

### **What You Need to Know About Life Insurance**

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For more information about Life Insurance through the American Society of Civil Engineers, please call 800.650.ASCE (2723).

Life insurance helps protect the financial future of your family should something happen to you. When you want the best protection for your family, you need coverage that works for you. ASCE Group Term Life Insurance Plans are an affordable option designed to help create an instant estate so that your loved ones may continue to live comfortably. With coverage options of up to \$1–\$2 million, ASCE Group Term Life Insurance offers you quality, portable coverage to help safeguard your family's assets.\*

How do you decide when it's the right time to purchase life insurance, and what factors should you consider when planning for coverage? There are certain life events that may trigger a need for life insurance or may simply be a good time to evaluate your life insurance needs.

### **Stages of Life: When Should You Reconsider Your Life Insurance?**

To help protect loved ones from debt and help them realize their financial goals, you need to plan for uncertainty. Below are examples of life stages that are pivotal times to evaluate your life insurance needs. Please note that these do not cover all necessary circumstances, but may be used as a starting point for a life insurance needs assessment.

#### ***Single (young or mature)***

Even if you're on a budget or just starting out on your own, life insurance may be more affordable than you realize. While you're still young, your life expectancy is higher, and therefore the cost of life insurance tends to be less. After your basic expenses are covered and before you begin investing, you should consider building a personal safety net of life, health, and disability income insurance. This way, in the future, your family is protected if anything happens to you. Even if you have to start small, it's important to start something. Keep this in mind especially if others depend on you, such as aging parents.

#### ***Marriage/Domestic Partnership***

Now that you've taken the ultimate relationship plunge, you'll want to provide for your loved ones (spouse, children, aging parents) in the event something happens to you—especially if you're the primary source of income. Also consider life insurance because, if you're like most couples, your lifestyle is dependent on both of your incomes and your spouse's current method of living—let alone loan, mortgage, credit card, and other debt payments—may suffer without two paychecks.

If you have life insurance in place, it can help finance big-ticket items such as college or retirement after you're gone. Be sure all your avenues are covered—if you have life insurance through work, you may still need additional coverage for your new family. Life insurance is a traditional way to help protect what you have and ensure your surviving spouse is taken care of in the event of a tragedy. Consider life insurance to help your surviving spouse avoid financial burdens, such as funeral costs, outstanding debt, estate taxes, and normal living expenses, especially when they're already suffering a tragedy and under emotional stress.

#### ***Raising Children***

Beginning a family is where it truly hits home that others depend on you and one of the most important events

in your life in which evaluating your life insurance is crucial. Help provide for your family even after you're gone—and get them back on track toward financial security. Ease your surviving spouse's financial burdens, which can be greater when there's a child to care for and include funeral costs, outstanding debt (college, auto, mortgage, credit cards, etc), childcare, and living expenses. Help keep your family from having to move from where they're most comfortable if something happens to you, and prevent them from having to make an important decision about buying/selling their home or moving under emotional distress. Life insurance can be said to be college insurance for your children, so if something happens to you, they will have money for tuition.

### ***Planning for College***

While planning for your child's college education, be sure the resources are there for your child to finish college even if you're gone, so he or she doesn't have to drop out of school if tragedy strikes. Purchasing a life insurance policy on yourself and/or the other parent is one way you can help secure your child's future.

### ***Getting Divorced***

Obligations you incurred as a married couple—mortgage, auto, credit cards, education—generally still exist after a divorce and are often included in the divorce decree. If you're responsible for paying any bills, life insurance can help ensure that these debts and their payments are kept current. Many divorced couples keep or purchase a life insurance policy on the spouse accountable for paying child support or alimony, so that this income is still available if something happens to that spouse. Some also consider purchasing or keeping a life insurance policy on the person who acts as primary caregiver of the children, so that childcare (which can be costly) can be arranged if he or she dies. In either case, the divorce decree should include funds to pay for this life insurance policy. Term Life is often a good choice for divorced couples with a tight budget, since it is generally cheaper and provides protection for a specific period; i.e., you could buy a policy that's in effect until your child is out on his or her own.

### ***Purchasing a New Home***

Life insurance can help your family remain in their home—attending the schools and living in the neighborhood in which they're comfortable. It can keep your family or surviving spouse from having to make an important decision of buying or selling a home under the extreme emotional stress a death brings. If something happens to you, life insurance can also help cover costs of home improvements necessary after you're gone or that you never got around to and is often tax-free.

### ***Employment Change***

Often a salary increase comes with a new job. The more you make, the more your family tends to depend on you financially, so it becomes more important to help protect their future. In addition, if you had a group insurance policy with your former employer, chances are your coverage ended when you left your job, particularly if your employer purchased it. In some cases, you'll have the opportunity to purchase the policy to convert to an individual policy. In other cases, if you purchased the coverage through a group plan but paid for it out of your own pocket, it may be portable and can be taken with you no matter where you work (or don't work)—you just need to continue paying on your own. Check into your life insurance situation when you're considering a career move or retirement.

## **Deciding How Much Life Insurance to Buy**

To decide how much coverage you need when evaluating life insurance policies, take an inventory on all the things you do—little or big, monetary or not—to help out your family. What would it take to maintain this standard after you're gone? Take into account the following:

- **Your income:** how much you contribute now plus any anticipated increases and other goals; what would be lost without your earnings coming in
- **Your work benefits:** be sure to take your employer-provided benefits into account when deciding how much life insurance you need—how much health insurance will cost your family after you're gone and how much your company matched into your 401(k)
- **Outstanding debts:** mortgage, auto loans, school loans, personal loans, credit card debt, other debt
- **Estate costs**

- What you do to make your family's life easier now: caring for the children (whether it's full-time or evenings and weekends, how much will your spouse have to pay a childcare provider to get by as you do currently?), mowing the lawn, doing repairs on the house (whether it's painting a room or providing a skilled service such as roofing)

## Types of Life Insurance Provided Through ASCE Member Insurance

*Group Term Life* is guaranteed renewable and offers a cushion to pay off existing debts should a main breadwinner die. It provides simple, temporary, fixed-term coverage, and the premiums start out lower when you're young, increasing upon renewal as you age. The policy pays a fixed amount to your beneficiary if you die during the term of your policy.

*Group Level Term Life Insurance* is much the same as the Term Life option described above—it pays a specific amount if you die during the term of your policy. But Level Term Life is guaranteed not to increase in premium for a fixed amount of time, such as the 10- or 20-Year Level Term Life policies offered through ASCE Member Insurance. Level Term Life is a good choice for people who have temporary debt, such as a mortgage, that they plan to have paid off after the life of the policy.

## Life Insurance Benefits Through ASCE Member Insurance Program

Below are just some of the benefits of Group Term Life, Group 10-Year Level Term Life, and Group 20-Year Level Term Life Insurance through ASCE Member Insurance Program. To get detailed information on the Life Insurance offerings through ASCE Member Insurance, please visit [www.asceinsurance.com](http://www.asceinsurance.com) for a complete list of benefits or call **800.650.ASCE (2723)** to speak with a representative who can fully explain the benefits, limitations, and exclusions of each plan.

- Members may receive a benefit amount of up to a maximum of \$1 million (Term Life) or \$2 million (10- or 20-Year Level Term Life)
- Spouse/Domestic partners may obtain coverage up to \$1–\$2 million
- Each unmarried, dependent child from age 14 days through 22 years (24 if full-time student) may be insured for \$10,000
- Discounts available, such as volume discounts and non-smoker rates
- Living Benefit option (“Accelerated Death Benefit”): Enables you to apply for a portion of your benefits if you qualify as being terminally ill. Subject to certain policy restrictions and limitations. These benefits are paid directly to you, and you may spend them any way you wish. (See information and rates for more details. Not available to residents of Massachusetts.)

## Other Things to Know About ASCE Member Life Insurance

- **No Exclusions:** After coverage is in force for two years, benefits are payable for death from any cause, at any time, anywhere in the world. (Subject to U.S. government regulations on restricted countries.)
- **Coverage Effective Date:** Insurance will take effect on the date your application is approved by New York Life Insurance Company, provided the initial premium contribution is paid within 31 days after the date you are billed (send no money now) and any person to be insured is performing the normal activities of a person in good health of like age [NC Residents: a person of like age] on the date of approval.
- Any person who is not performing his/her normal daily activities as required will not become insured until the day he/she is performing such activities, provided such date is within three months of the date insurance would have been effective and the person is still eligible.
- **Portable Protection:** Coverage under the ASCE Group Term Life Insurance Plan is completely portable\*, staying with you even if you change jobs. Your coverage continues as long as the group policy remains in effect, you maintain your ASCE membership, and pay your premiums when due.\*
- **30-Day Free Look:** If you are not completely satisfied with the terms of your Certificate of Insurance, you may return it without claim, within 30 days. Your coverage will be invalidated and you will receive a full refund—no questions asked!

It's a difficult process to think about what your family will do if tragedy strikes and you're no longer with them. But knowing that your loved ones are taken care of if you die unexpectedly can ease the discomfort of having to plan for such an event. Help ease the possible financial burden on your surviving loved ones by having a life insurance policy in place. Hopefully, they'll never have to use it, but you can rest easy knowing they're protected just in case. The life insurance coverage offered by the ASCE Member Insurance leverages the buying power of the ASCE to provide discounts that you cannot obtain on your own. For more information on the life insurance available through ASCE, call **800.650.ASCE (2723)** to speak with a knowledgeable ASCE Member Insurance Program representative, or visit **[www.asceinsurance.com](http://www.asceinsurance.com)** for more details.

The ASCE Group Term Life Insurance Plan, Group 10-Year Level Term Insurance Plan, and Group 20-Year Term Life Insurance Plan are underwritten by New York Life Insurance Company, 575 Madison Ave, NY, NY 10010 under Group Policy No. G-10500-1/FACE, G-29137-0/FACE, and G-29253/FACE.

\* Portability subject to U.S. government regulations on restricted countries.