# City of Jacksonville, Florida



Lenny Curry, Mayor

Employee Benefits Office City Hall, 117 West Duval St., Suite 150 Jacksonville, Florida 32202

## GENERAL NOTICE OF CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA

## Introduction

You're getting this notice because you recently gained coverage under a group health plan (includes dental, or vision plans). This notice contains important information about our right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. This notice generally explains COBRA continuation coverage when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect the right to receive it. When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. For additional information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage. For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Market place, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

#### What is COBRA Continuation Coverage?

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of health coverage (Plan) when coverage would otherwise end because of a life even known as "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in the notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you are an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Our employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your spouse dies:
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct:
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

- Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens;
- The parent-employee dies:
- The parent- employee's hours of employment are reduced:
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct:
- The parent-employee become entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B or both):
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the plan as a "dependent child."

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is file with respect to City of Jacksonville, Florida and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee will become a qualified beneficiary with respect to the bankruptcy. The retired employee's souse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also become qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

## When is COBRA Coverage Available?

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying even has occurred. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the employee, commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer, or the employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits(under Part A, Part B, or both) the employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the qualifying event.

## You Must Give Notice of Some Qualifying Events

For the other qualifying event (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying even occurs. You must provide this notice to TASC Customer Care (800)422-4661 or <a href="mailto:COBRAService@tasconline.com">COBRAService@tasconline.com</a>

## How is COBRA Coverage Provided?

Once the Plan Administration receives notice that a qualifying even has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of theirs spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, the employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), your divorce or legal separation, or dependent child's losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to a total 36 months. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, and the employee became entitled to Medicare benefits less than 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage for qualified beneficiaries other than the employee lasts until 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement. For example, if a covered employee becomes entitled to Medicare 8 months before the date of which his employment terminates. COBRA continuation coverage for his spouse and children can last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement, which is equal to 28 months after the date of the qualifying even (36 months mins 8 months). Otherwise, when the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage generally lasts for only up to a total of 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended.

#### Disability extension of 18 month period of continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60<sup>th</sup> day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18 month period of continuation coverage. This notice should be provided to TASC Customer Care (800) 422-4661 or COBRAService@tasconline.com.

#### Second qualifying event extension of 18 month period of continuation coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying even while receiving 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if notice of the second qualifying even is properly given to the Plan. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children receiving continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies, becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both), or gets divorced or legally separated, or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

## Are there other coverage options beside COBRA Continuation Coverage?

Yes, instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Market Place, Medicaid, or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at <a href="https://www.healthcare.gov">www.healthcare.gov</a>.

## If you have questions

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District office of the U. S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in our area or visit <a href="www.HealthCare.gov">www.HealthCare.gov</a>.

## Keep your Plan Informed of Address Change

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep TASC Customer Care (800) 422-4661 or <a href="mailto:COBRAService@tasconline.com">COBRAService@tasconline.com</a> informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy for your records, of notices you send to TASC.

#### **Plan Contact Information**

TASC Customer Care Phone: (800) 422-4661

Email: <a href="mailto:cobrane">COBRAService@tasconline.com</a>

Customer Service Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm

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