# SUMMARY OF THE MONTANA LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION ACT AND NOTICE CONCERNING COVERAGE LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

Residents of Montana who purchase life insurance, annuities, or health insurance should know that the insurance companies licensed in this state to write these types of insurance are members of the Montana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association. The purpose of this Association is to ensure that policyholders will be protected, within limits, in the unlikely event that a member insurer becomes financially unable to meet its obligations. If this should happen, the Association will assess its other member insurance companies for the money to pay the claims of insured persons who live in Montana and, in some cases, to keep coverage in force. The valuable extra protection provided by insurers through the 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.

# **Important Disclaimer**

The Montana 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 the state. You should not rely on coverage by the Association in selecting an insurance company or in selecting an insurance policy.

COVERAGE IS NOT PROVIDED BY THE MONTANA LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE GUARANTY ASSOCIATION FOR YOUR POLICY OR CONTACT OR ANY PORTION OF IT UNDER WHICH THE RISK IS BORNE BY YOU, THE POLICYHOLDER.

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 Association to induce you to purchase any kind of insurance policy.

This information is provided by:

Montana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association P.O. Box 541 Helena, Montana 59624 1-877-678-1048 State of Montana Department of Insurance 840 Helena Ave Helena, Montana 59601 (406) 444-2040 or 1-800-332-6148

#### Summary

The state law that provides for this safety-net coverage is called the Montana Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Act. Below 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 Association.

#### COVERAGE

Generally, individuals will be protected by the Montana 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. The beneficiaries, payees or assignees of insured persons are protected as well, even if they live in another state.

# **EXCLUSIONS FROM COVERAGE**

Persons holding such policies or contracts are not protected by this Association if:

- they are not residents of the State of Montana, except under certain very specific circumstances;
- the insurer was not authorized or licensed to do business in Montana at the time the policy or contract was issued.

The Association also does not provide coverage for:

- persons holding policies issued by a nonprofit hospital or medical service organization (the "Blues"), an HMO, 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;
- any policies or contracts or any part of the policies or contracts under which the risk is borne by the policyholder;
- any policy of reinsurance (unless an assumption certificate was issued);
- interest rate yields that exceed an average rate;
- plans of employers, associations or similar entities to the extent they are self-funded or uninsured (that is, not insured by an insurance company, even if an insurance company administers them);
- dividends;
- experience rating credits;
- credits given in connection with the administration of a policy or contract;
- any unallocated annuity contract issued to an employee benefit plan that is protected under the Federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; and
- any portion of any unallocated annuity contract that is not issued to or in connection with a specific employee, union, or association of natural persons benefit plan or a governmental lottery.

# LIMITS ON AMOUNT OF COVERAGE

The Act also limits the amount the Association is obligated to pay out. The Association cannot pay more than what the insurance company would owe under a policy or contract. Furthermore, the amounts the Association is authorized to pay are limited.

<u>Allocated Contracts</u>. For any one life insured, the Association will pay a maximum of \$300,000 no matter how many policies and contracts there were with the same company, even if they provided different types of coverage. Within this overall \$300,000 limit, the Association will not pay more than \$100,000 in cash surrender values, \$100,00 in health insurance benefits, \$100,000 in present value of annuity benefits or \$300,000 in life insurance death benefits again, no matter how many policies and contracts there were with the same company, and no matter how many different types of coverage.

<u>Unallocated</u> <u>Contracts</u>. With respect to each individual participating in a governmental retirement plan established under sections 401, 403(b), or 457 of the Internal Revenue Code and covered by an unallocated annuity contract or with respect to the beneficiaries of each individual, if deceased, the Association will pay, in the aggregate, \$100,000 in present value annuity benefits, including surrender and withdrawal values. With respect to any one contract holder covered by any unallocated annuity contract not included in the prior sentence, the Association will pay up to \$5 million in benefits, irrespective of the number of contracts held by that contract holder.