

STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY

A Stock Life Insurance Company
900 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204-1282
(503) 321-7000

CERTIFICATE AND SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Policyholder:	Windstream Services, LLC
Policy Number:	755555-C
Effective Date:	January 1, 2018

A Group Policy has been issued to the Policyholder. We certify that you will be insured as provided by the terms of the Group Policy. If your coverage is changed by an amendment to the Group Policy, we will provide the Policyholder with a revised Certificate or other notice to be given to you.

Possession of this Certificate does not necessarily mean you are insured. You are insured only if you meet the requirements set out in this Certificate. If the terms of the Certificate differ from the Group Policy, the terms stated in the Group Policy will govern.

"We", "us" and "our" mean Standard Insurance Company. "You" and "your" mean the Member. All other defined terms appear with the initial letter capitalized. Section headings, and references to them, appear in boldface type.



Chairman, President and CEO

GC190-LIFE/S399

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COVERAGE FEATURES

This section contains many of the features of your group life insurance. Other provisions, including exclusions and limitations, appear in other sections. Please refer to the text of each section for full details. The Table of Contents and the Index of Defined Terms help locate sections and definitions.

GENERAL POLICY INFORMATION

Group Policy Number:	755555-C
Type of Insurance Provided:	
Life Insurance:	Yes
Dependents Life Insurance:	Yes
Accidental Death And Dismemberment (AD&D) Insurance:	Not applicable
Policyholder:	Windstream Services, LLC
Employer(s):	Windstream Services, LLC
Group Policy Effective Date:	January 1, 2018
Policy Issued in:	Arkansas

BECOMING INSURED

To become insured for Life Insurance you must: (a) Be a Member; (b) Complete your Eligibility Waiting Period; and (c) Meet the requirements in **Life Insurance**. The requirements for becoming insured for coverages other than Life Insurance are set out in the text.

Definition of Member:	You are a Member if you are an employee of the Employer who retired under the Employer's retirement program as an active employee as determined and reported by the Employer and who was covered under Group Policy 755555-A or the Prior Plan.
Eligibility Waiting Period:	You are eligible on one of the following dates: If you are a Member on the Group Policy Effective Date, you are eligible on that date. If you become a Member after the Group Policy Effective Date, you are eligible on the date you become a Member.

PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS

Life Insurance:	Plan 1: Noncontributory Plan 2: Contributory
Dependents Life Insurance:	
Spouse:	Contributory
Child:	Contributory

SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE

SCHEDULE OF LIFE INSURANCE

For you:

Life Insurance Benefit:

You will become insured under Plan 1 if you meet the requirements to become insured under the Group Policy.

If you are insured under Plan 1, you may also become insured under Plan 2 if you meet the requirements to become insured under Plan 2 Life Insurance under the Group Policy. Plan 2 is a Contributory plan requiring premium contributions from Members.

Plan 1 (basic): \$5,000

Plan 2 (additional): You may apply as follows:

If you apply prior to February 1, 2014, you may apply for Life Insurance in multiples of \$500.

If you apply on or after February 1, 2014, you may apply for Life Insurance in multiples of \$1,000.

The following maximum amounts will apply:

Windstream non-union Members: the lesser of 3 times your Annual Earnings on the day prior to your retirement or 100% of the amount of contributory life insurance in effect for you under the Employer's group life insurance plan on the day prior to your retirement.

All other Members: 100% of the amount of contributory life insurance in effect for you under the Employer's group life insurance plan on the day prior to your retirement.

You may only apply for Plan 2 Life Insurance within 31 days following the date of your retirement.

The Repatriation Benefit:

The expenses incurred to transport your body to a mortuary near your primary place of residence, but not to exceed \$5,000 or 10% of the Life Insurance Benefit, whichever is less.

Dependents Life Insurance Benefit:

If you are insured under Plan 2 (additional) Life Insurance, you may apply for Dependents Life Insurance as follows:

Windstream non-union and
CWA 6171, 617101, 7019, 4485,
4486 and 4488 Members:

For your Spouse:

You may apply for Dependents Life Insurance for your Spouse in multiples of \$1,000. The maximum amount is 50% of the amount of your Plan 2 Life Insurance.

If your Dependents Life Insurance for your Spouse is a multiple of \$500 and is reduced in order to not exceed 50% of the amount of your Plan 2 Life Insurance, the amount of your Dependents Life Insurance for your

Spouse will be rounded down to the next lower multiple of \$1,000.

For your Child:

The amount of dependents life insurance in effect for you under the Employer's group life insurance plan on the day prior to your retirement.

The amount of Dependents Life Insurance for your Spouse or Child may not exceed 100% of the amount of your Plan 2 Life Insurance.

You may only apply for Dependents Life Insurance within 31 days following the date of your retirement.

All other Members: None.

REDUCTIONS IN INSURANCE

Life Insurance: Your insurance will not reduce due to your age.

Dependents Life Insurance: Your insurance will not reduce due to your Spouse's age.

OTHER BENEFITS

Waiver Of Premium: No

Accelerated Benefits: No

OTHER PROVISIONS

Limits on Right To Convert if Group Policy terminates or is amended:

Minimum Time Insured: 5 years

Maximum Conversion Amount: \$10,000

Suicide Exclusion: Applies to:

- a. Plan 2 Life Insurance
- b. Dependents Life Insurance on your Spouse

Annual Earnings based on: Annual Earnings means your annual rate of earnings from your Employer as of the December 31 prior to your last full day of Active Work.

LIFE INSURANCE

A. Insuring Clause

If you die while insured for Life Insurance, we will pay benefits according to the terms of the Group Policy after we receive Proof Of Loss satisfactory to us.

B. Amount Of Life Insurance

See the **Coverage Features** for the Life Insurance schedule.

C. Effective Date

Your insurance becomes effective on the date you become eligible if you apply on or before that date. You may not become insured if you apply more than 31 days after the date you become eligible.

D. Repatriation Benefit

The amount of the Repatriation Benefit is shown in the **Coverage Features**.

We will pay a Repatriation Benefit if all of the following requirements are met.

1. A Life Insurance Benefit is payable because of your death.
2. You die more than 200 miles from your primary place of residence.
3. Expenses are incurred to transport your body to a mortuary near your primary place of residence.

E. Suicide Exclusion: Life Insurance

If your death results from suicide or other intentionally self-inflicted Injury, while sane or insane, 1 and 2 below apply.

1. The amount payable will exclude the amount of your Life Insurance which is subject to this suicide exclusion and which has not been continuously in effect for at least 2 years on the date of your death. In computing the 2-year period, we will include time you were insured under the Prior Plan.
2. We will refund all premiums paid for that portion of your Life Insurance which is excluded from payment under this suicide exclusion.

F. When Life Insurance Ends

Life Insurance ends automatically on the earlier of:

1. The date the last period ends for which a premium was paid for your Life Insurance;
2. The date the Group Policy terminates.

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DEPENDENTS LIFE INSURANCE

A. Insuring Clause

If your Dependent dies while insured for Dependents Life Insurance, we will pay benefits according to the terms of the Group Policy after we receive Proof Of Loss satisfactory to us.

B. Amount Of Dependents Life Insurance

See the **Coverage Features** for the amount of your Dependents Life Insurance.

C. Effective Date

The date your Life Insurance becomes effective.

D. Definitions For Dependents Life Insurance

Dependent means your Spouse or Child. Dependent does not include a person who is a full-time member of the armed forces of any country.

E. When Dependents Life Insurance Ends

Dependents Life Insurance ends automatically on the earliest of:

1. Five months after you die (no premiums will be charged for your Dependents Life Insurance during this time);
2. The date your Life Insurance ends;
3. The date the Group Policy terminates, or the date Dependents Life Insurance terminates under the Group Policy;
4. The date the last period ends for which you made a premium contribution, if your Dependents Life Insurance is Contributory;
5. For your Spouse, the date of your divorce; and
6. For any Dependent, the date the Dependent ceases to be a Dependent.

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RIGHT TO CONVERT

A. Right To Convert

You may buy an individual policy of life insurance without Evidence Of Insurability if:

1. Your Insurance ends or is reduced due to a Qualifying Event; and
2. You apply in writing and pay us the first premium during the Conversion Period.

Except as limited under C. Limits On Right To Convert, the maximum amount you have a Right To Convert is the amount of your Insurance which ended.

B. Definitions For Right To Convert

1. Conversion Period means the 31-day period after the date of any Qualifying Event.
2. Insurance means all your insurance under the Group Policy.
3. Qualifying Event means termination or reduction of your Insurance for any reason except the Member's failure to make a required premium contribution.
4. You and your mean any person insured under the Group Policy.

C. Limits On Right To Convert

If your Insurance ends or is reduced because of termination or amendment of the Group Policy, 1 and 2 below will apply.

1. You may not convert Insurance which has been in effect for less than the Minimum Time Insured. See **Coverage Features**.

2. The maximum amount you have a Right To Convert is the lesser of:
 - a. The amount of your Insurance which ended, minus any other group life insurance for which you become eligible during the Conversion Period; and
 - b. The Maximum Conversion Amount. See **Coverage Features**.

D. The Individual Policy

You may select any form of individual life insurance policy we issue to persons of your age, except:

1. A term insurance policy;
2. A universal life policy;
3. A policy with disability, accidental death, or other additional benefits; or
4. A policy in an amount less than the minimum amount we issue for the form of life insurance you select.

The individual policy of life insurance will become effective on the day after the end of the Conversion Period. We will use our published rates for standard risks to determine the premium.

E. Death During The Conversion Period

If you die during the Conversion Period, we will pay a death benefit equal to the maximum amount you had a Right To Convert, whether or not you applied for an individual policy. The benefit will be paid according to the **Benefit Payment And Beneficiary Provisions**.

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CLAIMS

A. Filing A Claim

Claims should be filed on our forms. If we do not provide our forms within 15 days after they are requested, the claim may be submitted in a letter to us.

B. Time Limits On Filing Proof Of Loss

Proof Of Loss must be provided within 90 days after the date of the loss. If that is not possible, it must be provided as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than one year after that 90-day period.

If Proof Of Loss is filed outside these time limits, the claim will be denied. These limits will not apply while the Member or Beneficiary lacks legal capacity.

C. Proof Of Loss

Proof Of Loss means written proof that a loss occurred:

1. For which the Group Policy provides benefits;
2. Which is not subject to any exclusions; and
3. Which meets all other conditions for benefits.

Proof Of Loss includes any other information we may reasonably require in support of a claim. Proof Of Loss must be in writing and must be provided at the expense of the claimant. No benefits will be provided until we receive Proof Of Loss satisfactory to us.

D. Investigation Of Claim

We may have you examined at our expense at reasonable intervals. Any such examination will be conducted by specialists of our choice.

We may have an autopsy performed at our expense, except where prohibited by law.

E. Time Of Payment

We will pay benefits within 30 days after Proof Of Loss is satisfied.

F. Notice Of Decision On Claim

We will evaluate a claim for benefits promptly after we receive it. Within 90 days after we receive the claim we will send the claimant: (a) a written decision on the claim; or (b) a notice that we are extending the period to decide the claim for an additional 90 days.

If we extend the period to decide the claim, we will notify the claimant of the following: (a) the reasons for the extension; (b) when we expect to decide the claim; (c) an explanation of the standards on which entitlement to benefits is based; (d) the unresolved issues preventing a decision; and (e) any additional information we need to resolve those issues.

If we request additional information, the claimant will have 45 days to provide the information. If the claimant does not provide the requested information within 45 days, we may decide the claim based on the information we have received.

If we deny any part of the claim, we will send the claimant a written notice of denial containing:

1. The reasons for our decision.
2. Reference to the parts of the Group Policy on which our decision is based.
3. A description of any additional information needed to support the claim.
4. Information concerning the claimant's right to a review of our decision.
5. Information concerning the right to bring a civil action for benefits under section 502(a) of ERISA if the claim is denied on review.

G. Review Procedure

If all or part of a claim is denied, the claimant may request a review. The claimant must request a review in writing within 60 days after receiving notice of the denial of any other claim.

The claimant may send us written comments or other items to support the claim. The claimant may review and receive copies of any non-privileged information that is relevant to the request for review. There will be no charge for such copies. Our review will include any written comments or other items the claimant submits to support the claim.

We will review the claim promptly after we receive the request. Within 60 days after we receive the request for review we will send the claimant: (a) a written decision on review; or (b) a notice that we are extending the review period for 60 days.

If an extension is due to the claimant's failure to provide information necessary to decide the claim on review, the extended time period for review of the claim will not begin until the claimant provides the information or otherwise responds.

If we extend the review period, we will notify the claimant of the following: (a) the reasons for the extension; (b) when we expect to decide the claim on review; and (c) any additional information we need to decide the claim.

If we request additional information, the claimant will have 45 days to provide the information. If the claimant does not provide the requested information within 45 days, we may conclude our review of the claim based on the information we have received.

If we deny any part of the claim on review, the claimant will receive a written notice of denial containing:

1. The reasons for our decision.

2. Reference to the parts of the Group Policy on which our decision is based.
3. Information concerning the claimant's right to receive, free of charge, copies of non-privileged documents and records relevant to the claim.
4. Information concerning the right to bring a civil action for benefits under section 502(a) of ERISA.

The Group Policy does not provide voluntary alternative dispute resolution options. However, you may contact your local U.S. Department of Labor Office and your State insurance regulatory agency for assistance.

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ASSIGNMENT

You may make an absolute assignment of all your Life, subject to 1 through 8 below.

1. All insurance under the Group Policy is assignable. Dependents Life Insurance is not assignable.
2. You may not make a collateral assignment.
3. The assignment must be absolute and irrevocable. It must transfer all rights, including:
 - a. The right to change the Beneficiary;
 - b. The right to buy an individual life insurance policy on your life under **Right To Convert**; and
 - c. The right to receive accidental dismemberment benefits.
 - d. The right to apply for and receive an Accelerated Benefit.
4. The assignment will apply to all of your Life in effect on the date of the assignment or becoming effective after that date.
5. The assignment may be to any person permitted by law.
6. The assignment will have no effect unless it is: made in writing, signed by you, and delivered to the Policyholder or Employer in your lifetime. Neither we, the Policyholder, nor the Employer are responsible for the validity, sufficiency or effect of the assignment.
7. All accidental dismemberment benefits will be paid to the assignee. All death benefits will be paid according to the beneficiary designation on file with the Policyholder or Employer, and the **Benefit Payment And Beneficiary Provisions**.
8. The assignment will not change the Beneficiary, unless the assignee later changes the Beneficiary. Any payment we make according to the beneficiary designation on file with the Policyholder or Employer, and the **Benefit Payment And Beneficiary Provisions** will fully discharge us to the extent of the payment.

You may not make an assignment which is contrary to the rules in 1 through 8 above.

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BENEFIT PAYMENT AND BENEFICIARY PROVISIONS

A. Payment Of Benefits

1. Except as provided in item 5 below, benefits payable because of your death will be paid to the Beneficiary you name. See B through E of this section.

2. Dependents Life Insurance benefits will be paid to you if you are living.
3. Dependents Life Insurance benefits which are unpaid at your death will be paid in equal shares to the first surviving class of the classes below.
 - a. The children of the Dependent.
 - b. The parents of the Dependent.
 - c. The brothers and sisters of the Dependent.
 - d. Your estate.
4. Additional Benefits will be paid as follows:

The Repatriation Benefit will be paid to the person who incurs the transportation expenses.

B. Naming A Beneficiary

Beneficiary means a person you name to receive death benefits. You may name one or more Beneficiaries.

If you name two or more Beneficiaries in a class:

1. Two or more surviving Beneficiaries will share equally, unless you provide for unequal shares.
2. If you provide for unequal shares in a class, and two or more Beneficiaries in that class survive, we will pay each surviving Beneficiary his or her designated share. Unless you provide otherwise, we will then pay the share(s) otherwise due to any deceased Beneficiary(ies) to the surviving Beneficiaries pro rata based on the relationship that the designated percentage or fractional share of each surviving Beneficiary bears to the total shares of all surviving Beneficiaries.
3. If only one Beneficiary in a class survives, we will pay the total death benefits to that Beneficiary.

You may name or change Beneficiaries at any time without the consent of a Beneficiary.

You may name or change Beneficiaries in writing. Writing includes a form signed by you; or a verification from us, or our designated agent, the Policyholder, the Policyholder's designated agent, the Employer, or the Employer's designated agent of an electronic or telephonic designation made by you.

Your designation:

1. Must be dated;
2. Must be delivered to us, our designated agent, the Policyholder, the Policyholder's designated agent, the Employer, or the Employer's designated agent; during your lifetime.
3. Must relate to the insurance provided under the Group Policy; and
4. Will take effect on the date it is delivered or, if a telephonic or electronic designation, verified by us, our designated agent, the Policyholder, the Policyholder's designated agent, the Employer, or the Employer's designated agent.

If we approve it, a designation, which meets the requirements of a Prior Plan, will be accepted as your Beneficiary designation under the Group Policy.

C. Simultaneous Death Provision

If a Beneficiary or a person in one of the classes listed in item D. No Surviving Beneficiary dies on the same day you die, or within 15 days thereafter, benefits will be paid as if that Beneficiary or person had died before you, unless Proof Of Loss with respect to your death is delivered to us before the date of the Beneficiary's death.

D. No Surviving Beneficiary

If you do not name a Beneficiary, or if you are not survived by one, benefits will be paid in equal shares to the first surviving class of the classes below.

1. Your Spouse. (See **Definitions**)
2. Your children.
3. Your parents.
4. Your brothers and sisters.
5. Your estate.

E. Methods Of Payment

Recipient means a person who is entitled to benefits under this **Benefit Payment and Beneficiary Provisions** section.

1. Lump Sum

If the amount payable to a Recipient is less than \$25,000, we will pay it in a lump sum.

2. Standard Secure Access Checking Account

If the amount payable to a Recipient is \$25,000, or more, we will deposit it into a Standard Secure Access checking account which:

- a. Bears interest at a rate equal to the 13-week Treasury Bill (T-Bill) auction rate, but not to exceed 5%;
 - b. Is owned by the Recipient;
 - c. Is subject to the terms and conditions of a confirmation certificate which will be given to the Recipient; and
 - d. Is fully guaranteed by us.
3. Installments

Payment to a Recipient may be made in installments if:

- a. The amount payable is \$25,000 or more;
- b. The Recipient chooses; and
- c. We agree.

To the extent permitted by law, the amount payable to the Recipient will not be subject to any legal process or to the claims of any creditor or creditor's representative.

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ALLOCATION OF AUTHORITY

Except for those functions which the Group Policy specifically reserves to the Policyholder, we have full and exclusive authority to control and manage the Group Policy, to administer claims, and to interpret the Group Policy and resolve all questions arising in the administration, interpretation, and application of the Group Policy.

Our authority includes, but is not limited to:

1. The right to resolve all matters when a review has been requested;

2. The right to establish and enforce rules and procedures for the administration of the Group Policy and any claim under it;
3. The right to determine:
 - a. Eligibility for insurance;
 - b. Entitlement to benefits;
 - c. Amount of benefits payable;
 - d. Sufficiency and the amount of information we may reasonably require to determine a., b., or c., above.

Subject to the review procedures of the Group Policy any decision we make in the exercise of our authority is conclusive and binding.

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TIME LIMITS ON LEGAL ACTIONS

No action at law or in equity may be brought until 60 days after we have been given Proof Of Loss. No such action may be brought more than three years after the earlier of:

1. The date we receive Proof Of Loss; and
2. The time within which Proof Of Loss is required to be given.

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INCONTESTABILITY PROVISIONS

A. Incontestability Of Insurance

Any statement made to obtain or to increase insurance is a representation and not a warranty.

No misrepresentation will be used to reduce or deny a claim unless:

1. The insurance would not have been approved if we had known the truth; and
2. We have given you or any other person claiming benefits a copy of the signed written instrument which contains the misrepresentation.

We will not use a misrepresentation to reduce or deny a claim after the insured's insurance has been in effect for two years during the lifetime of the insured.

B. Incontestability Of Group Policy

Any statement made by the Policyholder or Employer to obtain the Group Policy is a representation and not a warranty.

No misrepresentation by the Policyholder or Employer will be used to deny a claim or to deny the validity of the Group Policy unless:

1. The Group Policy would not have been issued if we had known the truth; and
2. We have given the Policyholder or Employer a copy of a written instrument signed by the Policyholder or Employer which contains the misrepresentation.

The validity of the Group Policy will not be contested after it has been in force for two years, except for nonpayment of premiums.

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CLERICAL ERROR AND MISSTATEMENT

A. Clerical Error

Clerical error by the Policyholder, your employer, or their respective employees or representatives will not:

1. Cause a person to become insured;
2. Invalidate insurance under the Group Policy otherwise validly in force; or
3. Continue insurance under the Group Policy otherwise validly terminated.

B. The Policyholder and your employer act on their own behalf as your agent, and not as our agent.

C. Misstatement Of Age

If a person's age has been misstated, we will make an equitable adjustment of premiums, benefits, or both. The adjustment will be based on:

1. The amount of insurance based on the correct age; and
2. The difference between the premiums paid and the premiums which would have been paid if the age had been correctly stated.

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TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT OF THE GROUP POLICY

The Group Policy may be terminated by us or the Policyholder according to its terms. It will terminate automatically for nonpayment of premium. The Policyholder may terminate the Group Policy in whole, and may terminate insurance for any class or group of Members, at any time by giving us written notice.

Benefits under the Group Policy are limited to its terms, including any valid amendment. No change or amendment will be valid unless it is approved in writing by one of our executive officers and given to the Policyholder for attachment to the Group Policy. If the terms of the Certificate differ from the Group Policy, the terms stated in the Group Policy will govern. The Policyholder, your employer, and their respective employees or representatives have no right or authority to change or amend the Group Policy or to waive any of its terms or provisions without our signed written approval.

We may change the Group Policy in whole or in part when any change or clarification in law or governmental regulation affects our obligations under the Group Policy, or with the Policyholder's consent.

Any such change or amendment of the Group Policy may apply to current or future Members or to any separate classes or groups thereof.

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DEFINITIONS

Annual Earnings means your annual rate of earnings as determined and reported to us by your Employer as of the December 31 prior to your last full date of Active Work. If you were not a Member as of December 31, your Annual Earnings will be based on your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work, unless a different date applies (see the Coverage Features).

Child means:

1. Your child from live birth to age 26; or

2. Your Disabled child who is continuously incapable of self-sustaining employment because of mental or physical handicap; and chiefly dependent upon you for support and maintenance or institutionalized because of mental retardation or physical handicap.

Child includes any of the following, if they otherwise meet the definition of Child:

- i. Your adopted child; or
- ii. Your stepchild, if living in your home.

Contributory means you pay all or part of the premium for insurance.

Dependents Life Insurance means dependents life insurance, if any, under the Group Policy.

Eligibility Waiting Period means the period you must be a Member before you become eligible for insurance. See **Coverage Features**.

Group Policy means the group life insurance policy issued by us to the Policyholder and identified by the Group Policy Number.

Injury means an injury to your body.

Life Insurance means life insurance under the Group Policy.

L.L.C. Owner-Employee means an individual who owns an equity interest in an Employer and is actively employed in the conduct of the Employer's business.

Noncontributory means the Policyholder or Employer pays the entire premium for insurance.

P.C. Partner means the sole active employee and majority shareholder of a professional corporation in partnership with the Policyholder.

Physician means a licensed M.D. or D.O., acting within the scope of the license. Physician does not include you or your spouse, or the brother, sister, parent or child of either you or your spouse.

Pregnancy means your pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including complications of pregnancy.

Prior Plan means your Employer's group life insurance plan in effect on the day before the effective date of your Employer's coverage under the Group Policy and which is replaced by the Group Policy.

Sickness means your sickness, illness, or disease.

Spouse means a person to whom you are legally married. However, for purposes of insurance under the Group Policy, Spouse does not include a person who is a full-time member of the armed forces of any country or a person from whom you are divorced.

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