

# Certification of Dependent Student Status

Covered Employee: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Group Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Re: \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of Dependent)

The above-named dependent is eligible for coverage under the Employer's group health plan so long as the dependent is a full-time student (as defined in the Employer's group health plan). In addition, your dependent may be eligible for coverage if on a medically necessary leave of absence from school (see attached Michelle's Law Notice for additional details). In order to verify the dependent's eligibility for coverage, you must provide the following certification of student status and, if applicable, eligibility, for continued coverage under Michelle's Law as follows:

## **1. Certification of Student Status**

Name and address of the school at which the dependent is enrolled:

\_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment Dates (or date last enrolled): \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the above information is true and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Covered Employee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **2. Certification of Student Medical Leave**

If the dependent is seeking a medically necessary leave of absence from school, in addition to the information provided above, the dependent's physician must complete the following and sign below:

The undersigned physician hereby certifies that the above-named dependent student is suffering from a serious illness or injury and that the dependent's leave of absence (or other change in enrollment of the dependent at the school) is medically necessary.

Describe dependent's medical condition: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of dependent's medical leave: Beginning Date: \_\_\_\_\_ End Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the above information is true and complete.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Attending Physician

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Michelle's Law Notice**

### **Eligibility for Continued Coverage for Dependent Students on Medically Necessary Leave of Absence**

Michelle's Law applies to group health plans for plan years beginning on or after October 9, 2009 (for calendar year plans, the law is effective beginning January 1, 2010). Michelle's Law provides continued coverage under group health plans for dependent children who are covered under your employer's group health plan as a student but lose their student status because they take a medically necessary leave of absence from school.

As a result, if your child is no longer a student, as defined in the plan, because he/she is on a medically necessary leave of absence, your child may continue to be covered under the plan for up to one year from the beginning of the leave of absence. This continued coverage applies if, immediately before the first day of the leave of absence, your child was (1) covered under the plan and (2) enrolled as a student at post-secondary educational institution (includes colleges and universities).

For purposes of this continued coverage a "medically necessary leave of absence" means a leave of absence from a post-secondary educational institution, or any changes in enrollment of the child at the institution, that:

1. begins while the child is suffering from a serious illness or injury,
2. is medically necessary, and
3. causes the child to lose student status for purposes of coverage under the plan.

The coverage provided to dependent children during any period of continued coverage:

1. is available for up to one year after the first day of the medically necessary leave of absence, but ends earlier if coverage under the plan would otherwise terminate (e.g., due to an age limitation), and
2. stays the same as if your child had continued to be a covered student and had not taken a medically necessary leave of absence.

If the coverage provided by the plan is changed during this one-year period, the plan must provide the changed coverage for the dependent child for the remainder of the medically necessary leave of absence unless, as a result of the change, the plan no longer provides coverage for dependent children.

If you believe your child is eligible for this continued coverage, the child's treating physician must provide a written certification to the plan stating that your child is suffering from a serious illness or injury that the leave of absence (or other change in enrollment) is medically necessary.

### **Coordination with COBRA Continuation Coverage**

If your child is eligible for Michelle's Law continued coverage and loses coverage under the plan at the end of the coverage period, continuation coverage under COBRA will be available at the end of Michelle's Law coverage period and a COBRA notice will be provided at that time.