establezca o cambie reglamentos, respecto a cualquier cuestión de seguros de automóvil que a usted le interese. Envíe u petición por escrito a: Texas Department of Insurance, Attn: Commissioner (113-2A), P.O. Box 149104, Austin, TX 78714-9104.