

# West Coast Life Insurance Company

## INDEPENDENT AGENT'S AGREEMENT

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The Company hereby appoints the Agent to represent the Company in those states and areas in which the Agent is properly licensed for procuring applications for life and health insurance and annuities.

It is the Agent's responsibility to comply with all statutory laws, rules, regulations, and company guidelines in the sale of these insurance products. It is the Agent's responsibility to maintain any books and records required under any federal, state, or company rule, regulation, or policy. It is also the Agent's responsibility to maintain and obtain any licenses and appointments required for the sale of these products.

### **AGENT-COMPANY RELATIONSHIP**

The Company and the Agent mutually agree that this Independent Agent's Agreement is best served when the Agent is an independent contractor for all purposes. As an independent contractor, the Agent has the right to exercise independent judgment as to time, place and manner of soliciting insurance applications, servicing policyholders and otherwise carrying out the provisions of the Agreement. Furthermore, the Agent will pay all expenses in connection with his or her agency and has no authority to incur any indebtedness on behalf of the Company.

### **ERRORS AND OMISSIONS INSURANCE**

The Agent agrees to maintain Errors and Omissions insurance with a liability limit of \$1,000,000 or greater. The Agent also agrees to provide evidence of such coverage to the Company when requested. Failure to maintain adequate Errors and Omissions coverage may result in the suspension or termination of this Agreement.

### **INDEMNIFICATION**

The Agent will defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Company from and against any and all losses, claims, demands, liabilities, costs, and expenses (including attorney's fees) asserted against or incurred or sustained by the Company arising out of any act or error by the Agent, or its employees, in the performance of the Agent's duties and obligations under this Agreement, any failure or omission by the Agent, or its employees, to perform any obligation under this Agreement, or the breach of any statute, law, regulation, agreement, covenant, or warranty by the Agent. The Company will defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Agent from and against any and all losses, claims, demands, liabilities, costs, and expenses (including attorney's fees) asserted against or incurred or sustained by the Agent arising out of any act or error by the Company, or its employees, in the performance of the Company's duties and obligations under this Agreement, any failure or omission by the Company, or its employees, to perform any obligation under this Agreement, or the breach of any statute, law, regulation, agreement, covenant, or warranty by the Company.

### **AGENT'S AUTHORITY**

The Agent has no authority on behalf of the Company to bind risks of any kind or to make, modify or discharge contracts or to extend the time for paying any premiums. Furthermore, the Agent has no authority to make statements or representations on behalf of the Company which might alter or waive any of the Company's rights or to name any extra premiums or charges on any risk not listed in the Company's rate book.

Inasmuch as the insurance business is subject to changing laws, regulations and conditions, it is understood and agreed that the Company will prescribe rules, regulations, prices and terms under which it will insure risks. The Company retains the right to change, alter or amend the rules, regulations, prices and terms, including the right to limit, restrict or discontinue entirely the acceptance of applications on any policy, coverage or any line of insurance, at any time it deems advisable to do so without prior notice or consent of the Agent. Any such change, alteration, amendment or limitation shall become effective on the date specified by the Company.

### **LICENSE AND APPOINTMENT**

You agree to maintain a state license in all states that you solicit business for the Company. You agree not to solicit business for the Company until you are properly licensed and/or appointed, unless allowed by law to do so in a given state.

If you have been appointed with the Company in a state and have not submitted any business from that state, your appointment with that state may be terminated.

## COMPENSATION

The Company agrees to pay and the Agent agrees to accept the compensation provided in the attached schedule subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this schedule. The schedule and the general conditions included therein are incorporated by reference and are made a part of this Agreement. The Company maintains the unilateral right to alter or change this schedule by giving the Agent prior written notice which shall clearly set forth the effective date of these changes.

The Company is hereby granted a first lien upon the commissions and other sums which may become due under this Agreement or any other Agreement the Agent may have with the Company. If the Company, for any reason, refunds any premiums on any policy written by the Agent, or any policy for the which the Agent received compensation, or on any policy written by Agents assigned or recruited to the Company by the Agent, whether legally required to refund or not, the Company has the right to deduct, set off or request repayment of the previously paid commissions.

In order to qualify for commissions, as detailed in the schedule of commissions and general conditions, the Agent must have an active Independent Agent's Agreement. The Agent is not entitled to any commissions after the Agent's Agreement has been terminated except as provided in the vesting section.

**Net Paid Annualized Life Production** - Total annualized commissionable life premium issued and paid during any period of time, net of any charge backs or adjustments for lapses, paid not takens, cancellations, and other policy terminations. Net annualized life production excludes premium paid on business which replaces existing policies of the Company or its affiliates or subsidiaries, and excludes single premium life, annuities, non-individual ordinary life policies of any kind, or business written on the life of, or owned by, the Agent or members of the Agent's family.

In addition, if a decrease in face amount occurs on a Universal Life policy at any time in the 12 months following an increase, a charge back will occur and any amount added to net annualized life production because of the increase will be deducted in determining the current net annualized life production.

**Commissionable Premium** - For Universal Life policies, commissionable premium is the largest premium on which the Company will pay commissions at first year commission rates. For all other life policies, commissionable premium is the premium payable on the policy during the first policy year. Commissionable premiums are determined by the Company and published separately.

**Annualized Premium** - For Universal Life policies, annualized premium is the lesser of the commissionable premium or the periodic premium which the owner of the policy intends to pay multiplied by the number of periods in one year. For all other life policies, annualized premium is the commissionable premium multiplied by the number of periods in one year.

## COMMISSIONS

Commissions paid to the Agent are based upon the applicable commission rates for the policy year in question applied to premiums received by the Company.

Premiums in excess of target received on Universal Life plans during the first policy year shall be eligible for commission based on the renewal rate described in the schedule of commission.

Any additional policies written as a result of a guaranteed insurability option or its equivalent will create commission for the Agent only if the Agent is active at the time the additional policy is written.

Commissions will not be allowed on premiums paid by automatic premium loan and on premium waived by operation of a premium waiver provision. If conversion is exercised during a disability waiver period, commissions shall be limited to renewals only.

The Company processes commission payments weekly via electronic fund transfer (EFT) for any amount credited to the Agent's commission account. If EFT is not chosen as payment option, The Company has the right to withhold check payment due the Agent until the amount is more than \$500.00. The Company has the right to change this minimum and frequency of check payment at any time for all commissions payable and will notify the Agent by stating the new minimum on the Agent's commission statement.

The Agent will receive no further compensation of any kind on a policy which has lapsed for three (3) months or longer. Commissions shall be allowed to the reinstating Agent on policies reinstated after lapse for non-payment of premiums based on the type of policy, timing of the reinstatement and the personal involvement of the Agent.

If another Agent disputes a claim to a commission, the decision of the Company will be binding and conclusive.

If the Company returns a premium on a policy, the Agent will repay the Company on demand the amount of commission or advance received on the premium returned. Such amount can be recovered from future commission earnings.

The Company has the right to establish and change its rules and percentages for payment of commissions on policies that are replaced by or converted to new policies. Those written rules are hereby incorporated by reference.

## **VESTING**

Upon cancellation of this Agreement, the Agent will be fully and immediately vested in the commission provided in the Schedule of Commissions included herein for policy years two through ten. However, if in any calendar year after the cancellation of this Agreement, the total amount payable under this and any prior Agreement falls below \$100.00, no further commission will be payable under this Agreement or any prior Agreement and the Company will have no further obligations under these Agreements.

If the Agent (1) withholds funds, (2) embezzles funds, or (3) fails to comply with the insurance laws and regulations (either of the Company or of states in which the Agent operates), this Agreement will be canceled immediately and all rights to any future commissions will be forfeited.

If the Agent becomes totally and permanently disabled during the continuance of this contract, any commissions payable under this contract will continue to be paid subject to the \$100.00 minimum explained above.

If the Agent's death is the cause of termination, the vested commissions will be paid to the Agent's estate subject to the \$100.00 minimum explained above.

## **COMMISSION PAYMENT SPECIFICATIONS**

**Intra company replacements** – As a general rule, the Company will not pay new first year commission on policies intended to replace either Protective Life Insurance Company policies or Empire General Insurance Company policies.

**Internal replacements** – As a general rule, the Company will not pay new first year commission on policies intended to replace an existing West Coast Life policy that has been in force for less than two years.

**Persistency** - An Agent must maintain 80% 25-month persistency. If the Agent has not yet established a 25-month persistency, the Agent must maintain 90% 13-month persistency. The 13-month and 25-month persistency measure by *volume (face amount)* and *premium* will be used by the Company. This will be calculated in accordance with the Company's current rules.

**Term Conversions** – Please consult the Company Home Office for policy concerning treatment of commission. Conversion during a period of disability waiver shall be limited only to a Non-par Whole Life policy form.

**Face Amount Increases** - For increases in face amount on Universal Life policies, the Company will pay first year commission, based on the commission rate applicable at the time of original issue, on the increased portion of the commissionable premium paid within the commissionable period following the increase. Revised commissionable premiums will be computed as if the policy were being issued on the effective date of the face amount increase.

In the event of a decrease in the face amount at any time during the twelve months following an increase, no further first year commissions will be payable. Face amount increases will receive first year commissions only to the extent that they exceed any prior increase both in face amount and commissionable premium.

**Rider and Supplementary Benefit Rates** - These rates are the same as those applied to the policy to which they are attached, except as may be specified in the Schedule of Commissions.

**Temporary Flat Extra Ratings** - These ratings are non-commissionable.

## **INDEBTEDNESS**

Any and all cash advances or other payments, including annualized commissions, made to the Agent by the Company, will create a debtor-creditor relationship. As security, the Company has a first lien upon any commissions or other amounts payable to the Agent under this or any other Agreement between the Company or any of its subsidiaries or affiliates and the Agent. The Company may at any time deduct from any commissions or other amounts payable to the Agent any debts owed to the Company by the Agent, or any debts owed to the Company arising out of business written by any Agent which resulted in compensation to the Agent. The Agent will be responsible for all legal fees, court costs and collection fees incurred by the Company in the process of collecting any indebtedness.

The Company reserves the right to chargeback the Agent for any costs associated with medical testing of a proposed insured ordered at the Agent or BGAs request in instances where the Company does not receive a formal application on the proposed insured.

## **AGREEMENT CANCELLATION**

This agreement shall continue for an unspecified term during the mutual pleasure of the Agent and the Company until either party elects to cancel this Agreement for any reason. Cancellation shall become effective upon the mailing of the written notice of cancellation to the other party at the last known business address. This Agreement will cancel automatically upon the death of the Agent.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

The Agent shall make no assignments of any rights or interest under this Agreement, including benefits or compensation, without the written consent of an officer of the Company. Any changes in the Agent's authority are permitted only when they appear in writing signed by an officer of the Company.

## **ADVERTISING**

The Agent agrees not to conduct any advertising whatsoever, including, without limitation, television, radio, print, media, internet, computer or electronic demonstrations or illustrations involving the Company, its name or products without obtaining prior written approval of the Company.

## **COMMUNICATION**

The Agent authorizes the Company to provide the Agent with any information that the Company would send by ordinary mail, fax and may also be sent via any electronic means as long as the Agent is currently appointed with the Company.

## **INSURANCE MARKETPLACE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION (IMSA) MARKET CONDUCT PRINCIPLES**

West Coast Life Insurance Company has committed itself to upholding the Insurance Marketplace Standards Association (IMSA) Market Conduct Principles:

1. To conduct business according to high standards of honesty and fairness and to render that service to its customers, which in the same circumstances, it would apply or demand for itself.
2. To provide competent and customer-focused sales and service.
3. To engage in active and fair competition.
4. To provide advertising and sales materials that are clear as to purpose and honest and fair as to content.
5. To provide for fair and expeditious handling of customer complaints and disputes.
6. To maintain a system of supervision and review that is reasonably designed to achieve compliance with these Principles of Ethical Market Conduct.

The Agent agrees that they have read, understand and agree to follow the IMSA Principles and Code and West Coast Life Insurance Company's Ethical Market Conduct Guide.

## **POLICY ADMINISTRATION**

The Company requires the premiums submitted to the Agent be received in a fiduciary capacity and remitted immediately to the Company in gross. Net remissions of premiums are strictly forbidden. The Company will pay compensation as soon as possible and will assume the administrative handling of billings, changes and related duties.

West Coast Life Insurance Company has caused this Agreement to be signed and the Agent acknowledges his or her voluntary consent by signing below.

This Agreement, when executed, will become effective on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

In witness whereof, the parties have executed this Agreement this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Agent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark S. Rush, Senior Vice President Marketing  
WEST COAST LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Supplements to this Contract include:

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Form No. _____ | 3) Form No. _____ |
| 2) Form No. _____ | 4) Form No. _____ |