

Do 'What if' worries keep you up at night?

If you've ever been confined to the hospital or had an accident that required medical treatment, you already know health care costs can be astronomical. And, no matter how good your insurance plan is, there are going to be gaps and out-of-pocket expenses that you have to pay. It's these extras that can quickly chip away at your hard-earned savings.

There's now a plan to fill these gaps. It's an Indemnity Insurance Plan designed to help protect you and your savings. When major medical plans step in to cover your doctors, hospitals and other health care providers, this insurance plan pays you cash benefits to offset the cost of deductibles, co-pays, household expenses and out-of-pocket costs not covered by other insurance. The benefits are paid directly to you, unless you choose to assign them

to a medical provider. Plans are available for virtually all age groups, including those over age 65.

This Indemnity Plan is not a Medicare Supplement policy. It is not a Major Medical policy. It is affordable coverage that pays you cash to use however you want whenever you're sick, hurt or require nursing care. And, it's a plan you can trust because it is

underwritten by Continental Life, a division of Aetna, one of the leading diversified health care benefit companies in our nation.

Don't keep worrying about the 'what ifs' that go along with a health care emergency. Call me to learn more about Indemnity Insurance and how it can help you.

There is affordable coverage that pays you cash to use however you want whenever you're sick, hurt or require nursing care. And, it's a plan you can trust.

INSIDE:

- Indemnity Plan
- Collecting SS From Your Ex
- 5 Big Beneficiary Blunders
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- E-Newsletter



Letter
from
aura

Dear Friends,

In my April newsletter I shared with you my plans to establish Heart to Heart, a non-profit organization to support the needs of senior pet owners and adoptable dogs and cats.

Your positive response has been overwhelming. More than ever before, your comments assured me there is a need for an organization like Heart to Heart in our community.

I wish I could tell you that Heart to Heart is ready to begin offering assistance, but that's not the case. We are only at the very beginning and have a long way to go before Heart to Heart becomes a reality. There are legal hurdles. Logistics. Procedures to put in place. While I'm confident that we will get it all done, it is going to be a while before Heart to Heart is up and running.

I am keeping the names of everyone who has requested assistance or volunteered their services on file for future reference. In the meantime, please continue to support the many fine animal shelters in our area. They need your help.

Thank you for your interest, ideas and enthusiastic support for Heart to Heart. And watch for updates on our progress in future newsletters.

Regards,

Laura Mutsko

Divorced? Don't rule out collecting Social Security from your ex.

Regardless of whether you stayed in touch with your ex . . . Even if you never want to speak with him or her again. You may be eligible to collect Social Security spousal benefits based on your ex-spouse's work record.

The rules are fairly straightforward. If you were married for at least 10 years, you are age 62 or older and your former spouse is 62 or older (or otherwise entitled to Social Security retirement or disability benefits,) you have been divorced for at least two years and are now single, you could qualify.

It does not matter if your ex has remarried. Your tapping into his or her Social Security benefits will not affect his or her benefits or what his or her current family receives from Social Security. In fact, if you're concerned your ex will find out you are



receiving these benefits, don't worry. Social Security is not permitted to share this information so your ex-spouse won't even know it's happening.

If you remarried, you generally cannot collect benefits on your former spouse's record unless your subsequent marriage ended by death, divorce or annulment. The benefits you are entitled to receive based on your ex's work record must be more than what you are entitled to receive based on your own record.

If you think you may be eligible, con-

contact Social Security to make a determination. They will take into account many variables including your current work status, your ex's work record and whether your ex is living or deceased when you apply. To contact Social Security, call 800-772-1213

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5BIG beneficiary blunders

Naming the persons you want to receive your life insurance proceeds sounds simple enough. But, mistakes are common and can be expensive and heartbreaking for those you leave behind.

Here are five mistakes to avoid:

1. Naming a minor child as your beneficiary

Life insurance companies won't pay life insurance proceeds directly to minors. If you haven't created a trust or made any legal arrangements for someone to manage the money, the court will appoint a guardian – a costly process – to handle the proceeds until the child reaches 18 or 21, depending on the state. For your best course, consult an estate attorney to protect any minor children.

2. Neglecting to update your beneficiaries

Everyone should review their insurance (including employer provided policies) every three years and after any major life events, such as marriage, having children or divorce. It is vital that you change your beneficiaries

when your circumstances change. It is not uncommon to find an ex-spouse listed as the beneficiary on a life insurance policy, especially policies through long-time employers.

3. Believing a will trumps an insurance policy

A life insurance policy is a contract. Regardless of what your will says the life insurance money will be paid to the beneficiary listed on the policy.

4. Making a dependent ineligible for government benefits

Naming a child with special needs as beneficiary puts that person at risk for losing eligibility for government assistance. Anyone who receives a gift or inheritance

of more than \$2,000 is disqualified for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid, under federal law. Consult an attorney to set up a special needs trust, and name the trust as beneficiary. A trustee you select can then manage the money for your dependent's benefit.

5. Not letting anyone know

Let someone know where to find your life insurance policy. It won't benefit anyone to have to hunt for it, or even worse, lose out on the benefits if the policy is never found.

Other areas to watch out for include tax traps, setting conditions, listing only one beneficiary and more. Take some time to sit down with me to review your life insurance and circumstances. Call me today at 440-255-5700 or email me at Lmutsko@gmail.com to make an appointment for a review.

Mistakes are common and can be expensive and heartbreaking for those you leave behind.

Still without Health Insurance?

Even though Open Enrollment for Health Insurance has long been closed, there may be an opportunity for you to purchase coverage for 2015. If you have had a life-changing event – like getting married, having a child or losing other coverage – you may qualify for a Special Enrollment Period. Those who qualify can get enrolled and reduce or avoid stiff penalties on next year's taxes for not having insurance. Call me to find out more about this option.

E-NEWSLETTER

We are pleased to introduce a new email version of our Mutsko Insurance Services newsletter with this issue. Please check your email to make sure you received your electronic copy.

For the July newsletter, we are sending you both a paper copy and an electronic version. If we have your email address on file, you can expect to receive all future issues of the newsletter electronically.

If you prefer to continue receiving your copy through the mail, simply 'unsubscribe' to the email version and we will continue to send your newsletter through the mail.

Find It & Win!

Somewhere in our newsletter is a misspelled word.

Be among the first to spot it and call us and you will

be entered in a drawing to win a **\$10 gas gift card!**

Call 440-255-5700
or toll-free at
888-951-6201.

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