

# PROTECTIVE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

P.O. Box 830619

Birmingham, AL 35283-0619

## NOTICE AND CONSENT FOR AIDS VIRUS (HIV) TESTING

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a life-threatening disorder of the immune system, caused by a virus, HIV. The virus is transmitted by sexual contact with an infected person, from an infected mother to her newborn infant, or by exposure to infected blood (as in needle sharing during IV drug use). Persons at high risk of contracting AIDS include males who have had sexual contact with another man, intravenous drug users, hemophiliacs, and sexual contacts with any of these persons. AIDS does not typically develop until a person has been infected with HIV for several years. A person may remain free of symptoms for years after becoming infected. Infected persons have a 25 percent to 50 percent chance of developing AIDS over the next 20 years. Symptoms which may develop include fever (including night sweats), weight loss, swollen lymph glands, fatigue, diarrhea and white spots or unusual blemishes in the mouth.

- PURPOSE OF THE HIV TEST.** To evaluate your insurability, the Insurer named above, Protective Life Insurance Company, has requested that you provide a sample of your blood, urine or other body fluids for testing and analysis to determine the presence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) antibodies or antigens. This is not a test for AIDS; AIDS can only be diagnosed by medical evaluation.
- PRE-TEST COUNSELING.** Many public health organizations have recommended that before taking an AIDS-related test, a person seek counseling to become informed concerning the implications of such a test.
- METHOD AND ACCURACY OF THE HIV TEST.** The HIV antibody test that is to be performed is actually a series of tests done by a medically accepted procedure. Your blood, urine or other body fluids sample will first be subjected to a test known as ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay). If the result of this test is positive, the ELISA test will be repeated. If this repeat ELISA test is also positive your blood, urine or other body fluids specimen will then be subjected to another, more specific technique called the Western blot test, for confirmation. Your test result is considered positive only after positive results are obtained on two ELISA tests and a Western Blot test. The HIV antibody test is extremely accurate. However, in rare instances the test may be positive in persons who are not infected with the virus (a false positive). This may include persons who have not engaged in high risk behavior. These individuals are encouraged to seek retesting to help confirm the validity of the positive test. Additionally, the test may occasionally be negative in persons who are infected with HIV (a false negative) especially when the infection occurred recently; it takes at least 4-12 weeks for a positive test result to develop after a person is infected.
- CONFIDENTIALITY OF HIV TEST RESULTS.** All test results will be treated confidentially. They will be reported by the laboratory to the Insurer. When necessary for business reasons in connection with insurance you have or have applied for with the Insurer, the Insurer may disclose test results to others such as its affiliates, reinsurers, employees, or contractors. If the Insurer is a member of the MIB, LLC and if the test results for HIV antibodies/antigens are other than normal, the Insurer will report to the MIB in a generic code which signifies only a non-specific laboratory test abnormality. If your HIV test is normal, no report will be made about it to the MIB. Other test results may be reported to the MIB, LLC in a more specific manner. The organizations described in this paragraph may maintain the test results in a file or data bank. There will be no other disclosure of test results or even that the tests have been done except as may be required or permitted by law or as authorized by you.
- POSITIVE TEST RESULTS.** Positive HIV antibody/antigen test results do not mean that you have AIDS, but that you are at significantly increased risk of developing AIDS or AIDS-related conditions. Federal authorities say that persons who are HIV antibody/antigen positive should be considered infected with the AIDS virus and capable of infecting others. Positive HIV antibody or antigen test results or other significant laboratory test abnormalities will adversely affect your application for insurance. This means that your application may be declined, that an increased premium may be charged, or that other policy changes may be necessary.
- NOTIFICATION OF HIV TEST RESULTS.** If the test results are negative, no routine notification will be sent to you. Positive or indeterminate test results will be provided to the private physician you indicate below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician's Address

In absence of a designated physician, positive or indeterminate test results will be communicated in accordance with the rules of your state. Some states will require notification of positive or indeterminate test results to the local health department in addition to or in lieu of notification to your private physician.

**CONSENT:** I have read and I understand this Notice and Consent for HIV (AIDS)-Related Testing and the accompanying informational pamphlet entitled *HIV & AIDS: Get The Facts*. I voluntarily consent to testing and disclosure as described above. I understand that I have the right to withdraw this consent prior to being tested and that I may request and receive a copy of this form. A photocopy of this form will be as valid as the original. In addition, I authorize Protective Life Insurance Company or its reinsurers to make a brief report of any personal health information to the MIB.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proposed Insured (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Proposed Insured or Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State of Residence