

EACH CERTIFICATE ISSUED TO AN INSURED UNDER A GROUP CONTRACT SHALL INCLUDE A STATEMENT, IN A MANNER AND FORM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER, THAT ADVISES THE INSURED OF THE FOLLOWING:

(1) THE AVAILABILITY OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE UNDER THIS SECTION;

(2) A SUMMARY OF THE ELIGIBILITY FOR AND DURATION OF THE CONTINUATION COVERAGE; AND

(3) THE PROCEDURE FOR MAKING AN ELECTION TO RECEIVE CONTINUATION COVERAGE IF THE INSURED DIES.

(G) DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER.

THE COMMISSIONER SHALL:

(1) PUBLISH AT LEAST ANNUALLY IN THE MARYLAND REGISTER AND IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN EACH COUNTY NOTICE THAT DESCRIBES THE CONTINUATION COVERAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION;

(2) PRESCRIBE BY REGULATION THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THE ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORM; AND

(3) MAKE ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORMS AVAILABLE TO EACH EMPLOYER WHOSE EMPLOYEES ARE COVERED BY A GROUP CONTRACT.

(H) NOTICE OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE.

NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE PROVIDED BY:

(1) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE AS SPECIFIED IN § 4-217 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE; AND

(2) LICENSED FUNERAL DIRECTORS AS SPECIFIED IN § 7-407 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE.

(I) FAILURE OF EMPLOYER TO PROVIDE NOTICE OR ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORM.

AN EMPLOYER THAT FAILS TO PROVIDE NOTICE OR AN ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORM UNDER THIS SECTION IS NOT LIABLE TO A QUALIFIED SECONDARY BENEFICIARY OR THE INSURED FOR BENEFITS THAT OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE BEEN PAYABLE OR FOR OTHER DAMAGES THAT RESULT FROM THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE NOTICE OR FORM.

(J) LIABILITY FOR TERMINATION OF COVERAGE.

AN EMPLOYER THAT TERMINATES CONTINUATION COVERAGE AFTER NOTICE OR NONPAYMENT OF AN AMOUNT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(2) OF THIS SECTION BY A QUALIFIED SECONDARY BENEFICIARY, OR AN INSURER THAT TERMINATES CONTINUATION COVERAGE AFTER NOTICE BY THE EMPLOYER, IS NOT