



The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
A Stock Company Home Office Location: Fort Wayne, Indiana
Group Insurance Service Office: 8801 Indian Hills Drive, Omaha, NE 68114-4066
(800) 423-2765 Online: www.LincolnFinancial.com

CERTIFIES THAT Group Policy No. GL 000400001000-27310 has been issued to

The Commerce Trust Company as Trustee for The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company Voluntary Insurance Trust

The issue date is July 1, 2022 for the Participating Employer.

Participating Employer: Cherokee County

The insurance is effective only if the Employee is eligible for insurance and becomes and remains insured as provided in the Group Policy.

Certificate of Insurance for Class 1

You are entitled to the benefits described in this Certificate if you are eligible for insurance under the provisions of the Policy. This Certificate replaces any other certificates for the benefits described inside. As a Certificate of Insurance, it is not a contract of insurance; it only summarizes the provisions of the Policy and is subject to the Policy's terms.

ACCELERATED BENEFITS PAID UNDER THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE RIDER MAY BE TAXABLE. IF SO, YOU OR YOUR BENEFICIARY MAY INCUR A TAX OBLIGATION. AS WITH ALL TAX MATTERS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL TAX ADVISOR TO ASSESS THE EFFECT OF THIS BENEFIT. ACCELERATED BENEFITS PROVIDED BY A RIDER ARE NOT PAYABLE IF THE POLICY OR CERTIFICATE TO WHICH IT IS ATTACHED IS NOT IN EFFECT.

IMPORTANT CANCELLATION INFORMATION - PLEASE READ THE PROVISION ENTITLED "TERMINATION OF COVERAGE", FOUND ON PAGE "2 VIT"

PRESIDENT

**PLEASE READ YOUR CERTIFICATE CAREFULLY
CERTIFICATE OF GROUP LIFE INSURANCE**

Cherokee County
000400001000-27310
SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE

ELIGIBLE CLASS

Class 1 All Full-Time Employees

The following chart applies to the Portability Privilege provision and to the Extension of Death Benefit provision when benefits end upon attainment of the Social Security Normal Retirement Age:

<u>Year of Birth</u>	<u>Normal Retirement Age</u>
1937 and prior	65
1938	65 and 2 months
1939	65 and 4 months
1940	65 and 6 months
1941	65 and 8 months
1942	65 and 10 months
1943 - 54	66
1955	66 and 2 months
1956	66 and 4 months
1957	66 and 6 months
1958	66 and 8 months
1959	66 and 10 months
1960 and later	67

Note: Persons born on January 1 of any year should refer to the Normal Retirement Age for the previous year.

Under the Portability Privilege provision, the word "retire" or "retirement" means your attainment of the Social Security Normal Retirement Age. The use of the word "retire" or "retirement" elsewhere in this Certificate means your retirement from employment with the Employer.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD means a designated timeframe for eligible employees to elect coverage who did not enroll during their initial eligibility period or for employees with existing coverage under the Policy to elect additional benefit amounts. Evidence of insurability is not required during this period provided certain conditions are met as described in the Schedule of Insurance. Participation in an Open Enrollment Period does not change the Policy provisions related to Waiting Periods. Employees who have been previously declined for a benefit amount or increase are not eligible to participate in the Open Enrollment.

There will be an Open Enrollment Period beginning May 1st and ending May 31st for eligible Employees to enroll for or to increase their current benefit amounts.

Coverage elected during this period will be effective:

- (1) July 1st following the enrollment period, if Actively at Work on that day; or
- (2) The day the Insured Person resumes Active Work, if not Actively at Work on the day the elected coverage or increase would otherwise take effect.

Cherokee County
000400001000-27310
SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE

For
Class 1 - All Full-Time Employees

MINIMUM HOURS: 30 hours per week

WAITING PERIOD: (For date insurance begins, refer to "Effective Dates of Coverages" section)
One month of continuous Active Work

Basic Annual Earnings means your annual base salary or annualized hourly pay from the Employer before taxes on the Determination Date. The "**Determination Date**" is the last day worked just prior to the loss.

It does **not** include commissions, bonuses, overtime pay or any other extra compensation. It does **not** include income from a source other than the Employer. It will not exceed the amount shown in the Employer's financial records or the amount for which premium has been paid; whichever is less.

LIFE INSURANCE

Benefit Amount

Personal Life Insurance

You may elect Life Insurance in any \$10,000 increment; subject to a maximum of Five times Basic Annual Earnings (rounded to the next higher \$10,000). Coverage is subject to a minimum of \$10,000 and an overall maximum of \$100,000. If you initially become insured after attaining age 70 your benefit is subject to a maximum of \$50,000.

Personal Life Insurance will be reduced as follows:

- At age 65, benefits will reduce by 35% of the original amount;
- At age 70, benefits will reduce an additional 25% of the original amount;
- At age 75, benefits will reduce an additional 15% of the original amount.

Benefits will terminate when you retire.

If you first enroll for Personal Life Insurance at age 65 or older, the above age reductions will apply to:

- Any Guarantee Issue Amount available without evidence of insurability; and
- The maximum amount of insurance for which you are eligible.

Evidence of Insurability must be submitted to and approved by the Company when:

1. any benefit option increase or new election requested during the specified open enrollment period which exceeds the amount of Personal Life Insurance by more than 2 increment level(s);
2. an increased amount of Personal Life Insurance coverage is requested and any amount of coverage has been previously withdrawn or declined or is pending underwriting review; or
3. initial coverage is elected more than 31 days after first becoming eligible.

If any evidence of insurability is required, it will be provided at your own expense.

Cherokee County
000400001000-27310
SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE
For
Class 1 LIFE INSURANCE
(Continued)

DEPENDENTS INSURANCE

	Benefit Amount
Spouse Life Insurance	You may elect Life Insurance in any \$5,000 increment; subject to a maximum of 50% of your Life Insurance Benefit (rounded to the next higher \$5,000). Coverage is subject to a minimum of \$5,000 and an overall maximum of \$50,000.
Child Life Insurance	
Dependent Child (age 14 days to 6 months)	\$500
Dependent Child (age 6 months to 26 years)	\$10,000

Spouse Life Insurance will be reduced as follows:

- by 35% of the original amount when you attain age 65.

Spouse Insurance will terminate when you attain age 70 or retire, whichever occurs first.

Evidence of Insurability must be submitted to and approved by the Company when:

1. any benefit option increase or new election requested during the specified open enrollment period which exceeds the amount of Spouse Life Insurance by more than 2 increment level(s);
2. an increased amount of Spouse Life Insurance coverage is requested and any amount of coverage has been previously withdrawn or declined or is pending underwriting review; or
3. initial coverage is elected more than 31 days after first becoming eligible.

If any evidence of insurability is required, it will be provided at your own expense.

You may elect Dependent Life Insurance (Spouse and/or Child), provided you are also insured in the Voluntary Life Insurance Program.

Participation in the Voluntary program is based on the Participating Employer's enrollment remaining above:

- (1) the greater of 10 employees or 25% of those employees electing Voluntary Life Insurance; and
- (2) the greater of 5 spouses or 10% of those employees electing Voluntary Spouse Life Insurance.

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AMOUNT OF INSURANCE

The amount of your insurance is determined by the Schedule of Insurance in the Policy. The initial amount of coverage is the amount which applies to your classification on the day your coverage becomes effective. You may become eligible for increases in the amount of insurance in accordance with the Schedule of Insurance. Any such increase will be effective on:

- (1) the first day of the Insurance Month which coincides with or follows the date on which you become eligible for the increase; provided you are Actively at Work on that day;
- (2) the day you resume Active Work, if not Actively at Work on the day the increase otherwise would have been effective; or
- (3) the day determined by the Company after any required evidence of insurability is approved by the Company.

Any decrease will take effect on the day of the change; whether or not you are Actively at Work.

DEFINITIONS

ACTIVE WORK OR ACTIVELY AT WORK means the full-time performance of all customary duties of an employee's occupation at the EMPLOYER'S place of business (or other business location to which the EMPLOYER requires the employee to travel.)

COMPANY means The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, an Indiana corporation, whose Group Insurance Service Office address is 8801 Indian Hills Drive, Omaha, Nebraska 68114-4066.

DAY or DATE means at 12:01 A.M., Standard Time, at the Group Policyholder's place of business when used with regard to eligibility dates and effective dates. It means 12:00 midnight, Standard Time, at the same place, when used with regard to termination dates.

EMPLOYER means the Group Policyholder or the Participating Employer named on the Face Page.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE means an employee of the EMPLOYER:

- (1) whose employment with the EMPLOYER is the employee's principal occupation;
- (2) who is not a temporary or seasonal employee; and
- (3) who is regularly scheduled to work at such occupation at least the number of hours as shown in the Schedule of Insurance.

INSURANCE MONTH means:

- (1) that period of time beginning on the Issue Date of the Policy and extending for one month; and
- (2) each subsequent month beginning on the same day after that.

POLICY means the Group Insurance Policy issued by the Company to the Group Policyholder. A copy of the Policy may be examined upon request at the Group Insurance Service Office of the Group Policyholder.

YOU or YOUR means a FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE who is covered by Personal Insurance, or whose Dependents are covered by Dependents Insurance under the Policy.

ELIGIBILITY

If you are a Full-Time Employee and a member of an employee class shown in the Schedule of Insurance; then you will become eligible for the coverage provided by the Policy on the later of:

- (1) the Policy's date of issue; or
- (2) the day you complete the Waiting Period.

WAITING PERIOD. (See Schedule of Insurance).

EFFECTIVE DATES OF COVERAGES

Your insurance is effective on the latest of:

- (1) the first day of the Insurance Month coinciding with or next following the day you become eligible for the coverage;
- (2) the day you resume Active Work, if you are not Actively at Work on the day you become eligible;
- (3) the day you make written application for coverage; and sign:
 - (a) a payroll deduction order; or
 - (b) an order to pay premiums from your Flexible Benefit Plan account, if Employer contributions are paid through a Flexible Benefit Plan; or
- (4) the first day of the Insurance Month following the date the Company approves your coverage, if evidence of insurability is required.

Evidence of insurability is required if:

- (1) you apply for coverage in excess of the Guaranteed Acceptance Amount;
- (2) you apply to enroll for or increase coverage more than 31 days after you become eligible;
- (3) you make written application to re-enroll for coverage after you have requested:
 - (a) to cancel your coverage;
 - (b) to stop payroll deductions for the coverage; or
 - (c) to stop premium payments from your Flexible Benefit Plan account; or
- (4) you apply to reinstate coverage after it lapses, due to failure to pay premiums when due.

EXCEPTION. If your coverage terminates due to an approved leave of absence or a military leave, any Waiting Period or evidence of insurability requirement will be waived upon your return; provided:

- (1) you return within six months after the leave begins;
- (2) you apply or are enrolled within 31 days after resuming Active Work; and
- (3) the reinstated amount of insurance does not exceed the amount which terminated.

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

Your coverage terminates on the earliest of:

- (1) the day the Policy terminates or your Employer ceases to be a Participating Employer;
- (2) the last day of the Insurance Month in which you request termination;
- (3) the last day of the period for which the premium for your insurance has been paid;
- (4) the day you cease to be a member of an employee class or die;
- (5) with respect to any particular insurance benefit, the day the part of the Policy providing that benefit terminates;
- (6) the day your employment with the Employer terminates; or
- (7) the day you enter the armed services of any state or country on active duty; except for duty of 30 days or less for training in the Reserves or National Guard. (If you send proof of military service, the Company will refund any unearned premium.)

Ceasing Active Work terminates your eligibility. However, you may continue coverage as follows:

- (1) If you are disabled due to illness or injury, then coverage may be continued until the earliest of:
 - (a) 12 Insurance Months after the disability begins;
 - (b) the date you are no longer disabled; or
 - (c) for Life insurance, the date you qualify for the Extension of Death Benefit under the Policy.

The required premium payments must be received from the Employer throughout the period of continued insurance.

- (2) If you go on an approved Family or Medical Leave and are **not** entitled to the more favorable continuation during disability, coverage may be continued until the earliest of:
 - (a) the end of the leave period approved by the Employer;
 - (b) the end of the leave period required by federal law, or any more favorable period required by a similar law;
 - (c) the date you notify your Employer that you will not return; or
 - (d) the date you begin employment with another employer.

The required premium payments must be received from the Employer throughout the period of continued insurance.

- (3) If you go on a military leave, coverage may be continued for the greater of:
 - (a) the same period allowed for an approved Family or Medical Leave; or
 - (b) any more favorable leave in which employees with similar seniority, status, and pay who are on furlough or leave of absence are granted by the Employer.

The required premium payments must be received from the Employer throughout the period of continued insurance.

- (4) If you cease work due to a temporary lay off, or due to an approved leave of absence (other than an approved Family or Medical Leave or a military leave), then coverage may be continued for three Insurance Months after the lay off or leave begins. The required premium payments must be received from the Employer throughout the period of continued insurance.

Conditions. In administering the above continuations, the Employer must not act so as to discriminate unfairly among Insured Persons in similar situations. You will be required to pay the Employer the premium you would have been required to pay as an Active Employee throughout the period of continued coverage.

It may be possible to continue insurance for a longer period in accord with the Portability Privilege section of the Certificate. The Portability Privilege section of this Certificate is not applicable when Policy coverage terminates solely because your spouse or child ceases to be an eligible Dependent; your Employer ceases to be a Participating Employer; or the Policy terminates.

If all or part of anyone's life insurance under the Policy terminates due to:

- (1) your Employer ceasing to be a Participating Employer;
- (2) your termination of membership in an eligible class; or
- (3) a dependent's ceasing to be an eligible family member as a result of your death or divorce, or a child's marriage or attainment of limiting age;

see the Conversion Privilege section of this Certificate.

PORTABILITY PRIVILEGE

This section applies to any Personal Life Insurance, Dependent Life Insurance, and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance provided by the Policy. Such insurance may be continued, by paying the required premiums, when:

- (1) your employment with the Employer ends for a reason other than Total Disability or retirement; and
- (2) the insurance has been in force for at least 12 months in a row just prior to the date employment ends.

To continue insurance, written application and the first premium payment must be made to the Company, within 31 days of the date insurance would otherwise end.

AMOUNT OF COVERAGE. The amount of continued insurance may not exceed the amount in force when employment ends. During the continuation period:

- (1) the amount of insurance may not be increased; and
- (2) additional dependents may not be enrolled for Dependent Life Insurance.

Continued insurance will be subject to any reduction on account of age, as shown in the Schedule of Insurance.

You may decrease the amount of continued insurance at any time, by completing a request form supplied by the Company. The decrease will take effect on the first day of the Insurance Month after the Company receives the request.

PAYMENT OF PREMIUM. Timely payment of premium must be made directly to the Company, throughout the period of continued insurance. The required premium will equal:

- (1) premium at the group rate which would apply if you remained actively employed with the Employer; plus
- (2) a direct billing fee based on the premium frequency chosen.

The premium frequency may be changed by sending the Company advance written request on forms supplied by the Company. Such request may be sent at any time while continued insurance is in force; but not during a Grace Period.

TERMINATION OF COVERAGE. Continued insurance will end on the earliest of:

- (1) the date insurance has been continued until you attain the Social Security Normal Retirement Age; or
- (2) the date insurance would otherwise end if you remained an Active Employee; but continued coverage will not end when the Policy is discontinued by the Employer.

When continued insurance ends, you or your Dependent may be entitled to purchase an individual life policy, in accord with the Conversion Privilege section of this Certificate.

**DEATH BENEFIT
For Employees Only**

The amount of your Personal Life Insurance which is in effect on the date of your death will be paid as a death benefit to your Beneficiary. If no named Beneficiary survives you, the death benefit will be paid to your estate or in accord with the terms of the Policy. Arrangements may be made to have this death benefit paid in installments.

EXCLUSION. Benefits will not be payable if your death:

- (1) results from suicide while sane; and
- (2) occurs within two years after your Personal Life Insurance takes effect.

However, suicide is no defense to payment of life insurance benefits under the Policy unless the Company can show that you intended suicide when applying for the insurance.

BENEFICIARY

Your Beneficiary will be as shown on your enrollment card, unless changed. Only you or your assignee may change the Beneficiary. A new Beneficiary may be named by filing a written notice of the change with the Company at its Group Insurance Service Office. The change will be effective as of the date it was signed; subject to any action taken by the Company before it received notice of the change.

**EXTENSION OF DEATH BENEFIT IF YOU
BECOME TOTALLY DISABLED
For Employees Only**

Any Personal Life Insurance on your life will be continued, without payment of premiums; if while you are insured:

- (1) you become Totally Disabled before you reach age 60; and
- (2) you submit proof of your disability which is received by the Company:
 - (a) within 12 months after your Total Disability begins; or
 - (b) as soon as reasonably possible after that.

Upon receipt of such proof, the Company will refund all premiums paid for your coverage from the date Total Disability began.

The life insurance continued will be subject to the reductions and terminations shown in the Policy.

DEFINITION OF TOTAL DISABILITY. For this benefit, Total Disability:

- (1) means you are unable, due to sickness or injury, to perform the material and substantial duties of any employment or occupation for which you are or become qualified by reason of education, training, or experience; and
- (2) must continue for at least 180 days.

From time to time, you must submit proof that your Total Disability is continuing.

Any life insurance which has been continued under this benefit will be terminated automatically on the day:

- (1) you cease to be Totally Disabled;
- (2) you fail to take a required medical examination;
- (3) you fail to submit any required proofs; or
- (4) you reach Social Security Normal Retirement Age (SSNRA), as shown in the Schedule of Insurance.

ASSIGNMENTS

Personal Life Insurance may be assigned. The assignments allowed under the Policy are absolute assignments and funeral assignments as described below.

No assignment will be binding on the Company unless and until:

- (1) it is made on a form furnished by the Company;
- (2) the original is completed and filed with the Company at its Group Insurance Service Office;
and
- (3) it is approved by the Company.

The Company and the Employer do not assume responsibility for the validity or effect of an assignment.

ABSOLUTE ASSIGNMENTS. You may make an irrevocable assignment of your Personal Life Insurance as a gift (with no consideration), providing you have the legal capacity and the mental capacity to do so. It may be made to a trust or to one or more of your relatives, their estates, or to a trustee of a trust under which one of the relatives is a beneficiary.

The term "relatives" includes, but is not limited to, your spouse, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, children, adopted children, stepchildren, and grandchildren.

In some states, community property is an established form of ownership that must be considered in making an assignment. If you make an absolute assignment to two or more assignees, such assignees will be joint owners with the right of survivorship between them. You should consult with your own legal advisor before making an assignment.

Once the assignment has been recorded by the Company, you can no longer change the beneficiary and cannot apply for conversion. Only the assignee can change the beneficiary designation if the previous designation is revocable. An assignment will have no effect on a prior irrevocable beneficiary designation. Only the assignee can apply for conversion but only when the Conversion Privilege provision would have been available to you in the absence of the assignment under the Policy.

An absolute assignment cannot be used as a collateral assignment.

FUNERAL ASSIGNMENTS. Upon your death, the beneficiary may assign the Personal Life Insurance benefit to a funeral home for payment of burial expenses. After payment has been made for the burial expenses to the assigned funeral home, the remaining death benefit is then paid in accord with the Beneficiary and Settlement Options sections of the Policy.

CONVERSION PRIVILEGE

GENERAL CONVERSION PRIVILEGE. If your insurance or insurance on a Dependent terminates due to:

- (1) termination of your employment or membership in an eligible class; or
- (2) a dependent's ceasing to be an eligible family member due to your death or divorce, or a child's marriage or attainment of the limiting age;

then an individual life policy, known as a conversion policy, may be purchased without evidence of insurability.

To purchase a conversion policy, application and payment of the first premium must be made within 31 days after the life insurance is terminated.

The conversion policy issued under this General Conversion Privilege will:

- (1) be in an amount not to exceed the amount of life insurance which was terminated; less the amount of any group life insurance for which the person becomes eligible within 31 days after insurance terminates;
- (2) be on any form (except term) then issued by the Company at the age and amount for which application is made;
- (3) be issued at the person's age at nearest birthday;
- (4) be issued without disability or other supplemental benefits; and
- (5) require premiums based on the class of risk to which the person then belongs.

CONVERSION UPON POLICY TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT. A conversion policy also may be purchased if:

- (1) all or part of your insurance or insurance on a Dependent terminates due to amendment or termination of the Policy; and
- (2) the person applying for the conversion Policy has been covered continuously under the Policy for at least 5 years.

A conversion policy issued due to Policy termination or amendment will be subject to the same conditions as a policy issued under the General Conversion Privilege; except its amount may not exceed the lesser of:

- (1) \$10,000; or
- (2) the amount of life insurance which terminates, less the amount of any group life insurance for which the person becomes eligible within 31 days after the termination.

The conversion policy will take effect on the later of:

- (1) its date of issue; or
- (2) 31 days after the date the insurance terminated.

If death occurs during the 31 day conversion period, the Company will pay the life insurance which could have been converted even if no one applied for the conversion policy.

NOTICE. When your insurance terminates, written notice of your right to convert will be given to you. If written notice is not given to you at least 15 days before the end of the 31 day conversion period, an additional period in which to convert will be granted. Any such extension of the conversion period will expire on the earliest of:

- (1) 15 days after you are given the written notice; or
- (2) 60 days after the end of the 31 day conversion period, even if you are never given such notice.

No death benefit will be payable under the Policy after the 31 day conversion period has expired even though the right to convert may be extended.

DEPENDENTS LIFE INSURANCE

DEATH BENEFIT. If your Dependent spouse or child dies while insured under the Policy, the Company will pay the amount of Dependents Life Insurance in effect on the date of the death. This amount is shown in the Schedule of Insurance. The death benefit will be paid to you. If you are not living when your Dependent dies, the death benefit will be paid to your beneficiary or in accord with the Facility of Payment section of the Policy.

EXCLUSION. Benefits will not be payable if your Dependent's death:

- (1) results from suicide, while sane; and
- (2) occurs within two years after insurance for that Dependent takes effect.

However, suicide is no defense to payment of life insurance benefits under the Policy unless the Company can show that your Dependent intended suicide when applying for the insurance.

DEPENDENT. A Dependent means a person who meets the definition of a dependent of yours under the provision of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code; and is your:

- (1) spouse who is not legally separated from you;
- (2) unmarried child at least 14 days but less than 26 years of age;
- (3) unmarried child less than 26 years of age and a full-time student at an accredited college or university; or
- (4) unmarried child who is totally and permanently disabled and who became so disabled prior to reaching 26 years of age.

A legally adopted child is considered your child from the date of placement in your home for an agency adoption; or from the date the adoption petition is filed, if later, for a private adoption. In addition to naturally born and legally adopted children, the word "child" includes your stepchild or foster child; provided the child resides in your household and is dependent on you for principal support. If more than one of a child's parents are insured under the Policy, that child may be insured under only one Certificate.

The term Dependent does not include an Insured Person, or anyone serving in the armed forces of any state or country.

ELIGIBILITY. You become eligible for Dependents Life Insurance on the later of:

- (1) the date you become eligible for other coverages provided by the Policy;
- (2) the effective date of this section; or
- (3) the date you first acquire a Dependent (as defined by the Policy).

EFFECTIVE DATE. Your Dependents Life Insurance will become effective on the later of:

- (1) the date you become eligible for Dependents Life Insurance;
- (2) the first day of the Insurance Month following the date you sign your payroll deduction order and apply for the coverage; or
- (3) the first day of the Insurance Month following the date the Company approves any required evidence of insurability on all your Dependents.

If you acquire a new Dependent child while insured for Dependents Life Insurance, his or her insurance will become effective on the date the Dependent is acquired.

DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE. If a Dependent is in a Period of Limited Activity on the day his or her Dependent Life Insurance would otherwise take effect; then insurance for that Dependent will not take effect until the day after:

- (1) his or her final discharge from the health care facility; or
- (2) resuming the normal activities of a healthy person of the same age and sex.

"Period of Limited Activity" means a period when a spouse or child is confined in a health care facility; or, whether confined or not, is unable to perform the regular and usual activities of a healthy person of the same age and sex.

DEPENDENTS LIFE INSURANCE (Continued)

EVIDENCE OF INSURABILITY. Each of your Dependents must submit evidence of insurability satisfactory to the Company, if you:

- (1) apply for Spouse Life Insurance in excess of the Guaranteed Acceptance Amount;
- (2) apply to enroll for or increase Spouse Life Insurance more than 31 days after:
 - (a) first becoming eligible for Dependent Life Insurance; or
 - (b) first acquiring an eligible spouse;
- (3) apply to enroll for or increase Children's Life Insurance more than 31 days after:
 - (a) first becoming eligible for Dependent Life Insurance; or
 - (b) first acquiring an eligible child;
- (4) apply for Dependents Life Insurance after requesting:
 - (a) to terminate the Dependents Insurance; or
 - (b) to cancel premium payments by payroll deduction or through a Flexible Benefits Plan account; or
- (5) apply to reinstate continued Dependents Life Insurance after it lapses due to failure to pay premium when due.

TERMINATION OF DEPENDENTS INSURANCE. Your Dependents Insurance for any spouse or child will cease on the earliest of:

- (1) the date the Policy terminates or your Employer ceases to be a Participating Employer;
- (2) the date Dependent Insurance is discontinued under the Policy;
- (3) the last day of the Insurance Month in which termination is requested;
- (4) the last day of the Insurance Month for which premium payment is made for such Dependents Insurance;
- (5) the date you cease to be in a class of employees which is eligible for Dependents Insurance or die;
- (6) the date your spouse or child ceases to be an eligible Dependent, as defined by this section;
- (7) the date your employment with the Participating Employer ends; or
- (8) the date you or your Dependent enters the armed services of any state or country; except for duty of 30 days or less in the Reserves or National Guard. (If you send proof of military service, the Company will refund any unearned premium.)

Dependents Insurance for your Dependent children will also cease on:

- (1) the date your Personal Life Insurance ceases, if the child is enrolled under an Employee and Children's Plan; or
- (2) the date Spouse Insurance for your spouse ceases, if the child is enrolled under a Spouse and Children's Plan.

When Dependents Insurance ceases because your employment ends, it may be possible to continue coverage in accord with the Portability Privilege section of this Certificate. When Dependents Insurance ceases for any reason except nonpayment of premium, it may be possible to purchase an individual life policy in accord with the Conversion Privilege section of this Certificate.

MISSTATEMENT OF AGE. If the age of a Dependent has been misstated, premiums will be subject to an equitable adjustment. If the amount of benefit is dependent upon age, the benefit will be that which would have been payable based upon the Dependent's correct age.

ASSIGNMENT. Dependents Insurance may not be assigned.

INCONTESTABILITY. Except for nonpayment of premiums, the Company may not contest the validity of the Policy as to any Dependent, after it has been in force for two years during the lifetime of that Dependent. This clause will not affect the Company's right to contest claims made for accidental death or dismemberment benefits.

CERTIFICATE AMENDMENT

**TO BE ATTACHED TO THE CERTIFICATE FOR GROUP POLICY NO 000400001000-27310
ISSUED TO: Cherokee County**

Your Certificate is amended by the addition of the following provision.

ACCELERATED DEATH BENEFIT

BENEFIT. The Accelerated Death Benefit is an advance payment of part of your Personal Life Insurance or Spouse Life Insurance. It may be paid to you, in a lump sum, once during your lifetime.

To qualify, you must:

- (1) have satisfied the Active Work requirement under the Policy;
- (2) have been insured under the Policy:
 - (a) on the date of an injury which results in a Terminal condition; or
 - (b) for 30 days before being diagnosed Terminal as a result of sickness; and
- (3) have at least \$2,000 of Personal Life Insurance under the Policy on the day before the Accelerated Death Benefit is paid.

To qualify, your Terminal Dependent spouse must:

- (1) have satisfied the Nonconfinement or Period of Limited Activity requirement under the Policy;
- (2) have been insured under the Policy:
 - (a) on the date of an injury which results in a Terminal condition; or
 - (b) for 30 days before being diagnosed Terminal as a result of sickness; and
- (3) have at least \$2,000 of Spouse Life Insurance under the Policy on the day before the Accelerated Death Benefit is paid.

Receiving the Accelerated Death Benefit will reduce the Remaining Life Insurance and the Death Benefit payable at death, as shown on the next page.

"Claimant," as used in this section, means the Terminal Insured Person or Terminal Dependent spouse for whom the Accelerated Death Benefit is requested.

"Terminal" means you or your Dependent spouse has a medical condition which is expected to result in death within 12 months, despite appropriate medical treatment.

APPLYING FOR THE BENEFIT. To withdraw the Accelerated Death Benefit, you (or your legal representative) must send the Company:

- (1) written election of the Accelerated Death Benefit, on forms supplied by the Company; and
- (2) satisfactory proof that the Claimant is Terminal, including a Physician's written statement.

The Company reserves the right to decide whether such proof is satisfactory.

Before paying an Accelerated Death Benefit, the Company must also receive the written consent of any irrevocable beneficiary, assignee or bankruptcy court with an interest in the benefit. Before paying an Accelerated Death Benefit for your Dependent spouse, the Company must also receive your written consent. (See Limitations 3, 4, 5, and 6.)

NOTE: THIS IS NOT A LONG-TERM CARE POLICY. RECEIVING THIS ACCELERATED DEATH BENEFIT WILL REDUCE THE BENEFIT PAYABLE AT DEATH. ANY AMOUNT WITHDRAWN MAY BE TAXABLE INCOME, SO YOU SHOULD CONSULT A TAX ADVISOR BEFORE APPLYING FOR THIS BENEFIT.

AMOUNT OF THE BENEFIT. You may elect to withdraw an Accelerated Death Benefit in any \$1,000 increment; subject to:

- (1) a minimum of \$10,000 or 10% of the Claimant's amount of Life Insurance (whichever is greater); and

**CERTIFICATE AMENDMENT
(Continued)**

- (2) a maximum of \$250,000 or 75% of the Claimant's amount of Life Insurance (whichever is less).

To determine the Accelerated Death Benefit, the Company will use the lesser of A or B below:

- A. the Claimant's amount of Life Insurance which is in force on the day before the Accelerated Death Benefit is paid; or
- B. the Claimant's amount of Life Insurance which would be in force 12 months after that date; if the coverage is scheduled to reduce, due to age, within 12 months after the Accelerated Death Benefit is paid.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGE: NONE

WITHDRAWAL FEE: NONE

EFFECT ON AMOUNT OF LIFE INSURANCE. "Remaining Life Insurance" means the amount of Life Insurance which remains in force on the Claimant's life after an Accelerated Death Benefit is paid. The Remaining Life Insurance will equal:

- (1) the Claimant's amount of Life Insurance which was used to determine the Accelerated Death Benefit (A or B above); minus
- (2) any percentage by which the Claimant's coverage is scheduled to reduce, due to age; if the reduction occurs more than 12 months after the Accelerated Death Benefit is paid, and while he or she is still living; minus
- (3) the amount of the Accelerated Death Benefit withdrawn.

PREMIUM: There is no additional charge for this benefit. Continuation of the Remaining Life Insurance will be subject to timely payment of the premium for the reduced amount; unless you qualify for waiver of premium under the Policy's Extension of Death Benefit provision, if included.

CONDITIONS. If the Claimant exercises the Conversion Privilege after an Accelerated Death Benefit is paid, the amount of the conversion policy will not exceed the amount of his or her Remaining Life Insurance. If the Claimant has Accidental Death and Dismemberment benefits under the Policy, the Principal Sum will not be affected by the payment of an Accelerated Death Benefit.

EFFECT ON DEATH BENEFIT. When the Claimant dies after an Accelerated Death Benefit is paid, the amount of Remaining Life Insurance in force on the date of death will be paid as a Death Benefit. Your Death Benefit will be paid in accord with the Beneficiary section of the Policy. Your Dependent spouse's Death Benefit will be paid to you, or in accord with the Dependent Life Insurance section of the Policy. If the Claimant dies after application for an Accelerated Death Benefit has been made, but before the Company has made payment; then the request will be void and no Accelerated Death Benefit will be paid. The amount of Life Insurance in force on the date of death will be paid in accord with Policy provisions.

EFFECT ON TAXES AND GOVERNMENT BENEFITS. Any Accelerated Death Benefit amount withdrawn may be taxable income to you. Receipt of the Accelerated Death Benefit may also affect the Claimant's eligibility for Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income and other government benefits. The Claimant should consult his or her own tax and legal advisor before applying for an Accelerated Death Benefit. The Company is not responsible for any tax owed or government benefit denied, as a result of the Accelerated Death Benefit payment.

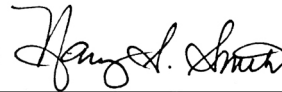
**CERTIFICATE AMENDMENT
(Continued)**

LIMITATIONS. No Accelerated Death Benefit will be paid:

- (1) if any required premium is due and unpaid;
- (2) on any conversion policy purchased in accord with the Conversion Privilege;
- (3) without the written approval of the bankruptcy court, if you have filed for bankruptcy;
- (4) without the written consent of the beneficiary, if you have named an irrevocable beneficiary;
- (5) without your written consent, if the Claimant is your Terminal Dependent spouse;
- (6) without the written consent of the assignee, if you have assigned your rights under the Policy;
- (7) if any part of the Life Insurance must be paid to your child, spouse or former spouse; pursuant to a legal separation agreement, divorce decree, child support order or other court order;
- (8) if the Claimant is Terminal due to a suicide attempt, while sane or insane; or due to an intentionally self-inflicted injury;
- (9) if a government agency requires you or the Claimant to use the Accelerated Death Benefit to apply for, receive or continue a government benefit or entitlement; or
- (10) if an Accelerated Death Benefit has been previously paid for the Claimant under the Policy.

This Amendment takes effect on your effective date of coverage under the Policy. However, if you are not Actively at Work on that date, the change will not take effect until the date you resume Active Work. In all other respects, the Policy remains the same.

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY



Officer of the Company

CERTIFICATE AMENDMENT

TO BE ATTACHED TO THE CERTIFICATE FOR GROUP POLICY NO: 000400001000-27310

ISSUED TO: Cherokee County

Your Certificate is amended by the addition of the following provisions.

PRIOR INSURANCE CREDIT UPON TRANSFER OF LIFE INSURANCE CARRIERS

This provision prevents loss of life insurance coverage for you, which could otherwise occur solely because of a transfer of insurance carriers. The Policy will provide the following Prior Insurance Credit, when it replaces a prior plan.

"Prior Plan" means a prior carrier's group life insurance policy, which the Policy replaced within 1 day of the prior plan's termination date.

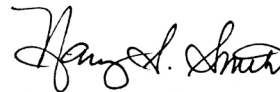
FAILURE TO SATISFY ACTIVE WORK RULE. Subject to payment of premiums, the Policy will provide life coverage if you:

- (1) were insured under the prior plan on its termination date;
- (2) were otherwise eligible under the Policy; but were not Actively-At-Work due to Injury or Sickness on its Effective Date;
- (3) are not entitled to any extension of life insurance under the prior plan; and
- (4) are not Totally Disabled (as defined in the Extension of Death Benefit section of the Policy) on the date the Policy takes effect.

AMOUNT OF LIFE INSURANCE. Until you satisfy the Policy's Active Work rule, the amount of your group life insurance under the Policy will not exceed the amount for which you were insured under the prior plan on its termination date.

This Amendment takes effect on your effective date of coverage under the Policy. In all other respects, your Certificate remains the same.

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY



Officer of the Company

CERTIFICATE AMENDMENT

TO BE ATTACHED TO THE CERTIFICATE FOR GROUP POLICY NO: 000400001000-27310

ISSUED TO: Cherokee County

FOR CERTIFICATES DELIVERED IN NORTH CAROLINA

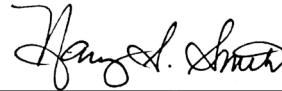
On the ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT INSURANCE page, parts 1-3 of the Limitations section are amended to read as follows:

LIMITATIONS. Benefits are not payable for any loss to which a contributing cause is:

- (1) intentional self-inflicted injury or self-destruction, while sane;
- (2) disease, bodily or mental infirmity (or medical or surgical treatment of these); except for:
 - (a) the involuntary taking of poison;
 - (b) a bacterial infection of an accidental injury; or
 - (c) an accidental ptomaine poisoning;
- (3) voluntary participation in a riot.

This amendment applies only to Certificates delivered to Participating Employers in the state of North Carolina. This amendment takes effect on your effective date of coverage under the Policy. In all other respects, the Policy remains the same.

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY



Officer of the Company

CERTIFICATE AMENDMENT

TO BE ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THE GROUP CERTIFICATE

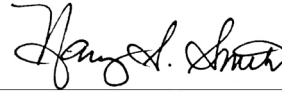
AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS PROCEDURES. The attached Claims Procedures have been revised to comply with final regulations:

- (1) which the U.S. Department of Labor's Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration (PWBA) issued on November 21, 2000; and
- (2) which govern the claims and appeals process for employee benefit plans subject to ERISA (the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974).

These revised Claims Procedures will replace those in the Certificate effective January 1, 2002. They will apply to all claims filed on or after that date.

This amendment takes effect on January 1, 2002, or on the insured's effective date of coverage under the Policy; whichever is later. In all other respects, the Certificate remains the same.

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY



Officer of the Company

**CLAIMS PROCEDURES
FOR LIFE OR ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT BENEFITS**

NOTE: The Policy may include an Extension of Death Benefit, an Accelerated Death Benefit or a Living Benefit. If so, please refer to that section for special claim procedures.

NOTICE AND PROOF OF CLAIM

Notice of Claim. Written notice of an accidental death or dismemberment claim must be given within 20 days after the loss occurs; or as soon as reasonably possible after that.* The notice must be sent to the Company's Group Insurance Service Office. It should include:

- (1) your name and address; and
- (2) the number of the Policy.

Claim Forms. When notice of claim is received, the Company will send claim forms for filing the required proof. If the Company does not send the forms within 15 days; then you or your Beneficiary (the claimant) may send the Company written proof of claim in a letter. It should state the nature, date and cause of the loss.

Proof of Claim. The Company must be given written proof of claim within 180 days after the date of the loss; or as soon as reasonably possible after that.* Proof of claim must be provided at the claimant's own expense. It must show the nature, date and cause of the loss. In addition to the information requested on the claim form, documentation must include:

- (1) A certified copy of the death certificate, for proof of death.
- (2) A copy of any police report, for proof of accidental death or dismemberment.
- (3) A signed authorization for the Company to obtain more information.
- (4) Any other items the Company may reasonably require in support of the claim.

* **Exception:** Failure to give notice or furnish proof of claim within the required time period will not invalidate or reduce the claim; if it is shown that it was done:

- (1) as soon as reasonably possible; and
- (2) in no event more than one year after it was required.

These time limits will not apply while the claimant lacks legal capacity.

EXAM OR AUTOPSY. At anytime while a claim is pending, the Company may have you examined:

- (1) by a Physician of the Company's choice;
- (2) as often as reasonably required.

If you fail to cooperate with an examiner or fail to take an exam, without good cause; then the Company may deny benefits, until the exam is completed. In case of death, the Company may also have an autopsy done, where it is not forbidden by law. Any such exam or autopsy will be at the Company's expense.

TIME OF PAYMENT OF CLAIMS. Any benefits payable under the Policy will be paid immediately after the Company receives complete proof of claim and confirms liability.

TO WHOM PAYABLE

Death. Any benefits payable for your death will be paid in accord with the Beneficiary, Facility of Payment and Settlement Options sections of the Policy. If the Policy includes Dependent Life Insurance; then any benefits payable for an insured Dependent's death will be paid to:

- (1) you, if you survive that Dependent; or
- (2) your Beneficiary, or in accord with the Facility of Payment section; if you do not survive that Dependent.

Dismemberment. If the Policy includes Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefits; then any benefit, other than your death benefit, will be paid to you.

CLAIMS PROCEDURES (Continued)

NOTICE OF CLAIM DECISION. The Company will send the claimant a written notice of its claim decision. If the Company denies any part of the claim; then the written notice will explain:

- (1) the reason for the denial, under the terms of the Policy and any internal guidelines;
- (2) how the claimant may request a review of the Company's decision; and
- (3) whether more information is needed to support the claim.

The Company will send this notice within 15 days after resolving the claim. If reasonably possible, the Company will send it within:

- (1) 90 days after receiving the first proof of a death or dismemberment claim; or
- (2) 45 days after receiving the first proof of a claim for any Extension of Death Benefit, Living Benefit or Accelerated Death Benefit available under the Policy.

Delay Notice. If the Company needs more than 15 days to process a claim, in a special case; then an extension will be permitted. If needed, the Company will send the claimant a written delay notice:

- (1) by the 15th day after receiving the first proof of claim; and
- (2) every 30 days after that, until the claim is resolved.

The notice will explain the special circumstances which require the delay, and when a decision can be expected. In any event, the Company must send written notice of its decision within:

- (1) 180 days after receiving the first proof of a death or dismemberment claim; or
- (2) 105 days after receiving the first proof of a claim for any Extension of Death Benefit, Living Benefit or Accelerated Death Benefit available under the Policy.

If the Company fails to do so; then there is a right to an immediate review, as if the claim was denied.

Exception: If the Company needs more information from the claimant to process a claim; then it must be supplied within 45 days after the Company requests it. The resulting delay will not count towards the above time limits for claim processing.

REVIEW PROCEDURE. The claimant may request a claim review, within:

- (1) 60 days after receiving a denial notice of a death or dismemberment claim; or
- (2) 180 days after receiving a denial notice of a claim for any Extension of Death Benefit, Living Benefit or Accelerated Death Benefit available under the Policy.

To request a review, the claimant must send the Company a written request, and any written comments or other items to support the claim. The claimant may review certain non-privileged information relating to the request for review.

Notice of Decision. The Company will review the claim and send the claimant a written notice of its decision. The notice will explain the reasons for the Company's decision, under the terms of the Policy and any internal guidelines. If the Company upholds the denial of all or part of the claim; then the notice will also describe:

- (1) any further appeal procedures available under the Policy;
- (2) the right to access relevant claim information; and
- (3) the right to request a state insurance department review, or to bring legal action.

For a death or dismemberment claim, the notice will be sent within 60 days after the Company receives the request for review; or within 120 days, if a special case requires more time. For a claim for any Extension of Death Benefit, Living Benefit or Accelerated Death Benefit available under the Policy, the notice will be sent within 45 days after the Company receives the request for review; or within 90 days, if a special case requires more time.

CLAIMS PROCEDURES (Continued)

Delay Notice. If the Company needs more time to process an appeal, in a special case; then it will send the claimant a written delay notice, by the 30th day after receiving the request for review. The notice will explain:

- (1) the special circumstances which require the delay;
- (2) whether more information is needed to review the claim; and
- (3) when a decision can be expected.

Exception: If the Company needs more information from the claimant to process an appeal; then it must be supplied within 45 days after the Company requests it. The resulting delay will not count towards the above time limits for appeal processing.

Claims Subject to ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974). Before bringing a civil legal action under the federal labor law known as ERISA, an employee benefit plan participant or beneficiary must exhaust available administrative remedies. Under the Policy, the claimant must first seek two administrative reviews of the adverse claim decision, in accord with this section. If an ERISA claimant brings legal action under Section 502(a) of ERISA after the required reviews; then the Company will waive any right to assert that he or she failed to exhaust administrative remedies.

RIGHT OF RECOVERY. If benefits have been overpaid on any claim; then full reimbursement to the Company is required within 60 days. If reimbursement is not made; then the Company has the right to:

- (1) reduce future benefits until full reimbursement is made; and
- (2) recover such overpayments from you, or from your Beneficiary or estate.

Such reimbursement is required whether the overpayment is due to fraud, the Company's error in processing a claim, or any other reason.

LEGAL ACTIONS. No legal action to recover any benefits may be brought until 60 days after the required written proof of claim has been given. No such legal action may be brought more than three years after the date written proof of claim is required.

COMPANY'S DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY. Except for the functions that the Policy clearly reserves to the Group Policyholder or Employer, the Company has the authority to:

- (1) manage the Policy and administer claims under it; and
- (2) interpret the provisions and resolve questions arising under the Policy.

The Company's authority includes (but is not limited to) the right to:

- (1) establish and enforce procedures for administering the Policy and claims under it;
- (2) determine your eligibility for insurance and entitlement to benefits;
- (3) determine what information the Company reasonably requires to make such decisions; and
- (4) resolve all matters when a claim review is requested.

Any decision the Company makes, in the exercise of its authority, shall be conclusive and binding; subject to you or your Beneficiary's rights to:

- (1) request a state insurance department review; or
- (2) bring legal action.

**NOTICE CONCERNING COVERAGE
LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS UNDER THE NORTH CAROLINA
LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION ACT**

Residents of this state who purchase life insurance, annuities or health insurance should know that the insurance companies and Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) licensed in this state to write these types of insurance are members of the North Carolina Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association. The purpose of this association is to assure that policyholders will be protected, within limits, in the unlikely event that a member insurer or HMO becomes financially unable to meet its obligations. If this should happen, the guaranty association will assess its other member insurance companies for the money to pay the claims of insured persons who live in this state and, in some cases, to keep coverage in force. The valuable extra protection provided by these insurers through the guaranty association is not unlimited, however. And, as noted *in the box* below, this protection is not a substitute for consumers' care in selecting companies that are well-managed and financially stable.

The North Carolina Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association may not provide coverage for this policy. If coverage is provided, it may be subject to substantial limitations or exclusions, and require continued residency in North Carolina. You should not rely on coverage by the North Carolina Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association in selecting an insurance company or in selecting an insurance policy.

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

Insurance companies or their agents are required by law to give or send you this notice. However, insurance companies and their agents are prohibited by law from using the existence of the guaranty association to induce you to purchase any kind of insurance policy.

The North Carolina Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association
Post Office Box #10218
Raleigh, North Carolina 27605-0218

North Carolina Department of Insurance
Consumer Services Division
1201 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1201

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

Coverage

Generally, individuals will be protected by the life and health insurance guaranty association if they live in this state and hold a life or health insurance contract, or an annuity, or if they are insured under a group insurance contract, issued by a member insurer or HMO. The beneficiaries, payees or assignees of insured persons are protected as well, even if they live in another state.

Exclusions From Coverage

However, persons holding such policies are not protected by this association if:

- They are eligible for protection under the laws of another state (this may occur when the insolvent insurer was incorporated in another state whose guaranty association protects insureds who live outside that state);
- The insurer was not authorized to do business in this state;
- Their policy was issued by a fraternal benefit society, a mandatory state pooling plan, a mutual assessment company or similar plan in which the policyholder is subject to future assessments, or by an insurance exchange;
- They acquired rights to receive payments through a structured settlement factoring transaction.

The association also does not provide coverage for:

- Any policy or portion of a policy which is not guaranteed by the insurer or for which the individual has assumed the risk, such as a variable contract sold by prospectus;
- Any policy of reinsurance (unless an assumption certificate was issued);
- Interest rate yields that exceed the average rate specified in the law;
- Dividends;
- Experience or other credits given in connection with the administration of a policy for a group contract holder;
- Employers' plans to the extent they are self-funded (that is, not insured by an insurance company, even if an insurance company administers them);
- Unallocated annuity contracts (which give rights to group contract holders, not individuals), unless they fund a government lottery or a benefit plan of an employer, association or union, except that unallocated annuities issued to employee benefit plans protected by the Federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation are not covered; or
- A policy or contract commonly known as Medicare Part C, Medicare Part D, Medicaid or any regulations issued pursuant thereto.

Limits On Amount Of Coverage

The act also limits the amount the association is obligated to pay out as follows:

- (1) The guaranty association cannot pay more than what the insurance company would owe under the policy or contract.
- (2) Except as provided in (3), (4) and (5) below, the guaranty association will pay a maximum of \$300,000 per individual, per insolvency, no matter how many policies or types of policies issued by the insolvent company.
- (3) The guaranty association will pay a maximum of \$500,000 with respect to a health benefit plan.
- (4) The guaranty association will pay a maximum of \$1,000,000 with respect to the payee of a structured settlement annuity.
- (5) The guaranty association will pay a maximum of \$5,000,000 to any one unallocated annuity contract holder.

CERTIFICATE AMENDMENT

TO BE ATTACHED TO THE CERTIFICATE FOR GROUP POLICY NO: 000400001000

ISSUED TO: The Commerce Trust Company as Trustee for The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company Voluntary Insurance Trust

For Participating Employer: Cherokee County (27310)

It is agreed that the above policy be amended as follows.

Any exclusion for suicide for a death benefit under life insurance coverage is amended to read as follows:

EXCLUSION. Benefits will not be payable if your death or the death of your Dependent:

- (1) results from suicide while sane or insane; and
- (2) occurs within one year after your Personal Life Insurance or insurance for that Dependent takes effect.

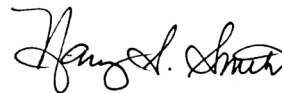
If benefits are not payable as a result of your or your Dependent's suicide, the Company will promptly refund any premium from your or your Dependent's Effective Date of coverage.

If there is an increase to your amount of Personal Life Insurance or your Dependent's amount of life insurance following the Effective Date of coverage, the one-year period will apply; but only for the increased Amount of Personal Life Insurance or the increased amount of Dependent's life insurance.

If you or your Dependent were covered under any prior group life insurance policy that the Policy replaced with 1 day of the prior plan's termination date, the continuous months of coverage under the prior plan just before it terminated will count toward the one-year period.

The effective date of this Certificate Amendment is **July 1, 2022 or your effective date of coverage under the Policy (whichever is later)**; but only with respect to losses incurred on or after that date. Nothing contained in this Certificate Amendment shall change any of the terms and conditions of the Policy, except as stated above.

THE LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY



Officer of the Company

The Lincoln Financial Group companies* are committed to protecting your privacy. To provide the products and services you expect from a financial services leader, we must collect personal information about you. We do not sell your personal information to third parties. This Notice describes our current privacy practices. While your relationship with us continues, we will update and send our Privacy Practices Notice as required by law. Even after that relationship ends, we will continue to protect your personal information. You do not need to take any action because of this Notice, but you do have certain rights as described below.

We are committed to the responsible use of information and protecting individual privacy rights. As such, we look to leading data protection standards to guide our privacy program. These standards include collecting data through fair and lawful means, such as obtaining your consent when appropriate.

Information we may collect and use

We collect personal information about you to help us identify you as a consumer, our customer, or our former customer; to process your requests and transactions; to offer investment or insurance services to you; to pay your claim; to analyze in order to enhance our products and services; to tell you about our products or services we believe you may want and use; and as otherwise permitted by law. The type of personal information we collect depends on your relationship and on the products or services you request and may include the following:

- **Information from you:** When you submit your application or other forms, you give us information such as your name, address, Social Security number; and your financial, health, and employment history. We may also collect voice recordings or biometric data for use in accordance with applicable law.
- **Information about your transactions:** We maintain information about your transactions with us, such as the products you buy from us; the amount you paid for those products; your account balances; payment details; and your payment and claims history.
- **Information from outside our family of companies:** If you are applying for or purchasing insurance products, we may collect information from consumer reporting agencies, such as your credit history; credit scores; and driving and employment records. With your authorization, we may also collect information (such as medical information, retirement information, and information related to Social Security benefits), from other individuals or businesses.
- **Information from your employer:** If your employer applies for or purchases group products from us, we may obtain information about you from your employer or group representative in order to enroll you in the plan.

How we use your personal information

We may share your personal information within our companies and with certain service providers. They use this information to process transactions you, your employer, or your group representative have requested; to provide customer service; to analyze in order to evaluate or enhance our products and services; to gain customer insight; to provide education and training to our workforce and customers; and to inform you of products or services we offer that you may find useful. Our service providers may or may not be affiliated with us. They include financial service providers (for example, third party administrators; broker-dealers; insurance agents and brokers, registered representatives; reinsurers and other financial services companies with whom we have joint marketing agreements). Our service providers also include non-financial companies and individuals (for example, consultants; vendors; and companies that perform marketing services on our behalf). Information we obtain from a report prepared by a service provider may be kept by the service provider and shared with other persons; however, we require our service providers to protect your personal information and to use or disclose it only for the work they are performing for us, or as permitted by law. We may execute agreements with our service providers that permit the service provider to process your personal information outside of the United States, when not prohibited by our contracts and permitted by applicable law.

When you apply for one of our products, we may share information about your application with credit bureaus. We also may provide information to group policy owners or their designees (for example, to your employer for employer-sponsored plans and their authorized service providers), regulatory authorities and law enforcement officials, and to other non-affiliated or affiliated parties as permitted by law. In the event of a sale of all or part of our businesses, we may share customer information as part of the sale. **We do not sell or release your information to outside marketers who may want to offer you their own products and services; nor do we release information we receive about you from a consumer reporting agency. You do not need to take any action for this benefit.**

Security of information

We have an important responsibility to keep your information safe. We use safeguards to protect your information from unauthorized disclosure. Our employees are authorized to access your information only when they need it to perform their job responsibilities. Employees who have access to your personal information are required to keep it confidential. Employees are required to complete privacy training annually.

Your rights regarding your personal information

This Privacy Notice describes how you can exercise your rights regarding your personal information. Lincoln complies with all applicable laws and regulations regarding the provision of personal information. The rights provided to you in this Privacy Notice will be administered in accordance with your state's specific laws and regulations.

Access to personal information: You must submit a written request to receive a copy of your personal information. You may see your personal information in person, or you may ask us to send you a copy of your personal information by mail or electronically, whichever you prefer. We will need to verify your identity before we process the request. Within 30 business days of receiving your request, we will, depending on the specific request you make, (1) inform you of the nature and substance of the recorded personal information we have about you; (2) permit you to obtain a copy of your personal information; and (3) provide the identity (if recorded) of persons to whom we disclosed your personal information within two years prior to the request (if this information is not recorded, we will provide you with the names of those insurance institutions, agents, insurance support organizations or other persons to whom such information is normally disclosed). If you request a copy of your information by mail, we may charge you a fee for copying and mailing costs.

Changes to personal information: If you believe that your personal information is inaccurate or incomplete, you may ask us to correct, amend, or delete the information. Your request must be in writing and must include the reason you are requesting the change. We will respond within 30 business days from the date we receive your request.

If we make changes to your records as a result of your request, we will notify you in writing and we will send the updated information, at your request, to any person who may have received your personal information within the past two years. We will also send the updated information to any insurance support organization that gave us the information and any insurance support organization that systematically received personal information from us within the prior 7 years unless that support organization no longer maintains your personal information.

If we deny your request to correct, amend or delete your information, we will provide you with the reasons for the denial. You may write to us and concisely describe what you believe our records should say and why you disagree with our denial of your request to correct, amend, or delete that information. We will file this communication from you with the disputed information, identify the disputed information if it is disclosed, and provide notice of the disagreement to the persons and in the manner described in the paragraph above.

Basis for adverse underwriting decision: You may ask in writing for the specific reasons for an adverse underwriting decision. An adverse underwriting decision is where we decline your application for insurance, offer to insure you at a higher than standard rate, or terminate your coverage.

Your state may provide for additional privacy protections under applicable laws. We will protect your information in accordance with these additional protections.

If you would like to act upon your rights regarding your personal information, please provide your full name, address and telephone number and either email your inquiry to our Data Subject Access Request Team at DSAR@lfg.com or mail to: Lincoln Financial Group, Attn: Corporate Privacy Office, 1301 South Harrison St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. The DSAR@lfg.com email address should only be used for inquiries related to this Privacy Notice. For general account service requests or inquiries, please call 1-877-ASK-LINC.

*This information applies to the following Lincoln Financial Group companies:

First Penn-Pacific Life Insurance Company
Lincoln Financial Distributors, Inc.
Lincoln Financial Group Trust Company
Lincoln Investment Advisors Corporation

Lincoln Life & Annuity Company of New York
Lincoln Life Assurance Company of Boston
Lincoln Retirement Services Company, LLC
Lincoln Variable Insurance Products Trust
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company

**This Notice is effective 14 calendar days after it is made available on Lincoln's website, www.LFG.com/privacy.