



"From Where I Sit ..."

Group Life Insurance Claim Procedures!

Although the CME Retirement Plan includes a distinct group life insurance feature, the procedures for filing a claim are very much like with any other insurance policy. There are only two types of death claims within the CME Plan, 1) a claim on the insured participant and 2) a claim on the insured participant's spouse.



In the case of a claim on the life of an insured participant, the claim should be made by the beneficiary(ies). Accordingly, it is very important that the insured participant inform the beneficiary(ies) that they have been named so they can begin the process at the appointed time. The process begins with the beneficiary(ies) (or the next of kin) contacting our office at (901) 345-4100 to notify us of the death. Afterward, a letter is sent to the beneficiary(ies) informing them to expect an insurance



claim form via US mail from our Administrator. The letter also informs them that the claim form is to be returned to the Administrator accompanied with an original copy of the death certificate of the insured. **The claim form should NOT be sent directly to the insurance company!** When sent directly to the insurance company, our offices are no longer permitted to assist in the settlement of the claim. Bypassing our offices in such a manner generally causes an undue and unnecessary delay in the claim process.

Unlike a claim on the life of an insured participant, a claim on the life of the insured participant's spouse can only be initiated by the insured participant who is the only beneficiary. Apart from this exception, all remaining procedures are the same as in the case of a claim on the life on an insured participant.

When claim forms are returned to our office properly completed, payment to the beneficiary(ies) is generally received within 30 days of our submission of the claim.

As disclosed in the April 2019 article, the assignment feature of our Plan is also available at the time of a claim and can be readily exercised to assist a family with the expeditious cost of funeral expenses. Be reminded that an assignment may only be authorized up to the amount of the insurance on the life of the insured at the time of death. You may not find this feature in other stand alone or individual insurance policies.

One of the most important supplements to our CME Retirement Plan is our Life Insurance program which has paid millions of dollars to thousands of family members over the years. Another advantage is that this program has been "grandfathered" into our Retirement Plan and has become one of our most important offerings. *Or at least that's the way it looks to me ...*

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(Copies of earlier articles may be found on the
Personnel Services Webpage of the CME Website at www.thecmechurch.org)