

# Protecting Yourself After an Accident

Special to the ASJ  
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Remember all those lessons your parents taught you growing up? Respect your elders, always be polite, practice good table manners, and how supplemental insurance works. Ok, they may have missed an important lesson or two.

This article is part five of a six article series that will have the insurance conversation with you that your parents may have skipped over. You will learn about specific types of supplemental insurance, what the benefits cover, what makes a good policy, if you need insurance, and much more. The series continues with a review of supplemental accident insurance.

## Accident Insurance

Accident insurance is a policy which offers a payout to someone when they experience an injury or death due to an accident. Coverage typically provides a certain percentage benefit for a loss of limbs, fingers, eyesight and other various accident related injuries. The level of benefit and parts of the body that are covered varies with each policy.

Policy payouts are designed to cover medical care expenses along with pain and suffering. If the accident causes permanent disability, payments can be structured to provide funds for you to handle everyday expenses. In the event of a death, benefits will be paid to the listed beneficiary on the policy.

It is important to remember that accidental insurance is not life insurance. This type of insurance does not usually cover what is

deemed to be negligence, acts of God, or natural disasters. In addition, the policy may include restrictions on total payouts of on payout amounts for activities considered to be risky.

## What does accident insurance cover?

Accident insurance covers accidental death and dismemberment, but what does this entail? Basically, coverage is paid at a specified amount in the event of a fatal accident or an accident that results in you losing your eyesight, speech, hearing, a limb, etc.

More specially, dismemberment coverage usually works on a "per-member" basis. If you lose one member, such as a hand, the policy will usually pay 50 percent of the full benefit. Full coverage is usually paid in the event you lose two members.

## Should I buy accident

## insurance?

Accidents can and will happen during our lives. Individuals who travel frequently for their job or have a long commute for work should consider accident insurance as the odds of an occurrence can be higher for you.

This type of insurance should also be considered by Individuals who lack or have a gap in their health care coverage. Purchasing accident insurance will help ensure that these individuals will have access to medical treatment after an accident.

Give consideration to accident insurance if you have family members you feel could suffer financially if you died unexpectedly. Much like life insurance, people who purchase accident insurance can provide

themselves with increased financial security.

## What to look for in an accident policy?

A side-by-side comparison is crucial to getting the best benefits at the best price. When looking at these coverage options there are three key benefit advantages you should review.

## When and Where Coverage is Available

Accidents can happen anywhere at any time, so you need coverage that is portable and protects you 24/7. A good policy should protect you for both on-and-off-the-job accidents.

## Affordable Premiums

Accident insurance should complement any existing health care policy you have, so coverage and rates should be examined to find a price point that is affordable for you while providing the benefits you need.

## Pays Directly to You

There will be direct and indirect expenses associated with an accident that leads to injury or death. A plan that pays directly to the beneficiary allows the freedom to choose what expense those funds are used for.

## Real Needs

You are involved in an untimely fatal car accident during a work trip. You had a life insurance policy and you added an accidental death policy recently. Since you died in a covered accident, your beneficiaries will get the total benefit of both policies. The benefit of being paid twice adds lessens the financial burden on your loved ones. Complementing coverage in this way allows you to save on premiums as it is typically cheaper to have an additional policy than to raise the total benefit of just one.

## Taking Action

If you are interested in purchasing accident coverage, talk to your employer to see if this benefit is offered. Organizations that offer supplemental accident insurance may give you the option to pay through convenient payroll deductions, possibly on a pre-tax basis.

When shopping around, be sure to do side-by-side comparisons as this is a great way to decide on a policy and an insurance company.

Once you have decided on an accident plan, you can submit an application over the phone or may be able to fill one out online. While speaking with an insurance agent to verify your application information, take the time to ask any questions you may have. Once your coverage is approved you will receive comprehensive information about your policy.

## The Bottom Line

Investing in accident insurance is a smart decision that can save you a lot of money and financial heartache for your family. The loss of your income can be devastating on your loved ones if you don't have insurance to cover at least part of their everyday expenses. It is important to make sure that an accident benefit is part of your insurance package.

If you have any additional questions regarding basic accident coverage, you can contact a reputable insurance company to speak with a specialist.

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