

Some life events can be Gamechangers: 4 Reasons to Review your Life Insurance Policy

For 2019's Life Insurance Awareness Month (LIAM), we shared how estate planning and financial wellness can feel like an ongoing board game. Constant changes in people, plans, and policies make it important to keep your beneficiary information up to date.

This year, we want to focus on significant life events that may trigger a life insurance policy review. A marriage, a new child, and even a salary increase can prompt an assessment of your current coverage. In the "game of life," these large life events can serve as the ultimate *Gamechangers*.



GAMECHANGER: Marriage/Divorce

In a new marriage, ensure that you and your spouse both carry a life insurance policy. Start early conversations on how to protect each other from financial hardship should the other person die.

Divorce may cause a review of your life insurance, especially if an ex-spouse serves as your children's main provider. Life insurance will support your kids if your former partner dies. Divorce may cause you to increase coverage for you or your dependents.



GAMECHANGER: A Birth or Adoption of a Child

A life insurance policy serves an important purpose to a child, whether biological or adopted. As your family grows, life insurance safeguards your child's financial future. If you die, the monies will contribute to the ongoing care of your children.

Each new dependent should prompt a new review of your policy. Maintain their coverage through high school/college – until a child can fully support themselves.



GAMECHANGER: A New Job and/or Salary Increase

A new job or promotion may increase your salary. Experts suggest carrying life insurance between 5 - 10x times your income. In the case of an untimely death, your family will quickly replace your income and sustain their current lifestyle. Significant salary increases may require life insurance increases.

Also, a new job may mean a decrease in your employer-sponsored coverage. Buying supplemental life insurance can help balance any new policy losses.



GAMECHANGER: Retirement

When you retire, you often lose partial or full access to your employer's life insurance coverage. However, you still want to ensure that if you die, your family will have adequate financial support. Life insurance can ensure there is enough money to replace any lost Social Security or other retirement income. Your financial planning may involve purchasing an additional policy to protect your revenue in retirement.

In every game, we want to win! Determine your needs, research your options and most importantly, be prepared for the *Gamechangers* that can trigger a reassessment of your coverage. Certain life events also may prompt an update to your beneficiary designation.

Having a solid plan and the right policy can help you reach your family goals and achieve your generational dreams. Make the right moves to be victorious in the life insurance game!



Life insurance can protect families from the early loss of the primary wage earner. It can be an essential and vital part of your financial planning.

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