

# State Departments of Insurance

Alaska	907-269-7900
Alabama	334-241-4141
Arkansas	501-371-2640
Arizona (Phoenix Area)	602-364-2499
Arizona (All Others)	1-800-325-2548
California	213-897-8921
Colorado	303-894-7499
Connecticut	860-297-3900
District of Columbia	202-442-7790
Delaware	302-674-7300
Florida	850-413-3131
Georgia	404-656-2070
Guam	671-635-1817
Hawaii	808-586-2790
Iowa	515-281-6348
Idaho	208-334-4250
Illinois	312-814-2427
Indiana	317-232-2395
Kansas	785-296-7829
Kentucky	502-564-6034
Louisiana	225-342-1226
Massachusetts	617-521-7777
Maryland	410-468-2244
Maine	207-624-8475
Michigan	517-373-0220
Minnesota	651-296-2488
Missouri	573-751-2640
Mississippi	601-359-2453
Montana	406-444-2040
North Carolina	919-733-2032
North Dakota	701-328-2440
Nebraska	402-471-2201
New Hampshire	603-271-2261
New Jersey	609-292-7272
New Mexico	505-827-4592
Nevada	775-687-4270
New York	518-474-6600
Ohio	614-644-2673
Oklahoma	405-521-2991
Oregon	503-947-7984
Pennsylvania	717-787-2317
Puerto Rico	787-722-8686
Rhode Island	401-222-2223
South Carolina	803-737-6180
South Dakota	605-773-3563
Tennessee	615-741-2218
Texas	512-463-6500
Utah	801-538-3805
Virginia	804-371-9691
Virgin Islands	340-774-7166
Vermont	802-828-3301
Washington	360-725-7080
Wisconsin	608-266-0103
West Virginia	304-558-3386
Wyoming	307-777-7402

The state Departments of Insurance are here to protect your consumer rights. If you feel:

- the terms of any policy you receive are not what you agreed to,
- you have purchased additional unnecessary insurance,
- you have been charged for a policy that you did not authorize, or
- the policy was misrepresented as a savings or investment plan,

please contact the insurance department in your state of residence or where the policy was sold immediately.

To contact your state Department of Insurance, see the list of phone numbers on the adjacent page. It will be beneficial to know the name of the insurance company and who sold you the policy.

If you have Internet access, you may contact your state Department of Insurance through [www.naic.org/state\\_web\\_map.htm](http://www.naic.org/state_web_map.htm).

For more detailed information about what military personnel should know when considering the purchase of life insurance, visit [www.naic.org/consumer\\_military\\_insurance.htm](http://www.naic.org/consumer_military_insurance.htm).

Complaints may also be filed at: [www.naic.org/cis/fileComplaintMap.do](http://www.naic.org/cis/fileComplaintMap.do).

# Life Insurance Information For Military Personnel

## What to know before you buy life insurance:

- Do I need it?
- How much do I need?
- What types of life insurance are available?
- Where do I purchase it?
- Are there red flags to avoid?
- Where can I learn more?

**NAIC** National Association of Insurance Commissioners

2301 McGee Street, Suite 800  
Kansas City, MO 64108-2662



## Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI)

SGLI is a program of low-cost group term life insurance automatically available to all service members on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty for training and members of the Reserves. As of September 1, 2005, the SGLI policy is automatically activated for the current maximum coverage amount of \$400,000, unless the service member opts out in writing. A service member can elect lower coverage or no coverage by completing the VA Form SGLV-8286. Coverage is available for spouses; dependent children are automatically insured for \$10,000. In addition, there is an elected coverage option for up to \$100,000 for spouses. When released from active duty or the Reserves, members with full-time SGLI coverage can convert their coverage to Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI) or to an individual commercial life insurance policy at standard rates without having to provide proof of good health. For more information, call toll free 1-800-419-1473 or go to the Department of Veterans Affairs at their Web site, <https://www.insurance.va.gov>.

## Types of Life Insurance

**Term Insurance-** Life insurance providing coverage at a specified premium for a specified length of time. This type of insurance does not build up cash value and the premium normally increases after a specified time period.

**Permanent Insurance-** Permanent insurance provides long-term financial protection, including both a death benefit and, in some cases, a cash savings.

- *Universal Life* policies offer a flexible premium life insurance policy under which the policy owner may change the death benefit from time to time (with satisfactory evidence of insurability for increases) and vary the amount or timing of premium payments.
- *Variable Life* policies allow the money that remains after payment of premiums to be invested in vehicles of your choosing. Variable life insurance does have the option of a minimum guaranteed death benefit; however, variable life insurance can be expensive and risky, depending on the type of investments made.
- *Whole Life* policies provide lifetime protection at a level premium. Premiums must generally be paid for as long as the policy is in force.

## “Free Look” Period

It is important to review the policy immediately upon receipt. In most states, a minimum 10-day “free look” period is provided, during which time you may return the policy for cancellation and a full refund of any premium(s) paid, should you decide you do not want it. If you decide to cancel the policy, remember to cancel the allotment from your paycheck. If you are going to be deployed, inform the person designated as your power of attorney to look for the policy.

## Before You Sign on the Dotted Line, Ask:

- Do I need more life insurance?
- Are there any war exclusions to the policy? (SGLI does not contain this exclusion.)
- Can I afford this policy? It may be very costly if you cancel during the first few years of a policy.
- Am I feeling pressured to buy this policy?
- Are there any exclusions on the policy for travel on any non-commercial aircraft?

## Red Flags

- Be wary of life insurance products that are sold as or with savings or investment products.
- If in doubt, ask if it is life insurance.
- Agents selling on the base without authorization from your base solicitations officer or the Department of Defense.
- Agents selling without a valid license issued by a state insurance department.
- Non-military or former military personnel acting as investment or financial advisors in a group or classroom setting.
- Pressure to rush through the application process, to complete an allotment form or to authorize withdrawal of funds from your bank account for the purchase of a life insurance policy.
- Delays in receiving a copy of the policy.

## Factors to Consider in Purchasing Additional Life Insurance

- Outstanding Debt
  - Credit Cards
  - Loans (mortgage, car, student, equity)
- Expenses
  - Monthly Expenses
  - Medical Expenses
  - Estate Taxes
  - Cost of Living
  - Inflation
- Beneficiaries
  - Spouse (employed, retirement)
  - Children (day care, college tuition)
  - Other Family Support (siblings, parents)