

## Med Pay Insurance

Medical Payments Insurance Coverage (also known as “med pay,” “personal injury protection” or “pip”) pays some or all of the medical bills of occupants of a covered motor vehicle who are injured in an accident. The coverage pays without regard to whether the injured person or anyone else is at fault.

If you are injured in a single vehicle accident where you are driving, there is generally not a third party to make a claim against for your injuries and damages. In such circumstances, medical payments coverage will pay for your medical bills up to the limits of the coverage.

In instances where others are involved, medical payments coverage will also pay for medical bills of all occupants of a motor vehicle who are injured, up to the limits of liability of the coverage. In some instances, medical payments coverage will also pay for medical expenses of pedestrians or motorcycle riders who are struck by a vehicle which has medical payments coverage.

We are frequently asked why people should carry medical payments coverage, especially in those cases where health insurance is available. Health insurance generally does not pay 100 percent of your medical bills. Instead, it requires that you pay a co-payment or some type of deductible.

Medical payments coverage does not require paying a co-payment or deductible. Carrying medical payments coverage also insures that your doctor will be paid quickly and without the hassle normally associated with submitting health insurance claims. If you do not have health insurance and are involved in an accident, it may even be impossible to see a doctor without paying substantial amounts up front for treatment. Medical payments coverage helps to insure that injured persons will be able to obtain necessary medical treatment without paying cash in advance.

If you don't have medical payments insurance or health insurance and are involved in an accident, doctors or medical providers may expect you to promptly pay medical bills, even before settling any claim that you might be entitled to make against a third party. Bill collectors may even call you for payments and your credit could be damaged.

Medical payments insurance coverage pays medical bills so that you are not put in the bad position of having bill collectors call you, write you, threaten you, or ruin your credit. Arkansas law requires that all applicants for automobile liability insurance be offered medical payments coverage with a minimum limit of \$5,000 per person in each accident. If you do not want the coverage as part of an automobile insurance policy in Arkansas, medical payments coverage must be rejected in writing.

In cases involving minor injuries, a limit of \$5,000 in medical payments coverage may be sufficient. However, in cases involving serious injuries, \$5,000 is likely not an adequate amount of coverage.

The cost of medical payments coverage generally represents only a very small percentage of your automobile liability insurance premium. Increasing the amount of coverage is generally only a small increase in the overall insurance cost. It is both important and wise to ask your insurance agent about increasing this amount unless increased coverage is not available from your insurance company.

We have heard of limited instances where insurance agents will persuade persons buying insurance to waive medical payments coverage. We believe that it is important that all insurance policies include medical payments coverage. The overall cost is small and the benefit to the customer is substantial in

the event of an accident. If your agent has suggested that you waive medical payments coverage, we recommend that you discuss this matter with your agent and tell him or her that you want the coverage. If the agent continues to suggest that you to waive the coverage, you should consider changing to another agent who will look out for you and what can happen to you if you are involved in an accident.

To find out if you have medical payments coverage, you should review the Declarations Page of your automobile insurance policy, which will typically be the first page of your insurance policy. Look at the Declarations Page to see if you have medical payments coverage (which may appear as “med pay,” “personal injury protection,” or “pip”) or if such coverage is either shown as being waived or rejected or that it does not appear at all on your Declarations Page. Unless the Declarations Page says that you have medical payments coverage, then you do not generally have such coverage available to you in the event of an accident.

To find out more about medical payments coverage, talk to your insurance agent. Tell your agent that you want to have an adequate amount of medical payments coverage to pay your medical bills if you are seriously injured in an accident.

If you don't get answers from your agent or if you need additional information, call us at McCutchen Buckley – The Law Firm. We'll be glad to look at your insurance declarations page to see whether you have medical payments coverage.

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