

RSsemmler INSURANCE

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LIFE INSURANCE IN THE TIME OF COVID-19

As the COVID-19 pandemic has spread, we've been bombarded with reminders of our own mortality. It has reinforced the idea that illness and death can come at any time, and that has some people thinking seriously about life insurance.

If you're wondering if you have enough life insurance, or even if you need it, you may also be wondering what you can do about it. With physical distancing protocols in place for much of the nation, you may be asking yourself if you can even get life insurance during the worst pandemic the U.S. has seen in at least a century. We recommend actually speaking with an agent so you can have a conversation about your options, budget and coverage. Will I have to get a physical exam? In many cases, no. Most insurance companies set a coverage amount – anywhere from \$100,000 to \$500,000 – that can be applied for without a physical exam. "For the most part, a streamlined underwriting process makes this journey simple. If you're younger than age 50 and in reasonably good health, you may only have to do a phone interview to answer questions about your medical history. However, if you apply for an amount of coverage higher than an insurance company's predetermined limit, or something comes up in your interview that requires closer inspection, the company could require a simple medical exam that can either be completed in your home or in a testing facility. Of course, insurance companies are taking every precaution to make sure people won't be exposed to the virus (COVID-19). Having something is better than nothing! So getting a simple policy now, like a term policy, might be a good idea, because it gives you affordable coverage right away – which is awesome, because many people's paychecks have been affected. Many term policies can be converted to a more permanent, complete solution once conditions improve. Stay Safe!

COMMON INSURANCE QUESTIONS

If my garage burns down and my car is in the garage, is my car covered under my homeowners insurance or car insurance?

- Your homeowners insurance does not cover the loss of your car, even though it was, "in your house." You typically must have a form of comprehensive physical damage coverage on your automobile insurance policy for it to be covered.

What is the difference between general and professional liability insurance for my business?

- General liability protects you against claims for bodily injury and property damage, such as someone tripping over a cord in the office and falling. Professional liability is insurance that protects you and your staff against negligence claims relating to your delivery of professional services; for example, offering what someone perceived as bad advice.



HOW TO READ AN INSURANCE POLICY

An insurance policy is a contract that defines the obligations of both the insured and the insurer. Terms can be hard to understand and policies can be written in a confusing manner. Taking the time to understand your policies is well worth the effort.

Declarations: The declarations (or dec) page is usually the first page of the policy summarizing key information specific to the policy.

Insuring Agreements: This specifies what the insurance company has agreed to pay for or to provide in exchange for the premium. Often a policy contains a section clearly marked *insuring agreements*, although there may be additional agreements buried in the policy. Also, the policy may call an insuring agreement a coverage and many policies include more than one coverage.

Definitions: Insurance policies contain many common words that have special meaning within the context of insurance. The policy identifies these words usually by bold print or quotation marks.

Exclusions: Every insurance policy has exclusions or policy provisions that eliminate coverage for specified exposures. Exclusions serve as a way to clarify the coverages granted by the policy.

Conditions: Conditions within an insurance policy qualify the various promises made by the insurance company. The insurer does not promise to cover all losses. The company will impose certain requirements or conditions on the insured, such as premium payment or duties to follow after a loss.

Endorsements: Most policies also contain endorsements. Endorsements are policy forms that modify the main coverage form. Endorsements can add coverage or they can modify the coverage by revising a definition. It can also restrict or exclude coverage, such as an endorsement that excludes claims from pending and prior litigation.

OUR LICENSED
AGENTS ARE HERE
TO HELP YOU
UNDERSTAND YOUR
POLICY. WE ARE
HAPPY TO GO
THROUGH YOUR
POLICY WITH YOU
ANYTIME!





Life Insurance

Finding the right life insurance products can be challenging in today's insurance environment. As your insurance advisor, we can help you make sound, informed decisions about issues affecting your specific needs. Our philosophy is to fully understand your objectives and then translate them into solutions that provide assurance and peace of mind.

First, you'll need to determine the type of life insurance you want to buy, with the most common types being term life insurance, whole life insurance and universal life insurance.

To put it very simply, with term life insurance you pay regular premiums for a set period and the policy only pays out if you die during this period.

With whole life insurance, there's no set period. You usually pay regular premiums until you die, at which point the policy pays out. Sometimes you have the option to take a lump sum back while you are still alive, but this will reduce the amount paid out when you die.

Universal life insurance works in a similar way to whole life insurance, but you have more flexibility about taking money early. You can even borrow money and repay it later; although, if there's any loan outstanding when you die, the policy's payout can be significantly affected. The premiums you pay depend heavily on your age and medical history, along with the amount you want the policy to pay out. So, it's important to seek expert advice before committing to life insurance.

Contact us and we'll walk you through the options and help you to determine if term life insurance, whole life insurance or universal life insurance are right for you. Go to <https://rssemmler.com/life-insurance/individual-life-insurance/> to click on the yellow dots that will provide you will answers to potential risks you need to consider.