

191—15.11(507B) Unfair discrimination.**15.11(1) *Sex discrimination.***

a. A contract shall not be denied to an individual based solely on that individual's sex or marital status. No benefits, terms, conditions or type of coverage shall be restricted, modified, excluded, or reduced on the basis of the sex or marital status of the insured or prospective insured except to the extent permitted under the Iowa Code or Iowa Administrative Code. An insurer may consider marital status for the purpose of defining individuals eligible for dependents' benefits. This subrule does not apply to group life insurance policies or group annuity contracts issued in connection with pension and welfare plans that are subject to the federal ERISA.

b. Specific examples of practices prohibited by this subrule include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Denying coverage to individuals of one sex employed at home, employed part-time or employed by relatives when coverage is offered to individuals of the opposite sex similarly employed.

(2) Denying policy riders to persons of one sex when the riders are available to persons of the opposite sex.

(3) Denying a policy under which maternity coverage is available to an unmarried female when that same policy is available to a married female.

(4) Denying, under group contracts, dependent coverage to spouses of employees of one sex, when dependent coverage is available to spouses of employees of the opposite sex.

(5) Denying disability income coverage to employed members of one sex when coverage is offered to members of the opposite sex similarly employed.

(6) Treating complications of pregnancy differently from any other illness or sickness under the contract.

(7) Restricting, reducing, modifying, or excluding benefits relating to coverage involving the genital organs of only one sex.

(8) Offering lower maximum monthly benefits to members of one sex than to members of the opposite sex who are in the same underwriting and occupational classification under a disability income contract.

(9) Offering more restrictive benefit periods and more restrictive definitions of disability to members of one sex than to members of the opposite sex in the same underwriting and occupational classifications under a disability income contract.

(10) Establishing different contract conditions based on gender that limit the benefit options a policyholder may exercise.

(11) Limiting the amount of coverage due to an insured's or prospective insured's marital status unless such limitation applies only to coverage for dependents and is uniformly applied to males and females.

c. When rates are differentiated on the basis of sex, an insurer must, upon the request of the commissioner of insurance, justify the rate differential in writing to the satisfaction of the commissioner. All rates shall be based on sound actuarial principles or a valid classification system and actual experience statistics, if available.

d. This subrule shall not affect the right of fraternal benefit societies to determine eligibility requirements for membership. If a fraternal benefit society does, however, admit members of both sexes, this subrule is applicable to the insurance benefits available to its members.

15.11(2) *Physical or mental impairment.* No contract, benefits, terms, conditions or type of coverage shall be denied, restricted, modified, excluded or reduced solely on the basis of physical or mental impairment of the insured or prospective insured except where based on sound actuarial principles or related to actual or reasonably anticipated experience. For purposes of this subrule, both blindness and partial blindness shall be considered a physical impairment.

15.11(3) *Income discrimination.* An insurer shall not refuse to issue, limit the amount or apply different rates to individuals of the same class in the sale of individual life insurance based solely upon the prospective insured's legal source or level of income, unless such action is based on sound actuarial principles or is related to actual or reasonably anticipated experience. The portion of this subrule pertaining to level of income does not:

- a.* Apply to the sale of disability income insurance of any kind or of any insurance designed to protect against economic loss due to a disruption in the regular flow of an individual's earned income;
- b.* Prohibit the sale of any insurance or annuity that is made available only to employees;
- c.* Prohibit basing the amount of insurance sold to an employee on a multiple or a percentage of the employee's salary or prohibit limiting availability to employees who have achieved a certain employment status as defined by the employer;
- d.* Prohibit insurers from providing life or health insurance as an incidental benefit through a qualified pension plan;
- e.* Prohibit insurers from applying suitability standards that include income as a factor in the sale of any life insurance or annuity products;
- f.* Prohibit insurers from establishing maximum or minimum amounts of insurance that will be issued to individuals so long as this is pursuant to a preexisting specialized marketing strategy that the insurer can demonstrate is related to the financial capacity of the insurer to write business or to bona fide transaction costs.

15.11(4) *Domestic abuse.* A contract shall not be denied to an individual based solely on the fact that such individual has been or is believed to have been a victim of domestic abuse as defined in Iowa Code section 236.2.

15.11(5) *Genetic information.* Any action by an insurer that is not in compliance with Title I of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-233, 122 Stat. 881) shall be considered an unfair trade practice and shall be subject to the penalties of Iowa Code chapter 507B and of these rules.

15.11(6) *Discrimination relating to children under the age of 19.* It is an unfair trade practice to:

- a.* Encourage individuals or groups to refrain from filing an application with an insurer for coverage for a child under the age of 19 because of the child's health status, claims experience, industry, occupation, or geographic location;
- b.* Encourage or direct children under the age of 19 to seek coverage from another insurer because of the child's health status, claims experience, industry, occupation, or geographic location; and
- c.* Encourage an employer to exclude an employee from coverage.

[ARC 7734C, IAB 3/20/24, effective 4/24/24]