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EMERGENCY RULE NOTICE OF INTENT RULE POTPOURRI

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Office of the Commissioner
Office/Board/Commission promulgating this document

James J. Donelon Commissioner
(name) (title)
Name and title of person whose signature will appear in the publication (at the end of the document)


Louisiana Department of Insurance
Department under which office/board/commission is classified

Lisa L. Henson (225) 219-7851 (225) 342-1
(name) (phone) (fax)
Name, phone number, and FAX number of person to contact regarding this document

Lisa.Henson@ldi.la.gov
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Rule 7—Legal Expense Insurers
Short descriptive listing for this document to be used in the *Louisiana Register's* TABLE OF CONTENTS/INDEX

DOI NOI to Amend Rule 7
File name


Signature of Agency Head or Designee
Nicholas Lorusso, Chief Deputy Commissior
Print Name and Title of Agency Head or Designee

Important: If submitting both an Emergency Rule (ER) and a Notice of Intent (NOI) to be published this month, AND if the rule text in the ER is identical to the rule text in the NOI, check here:

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ISIS AGENCY: I certify the availability of fiscal year _____ appropriated funds for the payment of the above referenced publication and authorize the processing of an Interagency Billing with the following coding on the 30th of the month of the publication. Attach supplemental sheet for additional lines of coding.

AGENCY ORGANIZATION # OBJECT SUB-OBJECT REPORTING CATEGORY

NON-ISIS AGENCY: I certify the availability of fiscal year 21/22 appropriated funds for the payment of the above referenced publication and agree to place corresponding invoice in line for payment upon receipt.

Billing Address for Agencies:

La Dept of Insurance
Agency Name

Christopher Bahm
Agency Contact Person for Billing

Christopher.Bahm@ldi.la.gov
Agency E-Mail Address for Billing

 342-5333
Signature of Agency Head or Designee - Phone #

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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

JAMES J. DONELON
COMMISSIONER

July 7, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Page Cortez
President, Louisiana State Senate
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION
apa.senatepresident@legis.la.gov

The Honorable Clay Schexnayder
Speaker, Louisiana House of Representatives
P.O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION
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The Honorable Kirk Talbot
Chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee
P.O. Box 94183
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION
apa.s-ins@legis.la.gov

The Honorable Chad Brown
Chairman of the House Insurance Committee
P.O. Box 94062
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION
apa.h-ins@legis.la.gov

RE: Notice of Intent to Amend Rule 7— Legal Expense Insurers

Dear President Cortez, Speaker Schexnayder, Senator Talbot, and Representative Brown:

The Department of Insurance, pursuant to the authority of the Louisiana Insurance Code, R.S. 22:1 et seq., and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., gives notice of its intent to amend Rule 7— Legal Expense Insurers. The purpose of the amendment to Rule 7 is to address the proper line of insurance into which prepaid legal services should be placed. When originally introduced as a program, prepaid legal services was placed under the line of “fidelity and surety.” Thereafter, the LDI split “fidelity and surety” into two separate lines, namely, “fidelity” and “surety.” The LDI subsequently created a new line of insurance, namely, “miscellaneous.” Upon reviewing the nature of the prepaid legal services program, the LDI has determined that such program properly falls under the definition set forth for “miscellaneous” in La. R.S.

22:47(14). As such, the purpose of the amendment to Rule 7 is to change the line of insurance applicable to prepaid legal services from “fidelity and surety” to “miscellaneous.”

If you have any questions or need any clarification please contact Lisa L. Henson, Staff Attorney with the Louisiana Department of Insurance who assisted the Commissioner in the preparation of the amendment to Rule 7. Ms. Henson can be reached at (225) 219-7851, or electronically at lisa.henson@ldi.la.gov.

Sincerely,



Lisa L. Henson
Staff Attorney
Louisiana Department of Insurance

Enclosure: Notice of Intent to Amend Rule 7— Legal Expense Insurers

NOTICE OF INTENT

**Department of Insurance
Office of the Commissioner**

**Rule 7—Legal Expense Insurers
(LAC 37:XI.Chapter 19)**

The Department of Insurance, pursuant to the authority of the Louisiana Insurance Code, R.S. 22:1 et seq., and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., hereby gives notice of its intent to amend Rule 7—Legal Expense Insurers by changing the line of insurance applicable to prepaid legal services.

The Louisiana Department of Insurance (“LDI”) is amending Rule 7 to address the proper line of insurance into which prepaid legal services should be placed. When originally introduced as a program, prepaid legal services was placed under the line of “fidelity and surety.” Thereafter, the LDI split “fidelity and surety” into two separate lines, to wit: “fidelity” and “surety.” The LDI subsequently created a new line of insurance, to wit: “miscellaneous.” Upon reviewing the nature of the prepaid legal services program, the LDI has determined that such program properly falls under the definition set forth for “miscellaneous” in La. R.S. 22:47(14). As such, the purpose of the amendment to Rule 7 is to change the line of insurance applicable to prepaid legal services from “fidelity and surety” to “miscellaneous.”

Title 37

INSURANCE

Part XI. Rules

Chapter 19. Rule Number 7—Legal Expense Insurers

§1909. Qualifications as Insurer Required

A. Any person who accepts a pre-payment from or for the benefit of any other person or group of persons as consideration for providing to such person or group of persons the opportunity to receive reimbursement or payment for legal services at such time in the future as such services may be appropriate or necessary must meet the requirements of the Louisiana Insurance Code by becoming qualified as an insurer which is authorized to write miscellaneous coverage. (See "Exemptions" under §1907 of this rule.) Persons offering these services shall qualify as a mutual, stock, reciprocal or Lloyds' plan insurer as defined in Title 22, Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 22:2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Insurance, Office of the Commissioner LR 8:235 (May 1982), amended LR _____: _____ (_____ 2021).

§1919. Effective Date

A. The effective date of Rule 7 as amended shall be January 1, 2022.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 22:2.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Insurance, Office of the Commissioner LR _____: _____ (_____ 2021).

Family Impact Statement

1. Describe the Effect of the Proposed Regulation on the Stability of the Family. The proposed amended regulation should have no measurable impact upon the stability of the family.

2. Describe the Effect of the Proposed Regulation on the Authority and Rights of Parents Regarding the Education and Supervision of their Children. The proposed amended regulation should have no impact upon the rights and authority of children regarding the education and supervision of their children.

3. Describe the Effect of the Proposed Regulation on the Functioning of the Family. The proposed amended regulation should have no direct impact upon the functioning of the family.

4. Describe the Effect of the Proposed Regulation on Family Earnings and Budget. The proposed amended regulation should have no direct impact upon family earnings and budget.

5. Describe the Effect of the Proposed Regulation on the Behavior and Personal Responsibility of Children. The proposed amended regulation should have no impact upon the behavior and personal responsibility of children.

6. Describe the Effect of the Proposed Regulation on the Ability of the Family or a Local Government to Perform the Function as Contained in the Rule. The proposed amended regulation should have no impact upon the ability of the family or a local governmental unit to perform the function as contained in the rule.

Small Business Analysis

The impact of the proposed regulation on small businesses as defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act has been considered. It is estimated that the proposed action is not expected to have a significant adverse impact on small businesses. The agency, consistent with health, safety, environmental and economic welfare factors has considered and, where possible, utilized regulatory methods in the drafting of the proposed regulation that will accomplish the objectives of applicable statutes while minimizing the adverse impact of the proposed regulation on small businesses.

1. Identification and Estimate of the Number of the Small Businesses Subject to the Proposed Rule. The proposed amended regulation should have no measurable impact upon small businesses.

2. The Projected Reporting, Record Keeping, and Other Administrative Costs Required for Compliance with the Proposed Rule, Including the Type of Professional Skills Necessary for Preparation of the Report or Record. The proposed amended regulation should have no measurable impact upon small businesses.

3. A Statement of the Probable Effect on Impacted Small Businesses. The proposed amended regulation should have no measurable impact upon small businesses.

4. Describe any Less Intrusive or Less Costly Alternative Methods of Achieving the Purpose of the Proposed Rule. The proposed amended regulation should have no measurable impact on small businesses; therefore, will have no less intrusive or less cost alternative methods.

Poverty Impact Statement

1. Describe the Effect on Household Income, Assets, and Financial Security. The proposed amended regulation should have no effect on household income assets and financial security.

2. Describe the Effect on Early Childhood Development and Preschool through Postsecondary Education Development. The proposed amended regulation should have no effect on early childhood development and preschool through postsecondary education development.

3. Describe the Effect on Employment and Workforce Development. The proposed amended regulation should have no effect on employment and workforce development.

4. Describe the Effect on Taxes and Tax Credits. The proposed amended regulation should have no effect on taxes and tax credits.

5. Describe the Effect on Child and Dependent Care, Housing, Health Care, Nutrition, Transportation and Utilities Assistance. The proposed amended regulation should have no effect on child and dependent care, housing, health care, nutrition, transportation and utilities assistance.

Provider Impact Statement

1. Describe the Effect on the Staffing Level Requirements or Qualifications Required to Provide the Same Level of Service. The proposed amended regulation will have no effect.

2. The Total Direct and Indirect Effect on the Cost to the Provider to Provide the Same Level of Service. The proposed amended regulation will have no effect.

3. The Overall Effect on the Ability of the Provider to Provide the Same Level of Service. The proposed amended regulation will have no effect.

Public Comments

Interested persons who wish to make comments may do so by writing to Lisa Henson, Staff Attorney, Louisiana Department of Insurance, P.O. Box 94214, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9214, or by faxing comments to (225) 342-1632. Comments will be accepted through the close of business, 4:30 p.m., August 19, 2021.

James J. Donelon
Commissioner

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

RULE TITLE: Rule Number 7—Legal Expense Insurers

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule changes will not result in additional costs or savings for state or local governmental units. The proposed rule changes the line of insurance applicable to prepaid legal services from “fidelity and surety” to “miscellaneous.”

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS (Summary)

The proposed rule changes will not affect revenue collections for state or local governmental units.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS OR NONGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS (Summary)

The proposed rule changes may result in indeterminable additional costs for insurers to the extent they must amend their certificate of authority to comply with the new regulations.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT (Summary)

The proposed rule changes will not affect competition or employment.

**FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

Person
Preparing
Statement: Anita R. Robert Department: Louisiana Department
of Insurance

Phone: (225) 219-0609 Office: Management & Finance

Return Address: P. O. Box 94214 Rule Title: Legal Expense Insurers
Baton Rouge, LA
70804-9214 Effective Date: Upon Publication

SUMMARY

(Use Complete Sentences)

In accordance with Section 953 of Title 49 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes, there is hereby submitted a fiscal and economic impact statement on the rule proposed for adoption, repeal or amendment. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS SUMMARIZE ATTACHED WORKSHEETS, I THROUGH IV AND WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOUISIANA REGISTER WITH THE PROPOSED AGENCY RULE.

I. ESTIMATED IMPLEMENTATION COSTS (SAVINGS) TO STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS. (Summary)

The proposed rule changes will not result in implementation costs or savings to state or local governmental units. The proposed rule changes Rule 7 that was promulgated to adopt uniform guidelines and requirements applicable to the legal expense of insurers that do business in this state. The proposed rule changes the qualification of the line of insurance that is applicable for prepaid legal services from "fidelity and surety" to "miscellaneous."

II. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS. (Summary)

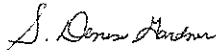
The proposed rule changes will have no impact on state or local governmental revenues.

III. ESTIMATED COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS. (Summary)

The proposed rule changes may result in indeterminable additional costs for insurers to the extent they must amend their certificate of authority to comply with the new regulation.

IV. ESTIMATED EFFECT ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT. (Summary)

The proposed rule changes will have no impact upon competition and employment in the state.



Denise Gardner, Chief of Staff
La. Department of Insurance

2/25/2021

Date of Signature



Legislative Fiscal Officer or Designee

3/4/21

Date of Signature

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

The following information is required in order to assist the Legislative Fiscal Office in its review of the fiscal and economic impact statement and to assist the appropriated legislative oversight subcommittee in its deliberations on the proposed rule.

- A. Provide a brief summary of the content of the rule (if proposed for adoption or repeal) or a brief summary of the change in the rule (if proposed for amendment). Attach a copy of the notice of intent and a copy of the rule proposed for initial adoption or repeal (or, in the case of a rule change, copies of the current and proposed rules with amended portions indicated).

The proposed rule changes will not result in implementation costs or savings to state or local governmental units. The proposed rule changes Rule 7 that was promulgated to adopt uniform guidelines and requirements applicable to the legal expense of insurers that do business in this state. The proposed rule changes the qualification of the line of insurance that is applicable for prepaid legal services from "fidelity and surety" to "miscellaneous."

- B. Summarize the circumstances which require this action. If the action is required by federal regulations, attach a copy of the applicable regulation.

The Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) is tasked with administering the Insurance Code, which regulates the business of insurance in all of its phases. The proposed rule changes the qualification of the line of insurance that is applicable for prepaid legal services from "fidelity and surety" to "miscellaneous."

- C. Compliance with Act 11 of the 1986 First Extraordinary Session:

- (1) Will the proposed rule change result in any increase in expenditure of funds? If so, specify the amount and source of funding.

No increase in expenditure of funds is anticipated as a result of the proposed rule changes.

- (2) If the answer to (1) above is yes, has the Legislature specifically appropriated the funds necessary for the associated expenditure increase?

_____ Yes. If yes, provide documentation.

_____ No. If no, provide justification as to why this rule change should be published at this time.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
WORKSHEET

I. A. COSTS OR SAVINGS TO STATE AGENCIES RESULTING FROM ACTION PROPOSED.

1. What is the anticipated increase (decrease) in costs to implement the proposed action?

LDI does not anticipate any implementation costs (savings) as a result the proposed rule changes.

COSTS	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
Personal Services	0	0	0
Operating Expenses	0	0	0
Professional Services	0	0	0
Other Charges	0	0	0
Equipment	0	0	0
Major Repairs & Constr.	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0
POSITIONS (#)			

2. Provide a narrative explanation of the costs or savings shown in "A.1" above, including the increase or reduction in workload or additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) anticipated as a result of the implementation of the proposed action. Describe all data, assumptions, and methods used in calculating these costs.

The proposed rule changes will have no impact on state or local governmental revenues.

3. Sources of funding for implementing the proposed rule or rule change.

SOURCE	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
STATE GENERAL FUND	0	0	0
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED	0	0	0
DEDICATED	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0
OTHER (SPECIFY)	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

4. Does your agency currently have sufficient funds to implement the proposed action? If not, how and when do you anticipate obtaining such funds?

No additional funding is necessary as a result of the proposed rule changes.

B. COSTS OR SAVINGS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS RESULTING FROM THE ACTION PROPOSED.

1. Provide an estimate of the anticipated impact of the proposed action on local governmental units, including adjustments in workload and paperwork requirements. Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating this impact.

There is no impact on local governmental units as a result of the proposed rule changes.

2. Indicate the sources of funding of local governmental unit(s) which will be affected by these cost or savings.

Not applicable.

FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT
WORKSHEET
(Continued)

II. EFFECT ON REVENUE COLLECTIONS OF STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

A. What increase (decrease) in revenues can be anticipated from the proposed action?

The proposed rule changes will have no impact on state or local governmental revenues.

REVENUE INCREASE/DECREASE	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23
STATE GENERAL FUND	0	0	0
AGENCY SELF-GENERATED	0	0	0
DEDICATED FUNDS*	0	0	0
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0
LOCAL FUNDS	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0

*Specify the particular fund being impacted.

B. Provide a narrative explanation of each increase or decrease in revenues shown in "A". Describe all data, assumptions and methods used in calculating these increases or decreases.

III. COSTS AND/OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED PERSONS, SMALL BUSINESSES, OR NON-GOVERNMENTAL GROUPS

A. What persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups would be directly affected by the proposed action? For each, provide an estimate and a narrative description of any effect on costs, including workload adjustments and additional paperwork (number of new forms, additional documentation, etc.) they may have to incur as a result of the proposed action.

The proposed rule changes may result in indeterminable additional costs for insurers to the extent they must amend their certificate of authority to comply with the new regulation.

B. Also provide an estimate and a narrative description of any impact on receipts and/or income resulting from this rule or rule change to these groups.

The proposed rule change is not anticipated to have an impact on receipts or income of directly affected persons, small businesses, or non-governmental groups.

IV. EFFECTS ON COMPETITION AND EMPLOYMENT

Identify and provide estimates of the impact of the proposed action on competition and employment in the public and private sectors. Include a summary of any data, assumptions and methods used in making these estimates.

The proposed rule changes will have no impact upon competition and employment in the state.