

ACLI Advance Regulation Service

CONNECTICUT Bulletin IC-32

Storm Sandy – Grace Period For Premium Payment

Dated October 26, 2012

Summary: This Bulletin asks insurers to make adjustments for late premium payments by granting policyholders extended grace periods. It encourages insurers to work with policyholders in the collection of premiums, including payment plans. Additionally, the Bulletin asserts that the Insurance Department is dedicated to working with insurers to "minimize the regulatory effects of an insurer's suspension of premium payments, specifically in regard to financial review requirements."

Keywords: grace period
policyholder

This document updates the following Compliance Service(s): None

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Text of bulletin follows:



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

BULLETIN IC-32
October 26, 2012

TO: ALL INSURERS, LICENSEES AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

RE: STORM SANDY

With the possible relocation of storm victims and other personal hardships sustained by Connecticut residents as a result of **STORM Sandy**, the Connecticut Insurance Department (the "Department") encourages insurers to use all available means to provide prompt and immediate relief to those residents and policyholders, including but not limited to the suspension of premium payments to allow continuing insurance coverage. In conjunction with this effort, the Department will work with insurers to minimize the regulatory effects of an insurer's suspension of premium payments, specifically in regard to financial review requirements. The term "suspension" is not intended to mean forgiveness of the premium. **Rather, it is intended that the insurer grant the policyholder an extended grace period for the payment of any premium due.** Insurers are encouraged to work with policyholders in the collection of premiums, including payment plans.

The normal premium debits from financial institutions may continue in place according to the insurer's written agreement with the policyholder, unless a problem exists with premium debits or a policyholder's specific hardship directs an insurer otherwise. This should be weighed against the potential disruption to an insurer's business model or the inconvenience caused to the policyholder by multiple payments. It is the expectation of the Department that any problems resulting from this issue will be resolved between the parties without a complaint being filed. This would include an insurer working with a policyholder to minimize effects of any penalties or charges associated with premium debits.

For more information, please contact: cid.ca@ct.gov OR (800) 203-3447.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Thomas B. Leonardi".

Thomas B. Leonardi
Insurance Commissioner