PLAIN TERM WORKSHEET

Beneficiary & policy checklist

Plain Term
plainterm.com

The things to decide before you apply, and to check after the policy arrives. California rules noted where they apply.

Before you apply

- [ ] **Primary beneficiary named specifically**
  Full legal name, date of birth, relationship. "My spouse" is weaker than a name; designations override your will.
- [ ] **Contingent beneficiary named**
  Who receives the benefit if the primary has died. Without one, proceeds may go to your estate and through probate.
- [ ] **No minor named directly**
  An insurer can't pay a child; a court-supervised guardianship of the money may follow. Use a trust or a custodial arrangement under California's Uniform Transfers to Minors Act.
- [ ] **Spouse considered (community property)**
  A California spouse may have a community interest in a policy paid for with marital earnings. Naming someone else as beneficiary is a question for a family-law or estate attorney.
- [ ] **Coverage amount comes from arithmetic, not a round number**
  Use the coverage worksheet or the estimator at plainterm.com.
- [ ] **Term length reaches the last year of dependency**
  Longer is the safer error; you can cancel a term policy any time but can't easily extend one.
- [ ] **Medication names and doses, diagnosis dates, doctor's name, driver's license at hand**
  Answer every health question yourself, completely and truthfully. Accuracy is what makes the policy solid.
- [ ] **Agent's license verified**
  Search by name at insurance.ca.gov or call 1-800-927-4357. This site's agent: Johnathan Shelton, CA License #4246363.

When the policy arrives

- [ ] **Free-look deadline written down: ____ / ____ / ______**
  California gives 10–30 days from delivery to return the policy for a full refund (Ins. Code §10127.9); at least 30 days if you're 60 or older (§10127.10); 30 days on a replacement (§10509.6). The exact number is printed on the policy.
- [ ] **Face amount, term, premium, and rate class match what you applied for**
  If anything differs, ask why before the free-look period ends.
- [ ] **Beneficiary designations correct on the issued policy**
  Read them back. Typos here are expensive later.
- [ ] **Conversion option and its deadline noted**
  Many term policies allow conversion to permanent coverage without new health questions, within a window.
- [ ] **Second person designated for lapse notices**
  California lets you name someone to receive notice before a lapse for nonpayment (60-day grace period applies).
- [ ] **Contestability end date noted: ____ / ____ / ______**
  Two years from issue. After that the policy is generally incontestable except for nonpayment.
- [ ] **Policy stored where your beneficiary can find it**
  Carrier name, policy number, and the agent's contact in one place. Tell your beneficiary it exists.

Revisit at every life change

Marriage or divorce · a birth · a home purchase or payoff · a large raise · a child leaving home · retirement. Otherwise every three to five years.

CARRIER / POLICY NUMBER

AGENT CONTACT

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