

PLEASE READ THIS ENDORSEMENT CAREFULLY AS IT CHANGES YOUR POLICY

## UNINSURED MOTORISTS COVERAGE - VERMONT

**PART C – UNINSURED MOTORISTS COVERAGE** is replaced by the following **PART C – UNINSURED MOTORISTS COVERAGE**:

### INSURING AGREEMENTS

#### A. Uninsured Motorists Bodily Injury Coverage.

If the premium for this coverage has been paid, we will pay for compensatory damages that an “insured” is legally entitled to recover from the owner or operator of an “uninsured motor vehicle” or “underinsured motor vehicle” for “bodily injury” sustained by that “insured” and caused by a motor vehicle accident.

The owner’s or operator’s liability for these damages must:

1. Be due to a motor vehicle accident; and
2. Arise out of and be causally connected to the ownership, maintenance or use of the “uninsured motor vehicle” or “underinsured motor vehicle”.

Any payment by us for this Uninsured Motorists Bodily Injury Coverage is subject to the limits elected and shown in the Declarations or Schedule, and as further described in the **Limit of Liability** provision of this endorsement.

#### B. Uninsured Motorists Property Damage Coverage.

If the premium for this coverage has been paid, we will pay for compensatory damages that an “insured” is legally entitled to recover from the owner or operator of an “uninsured motor vehicle” or “underinsured motor vehicle” for “property damage” sustained by that “insured” and caused by a motor vehicle accident.

The owner’s or operator’s liability for these damages must:

1. Be due to a motor vehicle accident; and
2. Arise out of and be causally connected to the ownership, maintenance or use of the “uninsured motor vehicle” or “underinsured motor vehicle”.

Any payment by us for this Uninsured Motorists Property Damage Coverage is subject to the limits elected and shown in the Declarations or Schedule, and as further described in the **Limit of Liability** provision of this endorsement.

#### C. “Insured” as used in this endorsement means:

1. You or a “family member” while “occupying” “your covered auto”.
2. You or a “family member” while not “occupying” a motor vehicle.
3. Any other person while “occupying” “your covered auto” with permission from you.
4. Any person, for damages that person is legally entitled to recover because of “bodily injury” to a person described in this definition in 1., 2., or 3. above. This does not increase our limit of liability in any accident to an amount greater than the limit that applies to the person who has sustained a “bodily injury” and is described in this definition in 1., 2., or 3. above.

However, “insured” shall NOT mean and does NOT include:

1. You;
2. Any “family member” or any other person related to you who resides with you; or

3. Any other person;

while “occupying”, operating or otherwise using any vehicle owned by, or furnished or available for the regular use of, you, or any person related to you who resides with you, if that vehicle is not “your covered auto”.

- D. “Minimum limits”, as used in this endorsement, means the minimum amounts of liability insurance required under a financial responsibility or compulsory insurance law of the state where “your covered auto” is registered, as shown in our records, that apply to the owner or operator of a private passenger automobile. The minimum limits amount will be the each person/each accident limit required by these laws.
- E. “Property damage”, as used in this endorsement, means:
1. Physical injury to, destruction of, or loss of use of “your covered auto” for which Uninsured Motorists Property Damage Coverage has been purchased.
  2. Physical injury to, or destruction of, personal property that is owned by an “insured” and contained in “your covered auto” to which Uninsured Motorists Property Damage Coverage applies at the time of an accident.
- F. “Underinsured motor vehicle” means a land motor vehicle for which one or more liability bonds or policies apply at the time of the accident, but:
1. The sum of all limits available under those bonds and policies for “bodily injury” and/or “property damage” liability coverage are less than the applicable **Uninsured Motorists Coverage** limit for this Policy; or
  2. The available liability bond or policies have been reduced by payments to other persons injured in the same accident, or sustaining “property damage” if that “property damage” coverage applies, to an amount less than the limit for **Uninsured Motorists Coverage** shown in the Declarations or Schedule for the “bodily injury” and/or “property damage”.
- An “underinsured motor vehicle” does NOT include any vehicle or its equipment:
1. Located for use as a residence or premises;
  2. Designed for use mainly off public roads, while not on public roads;
  3. Operated on rails or crawler treads;
  4. Owned by any government or any of its subdivisions or agencies;
  5. Shown in the Declarations or Schedule, or insured under the liability coverage, of this Policy;
  6. Owned by, or furnished or available for the regular use of, you, any “family member” or any other person related to you who resides with you; or
  7. That is an “uninsured motor vehicle”.
- G. “Uninsured motor vehicle” means a land motor vehicle that is:
1. Not insured or bonded for liability at the time of the accident;
  2. Insured or bonded for liability at the time of the accident, but the bonding or insuring company is insolvent at the time of the accident, or becomes, insolvent within one year after the accident; or
  3. An unidentified or hit-and-run motor vehicle for which the owner or operator cannot be identified, and that motor vehicle causes “property damage” or “bodily injury” to an “insured”, with or without striking or hitting that “insured”, “your covered auto”, or a vehicle an “insured” is “occupying”. If there is no physical contact with that motor vehicle causing the accident, then the facts of the accident must be proven by the preponderance of the evidence.

An "uninsured motor vehicle" does NOT include any vehicle or its equipment:

1. Located for use as a residence or premises;
2. Designed for use mainly off public roads, while not on public roads;
3. Operated on rails or crawler treads;
4. Owned by any government or any of its subdivisions or agencies;
5. Shown in the Declarations or Schedule, or insured under the liability coverage, of this Policy;
6. Furnished or available for the regular use of, you, any "family member" or any other person related to you who resides with you;
7. Owned or operated by a self-insurer under any motor vehicle law that applies, other than a self-insurer that is or becomes insolvent; or
8. That is an "underinsured motor vehicle".

### **ADDITIONAL TERMS & DUTIES**

The coverage provided by this endorsement is also subject to these additional terms and duties:

- A. If the owner or operator of an "uninsured motor vehicle" or "underinsured motor vehicle" has liability insurance, self-insurance or bond, we will not make a payment under **Uninsured Motorists Coverage** to or for an "insured" until after one of the following occurs:
  1. You and we agree, in writing, to a written settlement;
  2. We have been given both:
    - a. Prompt written notice of an offer of settlement by the owner, operator or insurer of an "uninsured motor vehicle" or "underinsured motor vehicle", and
    - b. Within 30 days of that offer notice, an opportunity to advance payment to the "insured" in an amount equal to that offer of settlement so as to protect our rights to recover against the liable owner and/or operator (or its insurer); or
  3. The limits of liability under those other applicable liability policies or bonds have been exhausted by payment of judgments or settlements.
- B. Without our prior written consent, we are not bound by:
  1. Any settlement for damages; or
  2. Any judgment arising out of a lawsuit;

against the owner or operator of an "uninsured motor vehicle" or "underinsured motor vehicle".
- C. In the event of an accident involving a hit-and-run or unidentified vehicle, you (or someone on your behalf) must contact:
  1. The police (or other law enforcement with proper jurisdiction) within 24 hours of, or as soon as practicable after, that accident, and file a written report; and
  2. Us within 30 days of, or as soon as practicable after, that accident.
- D. To the extent of our payment for a claim made under **Uninsured Motorists Coverage**:
  1. We are entitled to reimbursement only after that person has been fully compensated and made whole for loss or damage; and
  2. Any reimbursement due to us shall be reduced by deducting a fair portion of all reasonable expenses of recovery incurred by that person in effecting the settlement or recovery. The

reasonable expenses of recovery shall be apportioned between the parties as the interests appear at the time of the settlement or recovery.

## EXCLUSIONS

- A. **Uninsured Motorists Coverage** does NOT cover “property damage” or “bodily injury” to an “insured” or any person:
1. That occurs while using or “occupying” a vehicle without permission from the owner of the vehicle. This does not apply to you or a “family member” when using or “occupying” “your covered auto”.
  2. That occurs while “your covered auto” is being used as a public or livery conveyance or for any delivery of persons or property for compensation or a fee. This exclusion (A.3.) does not apply to shared expense car pools.
- B. **Uninsured Motorists Coverage** shall NOT apply, directly or indirectly, to benefit any:
1. Workers’ compensation or disability benefits insurer;
  2. Self-insurer under any workers’ compensation, or disability benefits or similar law;
  3. Government body or agency; or
  4. Insurer or self-insurer of property.
- C. We do NOT provide any coverage of any kind for any punitive or exemplary damages, however named, and we do not cover any and all:
1. Damages that are separate from sums intended to provide compensation, and are instead intended or awarded to:
    - a. Punish or deter wrongful, malicious or unlawful conduct by any person or party; or
    - b. Fine, penalize or impose a statutory penalty; and
  2. Attorney fees, interest, costs or other fees awarded in connection with the award of any such punitive or exemplary damages.

## LIMIT OF LIABILITY

Our **Uninsured Motorists Coverage** limit of liability, which is the most we will pay, is the limit shown in the Declarations or Schedule. That limit is subject to the following terms:

- A. The most we will pay for all covered “bodily injury” damages is:
1. The “bodily injury” limit for each person shown in the Declarations or Schedule, which shall:
    - a. Apply for all claims due to “bodily injury” to one person in any one accident; and
    - b. Include all claims allowed by law and incurred by persons other than the person who sustains the actual “bodily injury” that results from an accident. These claims include, but are not limited to, derivative or independent claims (however labeled and where allowed by law) for: wrongful death; loss of consortium, companionship, society, support and services; and emotional distress or mental anguish as a result of seeing the accident or “bodily injury”.
  2. If the limit shown in the Declarations or Schedule shows a per person and per accident “bodily injury” limit, that per accident limit:
    - a. Shall apply for “bodily injury” to two or more persons in any one accident; and
    - b. Is subject to the “bodily injury” limit for “each person” as described above.

- B. If the Declarations or Schedule shows you have purchased Uninsured Motorists Property Damage Coverage, the limit shown is the most we will pay for all covered "property damage" sustained in any one accident, and is subject to the following:
1. For "property damage", we shall not pay more than the lowest of the:
    - a. "Property damage" limits shown in the Declarations or Schedule for Uninsured Motorists Property Damage Coverage;
    - b. Guaranteed Value® of the damaged property, as shown in the Declarations or Schedule, at the time of the accident, if the damaged property is "your covered auto";
    - c. The amount necessary to repair the property, provided the property is actually repaired;
    - d. The amount necessary to replace the property, provided the property is actually replaced; or
    - e. If there is damage to personal property which is contained within "your covered auto" at the time of the accident, actual cash value of that property.
  2. Our payment for "property damage" will not include, and you are responsible for (when applicable), the amount of:
    - a. Any deductible shown in the Declarations or Schedule for this Uninsured Motorists Property Damage Coverage, or if no deductible is shown, a deductible of \$150. Any such deductible will not apply to:
      - (1) Direct damage to "your covered auto" if there is valid and collectible physical damage coverage that applies to cover that damage under this or any other policy of insurance; or
      - (2) Indirect damage to property.
    - b. Betterment to any property, including any costs for labor, parts, and materials to repair prior damage, deterioration, and/or defects to the property that had not been repaired prior to the accident.
    - c. The salvage value if you or the owner retains salvage.
- C. If only a single per accident limit is shown as the limit of liability in the Declarations or Schedule for **Uninsured Motorists Coverage**, that amount shown is the most we will pay for the total of all covered damages resulting from any one accident. We will comply with any law requiring us to provide any separate limits, but this does not increase the total limit of liability that applies to each accident.
- D. There will be no adding, stacking or combining of limits within this Policy for any one covered accident no matter the number of:
1. Injured persons, claims or lawsuits asserted;
  2. Vehicles or trailers involved in the accident;
  3. Insureds on this Policy or involved in the accident; or
  4. Vehicles or premiums shown in the Declarations or Schedule.
- E. Our limit of liability for Uninsured Motorists Bodily Injury Coverage shall be reduced by any amount paid or to be paid because of "bodily injury":
1. By or on behalf of any persons or parties that may be legally responsible for the injury, including, but not limited to, all amounts paid under **PART A – LIABILITY COVERAGE** of this Policy. However, this shall not reduce the available amount to less than "minimum limits"; and
  2. Paid under **PART B – MEDICAL PAYMENTS COVERAGE** of this Policy.

- F. Duplicate payments will not be allowed or made for the same element of damages, expense or loss that has been or will be paid by any other coverage under this Policy, any other policy or by any other source.
- G. We will not pay for any element of loss if a person is entitled to receive payment for the same element of loss under any of the following or similar laws:
  - 1. Workers' compensation law; or
  - 2. Disability benefits law.

#### **OTHER INSURANCE**

- A. If there is other uninsured and/or underinsured motorists coverage, or similar type of insurance or source of recovery, that applies or is available under one or more policies, except when the "insured" is "occupying" "your covered auto", the coverage under this Policy, if applicable, shall be excess to all other insurance, whether that insurance is considered primary, secondary or excess. If there is other insurance with the same priority as this coverage, we will not pay more than our share of the covered damages or loss. Our share of the covered damages or loss is the proportion that our limit under this coverage bears to the total of all applicable limits with the same priority as this coverage.
- B. Any **Uninsured Motorists Coverage** we provide for "property damage" shall be excess over any applicable direct damage or collision coverage.
- C. In issuing this Policy of insurance we have relied upon your representation that you will purchase and maintain other insurance providing this coverage on a primary basis with respect to you, "family members" and any other person related to you who resides with you. However, this insurance shall be primary to such other insurance for any "insured" while "occupying" or using "your covered auto".

#### **ARBITRATION**

Arbitration is not available to resolve any disputes as to coverage or policy interpretation issues.

Arbitration may be used, if mutually agreed to by both parties, if we and an "insured" do not agree as to:

- A. Whether or not that "insured" is legally entitled to recover damages; or
- B. The amount of damages that "insured" is legally entitled to recover;

from the owner or operator of an "uninsured motor vehicle" or "underinsured motor vehicle". Any such arbitration is limited to resolving only either one or both of those issues (i.e. liability and damages).

The following terms govern the arbitration process unless we and the "insured" otherwise agree in writing:

- A. Each party will select an impartial and qualified arbitrator. Those two arbitrators will select a third impartial and qualified arbitrator. If the first two arbitrators cannot agree within 30 days, either may request that selection of the third arbitrator be made by a court with proper jurisdiction.
- B. Arbitration will take place in the county in which the "insured" resides at time of accident.
- C. Local rules of law as to procedure and evidence will apply. Disputes as to procedure and evidence shall be subject to the authority of the arbitrator.
- D. Costs will be paid by each party as follows:
  - 1. Each party will pay the expenses it incurs and the costs of its own arbitrator selected; and
  - 2. Each party will share the expenses of the third arbitrator equally.
- E. A decision agreed to by two of the arbitrators will be binding as to:
  - 1. Whether or not that "insured" is legally entitled to recover damages; and

2. The amount of damages that “insured” is legally entitled to recover, but only if that amount is not greater than “minimum limits”.

If the arbitrators’ award is greater than “minimum limits”, either party may demand the right to a trial. This demand must be made within 60 days of the arbitrators’ decision. If this demand is not made, the amount of damages agreed to by the arbitrators will then be binding.

F. The arbitrators shall have no authority to:

1. Resolve any disputes as to coverage, or who is an “insured”, the validity of any coverage election or rejection or selection, residency status of a claimant, qualification of a person as an “insured”, rights or duties under the Policy, or statutes of limitations, or other Policy interpretation issues; or
2. Award any amount greater than the limit of liability; or
3. Award any amount as punitive or exemplary damages, costs, interest, attorney fees or other fees.

If there is no mutual agreement to arbitrate, all issues shall be resolved in a court of proper and competent jurisdiction.

All other policy provisions apply.