



## STATE OF RI - EMP/DEP. LEGAL SERVICES PLAN

### FACT SHEET

#### **HOW TO GET LEGAL SERVICES**

To use your Legal Plan, create an account online at [www.members.legalplans.com](http://www.members.legalplans.com) or call MetLife Legal Plans' Client Service Center at 1-800-821-6400.

Employees enrolled in the plan must remain in the plan for the benefit plan year.

If you call the Client Service Center, the Client Service Representative will:

- Verify your eligibility
- Make an initial determination of whether and to what extent your case is covered (the Plan Attorney will make the final determination of coverage)
- Give you the telephone number of the Plan Attorney most convenient to you OR schedule an appointment for you with an attorney; and
- Answer any questions you have about your Legal Plan.

Then you can call the Plan Attorney and identify yourself as a legal Plan Member referred to them by MetLife Legal Plans. You should request an appointment for a consultation. You should be prepared to provide the name of the legal plan you belong to and the type of legal matter you are calling about. You may choose to work with an out-of-network attorney. In a few areas, where there are no Participating Law Firms, you will be asked to select your own attorney. In both circumstances, MetLife Legal Plans will reimburse you for these non-Plan attorneys' fees based on a set fee schedule. To obtain a fee schedule, call our Client Service Center.

#### **WHAT SERVICES ARE COVERED**

You and your eligible dependents are entitled to receive certain personal legal services. The available benefits are very comprehensive, but there are limitations and other conditions that must be met. Please take time to read the description of benefits carefully. All benefits are available to you and your spouse and dependents, who are referred to below as Participant(s), unless otherwise noted or you are enrolled in a Single or Employee Only plan.

#### **ADVICE AND CONSULTATION**

##### **Office Consultation and Telephone Advice**

This service provides the opportunity to discuss with an attorney any personal legal problems that are not specifically excluded. The Plan Attorney will explain the Participant's rights, point out his or her options and recommend a course of action. The Plan Attorney will identify any further coverage available under the Plan, and will undertake representation if the Participant so requests. If representation is covered by the Plan, the Participant will not be charged for the Plan Attorney's services. If representation is recommended, but is not covered by the Plan, the Plan Attorney will provide a written fee statement in advance. The Participant may choose whether to retain the Plan Attorney at his or her own expense, seek outside counsel, or do nothing. There are no restrictions on the number of times per year a Participant may use this service; however, for a non-covered matter, this service is not intended to provide the Participant with continuing access to a Plan Attorney in order to seek advice that would allow the Participant to undertake his or her own representation.

## **DEBT MATTERS**

### **Debt Collection Defense**

This service provides Participants with an attorney's services for negotiation with creditors for a repayment schedule and to limit creditor harassment, and representation in defense of any action for personal debt collection, tax agency debt collection, foreclosure, repossession or garnishment, up to and including trial if necessary. It includes a motion to vacate a default judgment. It does not include counter, cross or third party claims; bankruptcy; any action arising out of family law matters, including support and post-decree issues; or any matter where the creditor is affiliated with the Sponsor or Employer.

### **Identity Theft Defense**

This service provides the Participant with consultations with an attorney regarding potential creditor actions resulting from identity theft and attorney services as needed to contact creditors, credit bureaus and financial institutions. It also provides defense services for specific creditor actions over disputed accounts. The defense services include limiting creditor harassment and representation in defense of any action that arises out of the identity theft such as foreclosure, repossession or garnishment, up to and including trial if necessary. The service also provides the Participant with online help and information about identity theft and prevention. It does not include counter, cross or third party claims; bankruptcy; any action arising out of family law matters, including support and post-decree issues; or any matter where the creditor is affiliated with the Sponsor or Employer.

### **Personal Bankruptcy or Wage Earner Plan**

This service covers the Plan Member and spouse in pre-bankruptcy planning, the preparation and filing of a personal bankruptcy or Wage Earner petition, and representation at all court hearings and trials. This service is not available if a creditor is affiliated with the Sponsor or Employer, even if the Plan Member or spouse chooses to reaffirm that specific debt.

## **DEFENSE OF CIVIL LAWSUITS**

### **Civil Litigation Defense**

This service covers the Participant in defense of an arbitration proceeding or civil proceeding before a municipal, county, state or federal administrative board, agency or commission, or in a trial court of general jurisdiction. It does not apply where services are available or are being provided by virtue of an insurance policy. It does not include family law matters, post judgment matters, matters with criminal penalties or litigation of a job-related incident. Services do not include bringing counterclaims, third party or cross claims.

## **DOCUMENT PREPARATION**

### **Affidavits**

This service covers preparation of any affidavit in which the Participant is the person making the statement.

### **Deeds**

This service covers the preparation of any deed for which the Participant is either the grantor or grantee.

### **Document Review**

This service covers the review of any personal legal document of the Participant, such as letters, leases or purchase agreements.

### **Elder Law Matters**

This service covers counseling the Participant over the phone or in the office on any personal issues relating to the Participant's parents as they affect the Participant. The service includes reviewing documents of the parents to advise the Participant of the effect on the Participant. The documents include Medicare or Medicaid materials, prescription plans, leases, nursing home agreements, powers of attorney, living wills and wills. The service also includes preparing deeds involving the parents when the Participant is either the grantor or grantee; and preparing promissory notes involving the parents when the Participant is the payor or payee.

**Promissory Notes**

This service covers the preparation of any promissory note for which the Participant is the payor or payee.

**FAMILY LAW****Adoption and Legitimization (Contested and Uncontested)**

This service covers all legal services and court work in a state or federal court for an adoption for the Plan Member and spouse. Legitimization of a child for the Plan Member and spouse, including reformation of a birth certificate, is also covered.

**Change or Establishment of Custody Order or Visitation Rights**

This service is available to the Participant and spouse, and covers preparation of petitions, consent forms and waivers, and representation at any court hearings to create, modify, or enforce a child custody or visitation order.

**Divorce, Dissolution and Annulment (Uncontested)**

This service is available to the Plan Member only, not to a spouse or dependents, and only applies as long as the spouse does not hire an attorney or file a responsive pleading that contests any portion of the case. This service includes preparing and filing all necessary pleadings and affidavits, drafting settlement or separation agreements and representation at an uncontested hearing. If a case is contested, the Plan Member must pay all legal fees. This service cannot be used as a "credit" toward a contested case. This service does not include disputes that arise after a decree is issued.

**Enforcement or Modification of Support Order**

This service is available to the Plan Member and spouse, and covers representation after a judgment has been entered to enforce or modify a court's award of support or alimony, whether the Plan Member or spouse is a plaintiff or a defendant. This service does not cover transfer of a divorce decree from one state to another, the division of property, or collection activities after a judgment.

**Guardianship or Conservatorship (Contested and Uncontested)**

This service covers establishing a guardianship or conservatorship over a person and his or her estate when the Plan Member or spouse is being appointed as guardian or conservator. It includes obtaining a permanent and/or temporary guardianship or conservatorship, gathering any necessary medical evidence, preparing the paperwork, attending the hearing and preparing the initial accounting. This service does not include representation of the person over whom guardianship or conservatorship is sought, any annual accountings after the initial accounting, or terminating the guardianship or conservatorship once it has been established.

**Name Change**

This service covers the Participant for all necessary pleadings and court hearings for a legal name change.

**IMMIGRATION****Immigration Assistance**

This service covers advice and consultation, preparation of affidavits and powers of attorney, review of any immigration documents, helping the Participant prepare for hearings, and the Plan Attorney's appearance at immigration or naturalization hearings and proceedings.

**PERSONAL INJURY****Personal Injury (25% Network Maximum)**

Subject to applicable law and court rules, Plan Attorneys will handle personal injury matters (where the Participant is the plaintiff) at a maximum fee of 25% of the gross award. It is the Participant's responsibility to pay this fee and all costs.

## **REAL ESTATE MATTERS**

### **Eviction and Tenant Problems (Tenant Only)**

This service covers the Participant as a tenant for matters involving leases, security deposits or disputes with a residential landlord. The service includes eviction defense, up to and including trial. It does not include representation in disputes with other tenants or as a plaintiff in a lawsuit against the landlord, including an action for return of a security deposit.

## **TRAFFIC AND CRIMINAL MATTERS**

### **Felony Defense**

This service covers representation for Participants in defense of any criminal felony charge. Representation includes court hearings, negotiation with the prosecutor and trial. This service does not cover any post-sentencing proceeding, probation violation hearing or appeals by either party.

### **Habeas Corpus**

This service covers the Participant for the preparation of all paperwork needed, and attendance at the hearing to pursue a habeas corpus proceeding to obtain the release of a Participant who is being unlawfully imprisoned.

### **Juvenile Court Defense**

This service covers the defense of a Participant and a Participant's dependent child in any juvenile court matter, provided there is no conflict of interest between the Participant and the dependent child. When a conflict exists, or where the court requires separate counsel for the child, this service provides an attorney for the Plan Member only, including services for Parental Responsibility.

### **Misdemeanor Defense**

This service covers representation for Participants in defense of any criminal misdemeanor charge except those relating to traffic or driving under influence charges. Representation includes court hearings, negotiation with the prosecutor and trial. It does not include representation of a felony charge that is subsequently reduced to a misdemeanor. This service also does not cover any post-sentencing proceeding, probation violation hearing or appeals by either party.

### **Restoration of Driving Privileges**

This service covers the Participant with representation in proceedings to restore the Participant's driving license.

### **Serious Traffic Matters (No DUI)**

This service covers representation of the Participant in defense of any serious traffic matter, including appearance in court or at an administrative hearing where a Participant's driver's license is subject to suspension or revocation because the infraction is that of reckless driving or a major violation not involving DUI.

## **WILL AND ESTATE MATTERS**

### **Advanced Healthcare Directive**

This service covers the preparation of a living will for the Participant.

### **Powers of Attorney**

This service covers the preparation of any power of attorney when the Participant is granting the power.

### **Probate Proceedings**

This service provides for a payment up to the first \$240 of legal fees for representation in the administration of a deceased Participant's estate. It is the estate's responsibility to pay all fees beyond the first \$240 and all costs. The service includes all of the court proceedings to transfer probate assets from the decedent to the heirs; the correspondence necessary to transfer non-probate assets such as proceeds from insurance policies, joint bank accounts, stock accounts or a house; and any tax filings. The service does not include prosecuting or defending any litigation including a will contest.

**Wills and Codicils**

This service covers the preparation of a simple or complex will for the Participant. The creation of any testamentary trust is covered. The benefit includes the preparation of codicils and will amendments. It does not include tax planning.

**25% REDUCED FEE BENEFIT**

The Participant is entitled to a 25% DISCOUNT on all services and fees beyond the consultation or the stated maximum fees.

**MISCELLANEOUS****Attorney Services for Non-Covered matters- 4 hours**

For non-covered matters that are not otherwise excluded, this benefit provides four hours of attorney time and services per year. The Participant is responsible to pay fees beyond the 4 hours. No more than a combined maximum total of four hours of attorney time and service are provided for the member.

**EXCLUSIONS**

Excluded services are those legal services that are not provided under the plan. No services, not even a consultation, can be provided for the following matters:

- Employment-related matters, including company or statutory benefits
- Matters involving the company, MetLife and affiliates, and Plan Attorneys
- Matters in which there is a conflict of interest between the employee and spouse or dependents in which case services are excluded for the spouse and dependents
- Appeals and class actions
- Farm matters, business or investment matters, matters involving property held for investment or rental, or issues when the Participant is the landlord
- Patent, trademark and copyright matters
- Costs or fines
- Frivolous or unethical matters
- Matters for which an attorney-client relationship exists prior to the Participant becoming eligible for plan benefits

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.LEGALPLANS.COM](http://WWW.LEGALPLANS.COM) OR CALL METLIFE LEGAL PLANS AT 1-800-821-6400.