

2026 · WHAT ISSUES SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN PURCHASING A LIFE INSURANCE POLICY?



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WEALTH

PURPOSE OF COVERAGE	YES	NO
In the event of your untimely death, do you want to provide support for your survivors (partner, spouse, children, other dependents)?	☐	☐
In the event of your untimely death, do you need to cover any debt obligations (e.g., home mortgage, car loan, credit card, or other personal debts)?	☐	☐
Do you need to estimate and plan for the costs of your final expenses (funeral and burial, taxes, estate settlement, etc.)?	☐	☐
Do you have wealth transfer goals that life insurance could support?	☐	☐
Have you experienced a life event recently (marriage, new child, home purchase, etc.)?	☐	☐
Is a life insurance policy necessary pursuant to a divorce settlement or under a buy-sell agreement?	☐	☐
Do you need to create liquidity at your death (e.g., to pay an estate tax liability)?	☐	☐
Do your current (and projected) assets and income fail to cover the above (or other) needs?	☐	☐
Are you concerned about your future insurability?	☐	☐

COVERAGE AMOUNT	YES	NO
Do you need to consider the financial impact that your death would have on those who depend on you financially?	☐	☐
Do you need to compare methods of calculating the right amount of death benefits? If so, consider the following approaches: - Multiple of Income — Choose a death benefit to replace your current annual income multiplied by a factor (e.g., 10 or 15). - Human Life Value — Calculate the present value of your estimated future earnings throughout your life expectancy. (continue on next column)	☐	☐

COVERAGE AMOUNT (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
Financial Needs Analysis — Calculate a principal sum that will meet your survivors' lump-sum and ongoing future income needs (target can allow for liquidation or aim for capital preservation).		
Are your coverage needs temporary, or will they decrease as time passes?	☐	☐
Do you have any coverage currently in place? If so, consider the following: - Review the terms of the policy (premiums, death benefit, cash value, coverage term, riders, etc.), and assess whether it meets your needs. - If you have a term policy, determine whether you can convert to a permanent policy and whether this would be advantageous. - Any additional policies should complement or replace your current coverage. A 1035 exchange may be advisable.	☐	☐

POLICY OPTIONS	YES	NO
Does your employer offer group life insurance as a benefit? If so, consider the following: - This may be a cost-effective option for many individuals. - Review the standard death benefit offered as well as any opportunity to increase with supplemental coverage. - If the policy is not portable or convertible, note the risk associated with leaving your employer or a decline in health.	☐	☐
Will you purchase a policy directly from an insurance company? If so, review the ratings, financial strength, and history of the carriers you are considering. (continue on next page)	☐	☐



POLICY OPTIONS (CONTINUED)	YES	NO
Do you need to review the basic types of life insurance policies? If so, consider the following: ■ Compare different types of insurance plans, including term (annually renewable and level premium), whole life, variable, universal, and variable universal. ■ Weigh the features (e.g., cash value, premium flexibility, death benefit guarantee, etc.) and the costs of the different policies against your financial goals. ■ If you are married, review whether joint policy options (first-to-die or second-to-die) might suit your situation.	☐	☐
Do you need to consider any living benefit riders to enhance your basic coverage? If so, consider the following: ■ Living benefit riders could provide an advance on death benefits. ■ Accelerated death benefit riders would provide funds if you are diagnosed with a life-threatening condition or are terminally ill. ■ Disability and waiver of premium riders could protect you in the event you can't work and can't pay premiums. ■ Guaranteed insurability could allow you to increase coverage in the future without an additional medical exam. ■ Long-term care riders can allow use of your death benefit to cover costs of long-term care.	☐	☐
Do you need to consider any death benefit riders to enhance your basic coverage? If so, consider the following: ■ Death benefit riders could provide additional support to your beneficiaries. ■ An accidental death benefit or accidental death and dismemberment rider could provide additional protection should you suffer a covered accident. ■ A family income benefit rider could provide monthly installments, rather than a lump sum payment, if your beneficiaries would be better protected with a recurring income stream.	☐	☐

MISCELLANEOUS	YES	NO
Do you have any health issues that might present barriers or increase the costs of coverage?	☐	☐
Do you need help understanding the material representations, medical exams, and other documentation you must submit during the application process?	☐	☐
Do you need to choose proper beneficiaries? If so, be sure to properly complete beneficiary designation forms after purchasing your policy. Life insurance is a nonprobate asset, unless your estate is the beneficiary (by designation or by default).	☐	☐
Will your beneficiaries need assistance managing the proceeds? If so, consider naming a trust as beneficiary. The trustee will collect the proceeds after your death and administer the trust according to your wishes.	☐	☐
Do you need to review the optimal policy ownership? If so, consider the following: ■ If properly owned by an irrevocable life insurance trust (ILIT), the death benefits of a life insurance policy will not be included in your taxable estate at your death. ■ Review state laws regarding taxation of death benefits. Some states tax proceeds that are paid to an estate.	☐	☐
Do you need to create a plan to ensure premium payments are timely made? If so, be sure to set up a reliable reminder of payment deadlines in order to avoid entering a grace period or causing a policy to lapse.	☐	☐
Do you have children who should be insured? If so, consider adding a children's term rider to your coverage as an alternative to a separate policy.	☐	☐



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