

DIVORCE OR SEPARATION



Employee Guide: Qualifying Life Change

Divorce, Legal Separation, Annulment or Termination of Partnership

The following guide outlines [permissible changes](#) to benefit elections and [how to make](#) them when an employee loses a spouse/partner due to divorce, legal separation, annulment or termination of domestic or civil union partnership.

Permissible changes

If an employee is losing a spouse/partner they may make certain changes to their benefit elections for themselves and their dependents (ex-spouse/ex-partner and children/step-children). These changes must be made within **31 days** from the date of event and must be [consistent](#) with losing a spouse/partner, and correspond with a loss of eligibility. New elections will **be effective the first of the month** following the divorce, legal separation, annulment or termination of partnership.

CU Health Plans medical, dental, vision	Optional Life Insurance	Voluntary AD&D	Flexible Spending Accounts Health Care Dependent Care
limited changes	changes permissible	changes permissible	changes permissible

Plan Resources

- [Rates](#)
- [Benefits Website](#)

CU Health Plans: medical, dental, vision

	Enroll?	Cancel?	Change plans?
Employee	If the employee currently does not have coverage with CU, they can enroll themselves, with proof of loss of coverage .	The employee cannot cancel CU coverage for themselves or dependents. They must wait until Open Enrollment.	The employee cannot switch plans. They must wait until the next Open Enrollment.
Employee's children	If the employee is enrolled/enrolling they can enroll their dependent child(ren) with proof of loss of coverage .		
Ex-spouse/ex-partner and employee's stepchildren	The ex-spouse/ex-partner and their dependent children's coverage will end the last day of the month of the date of the divorce, legal separation, termination of partnership or annulment. They will be eligible for COBRA .		

Optional Life Insurance

	Enroll?	Cancel or decrease?
Employee	<p>Guarantee issue (no medical history required): The employee can elect or increase up to \$10,000, in increments of \$1,000. Total policy amount cannot exceed three times employee's annual salary.</p> <p>Additional amounts: To apply for additional amount (max of \$1 million) employee must submit the Medical History Statement form, as evidence of insurability, to The Standard Insurance Company for approval.*</p>	Any policy can be decreased or canceled any time. Effective that month if the Benefits Enrollment/ Change Form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it is effective the first of the following month.
Employee's children	For a dependent child(ren), the employee may elect, in flat amounts of \$5,000 or \$10,000. Policy cannot exceed employee's Optional Life amount. No medical history is required.	
Ex-Spouse/ex-Partner and employee's stepchildren	Coverage for the ex-spouse/ex-partner and employee's stepchildren ends on the day of divorce, legal separation, annulment or termination of partnership. Premium adjustments are effective the first of the month following the event.	
Beneficiaries can be changed at any time by going to the employee portal .		

*Effective date of policy is the date of approval by The Standard however, premiums are effective the first of the month following the approval date.

Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D)

	Enroll?	Cancel or decrease?
Employee	The employee can elect or increase, in increments of \$10,000, up to 10-times their annual salary with a maximum of \$250,000. Medical history not applicable.	Any policy can be decreased or canceled any time. Effective that month if the Benefits Enrollment/ Change Form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it is effective the first of the following month.
Employee's children	The employee can elect a flat \$5,000 for dependent child(ren). Employee must be enrolled. Medical history is not applicable.	
Ex-Spouse/ex-partner and employee's stepchildren	Coverage for the ex-spouse/ex-partner and employee's stepchildren ends on the day of divorce, legal separation, annulment or termination of partnership. Premium adjustments are effective the first of the month following the event.	
Beneficiaries can be changed at any time by going to the employee portal .		

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)

Health Care Flexible Spending Account HCFSAs	Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account DCFSA
The employee can enroll, increase or decrease election to reflect loss of eligibility for medical, dental, vision or FSA coverage under spouse/partner's plan. In no event can a new election be reduced to an amount that is less than the expenses incurred prior to the new election date. Effective date is the first of the month following the receipt of Benefits Enrollment/Change Form.	The employee can enroll or increase to accommodate newly eligible tax dependents and any other tax dependents who were not previously covered. Employee can decrease or cancel to reflect loss of eligibility .

How to make changes

The employee has **31 days** from the date of the event that causes the loss of eligibility to make changes and [submit](#) the required documentation. If the appropriate documentation is not submitted within 31 days, they must wait until the next Open Enrollment to make changes.

How to ADD employee and/or dependent children who lost coverage through ex-spouse/ex-partner

1. Submit the benefits enrollment/change form:
 - [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)
 - [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)
2. Submit [Dependent Eligibility Verification \(DEV\)](#) documentation for eligible child(ren), if dependents are not already verified. If documentation is not received, the dependent will not be enrolled and you will have to wait until the next open enrollment period.

Eligible dependents	Dependent verification required documentation		
Child under age 27	Birth or adoption certificate	or	Court documents signed by a judge for parental responsibility or qualified medical child support order.
Disabled Child over age 27	Birth or adoption certificate	and	A medical certificate of disability or notice of determination from the Social Security Administration

3. Provide proof of [loss of coverage](#). Submit a letter or other document from spouse/partner's employer or insurer stating:
 - Who are the individuals losing coverage (by name)
 - When is the effect date when coverage ends
 - What types of plans are being lost, specifically medical, dental and vision

How to CANCEL coverage for ex-spouse/ex-partner, stepchildren and employee's children

1. Submit the appropriate benefits enrollment/change form:
 - [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)
 - [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)
2. Submit a copy of divorce decree, legal separation, or annulment. If event is termination of partnership, a notarized [CU Affidavit of Domestic Partnership](#), is required
3. To cancel CU coverage for employee's children, employee must submit a letter or other document from the ex-spouse/ex-partner's employer or insurer stating:
 - Who are individuals that gained group coverage
 - When is the effective date of group coverage
 - What types of plans were gained, specifically medical, dental and/or vision
4. A [COBRA](#) packet will be mailed to employee's current address unless we are notified otherwise.

Payroll deductions

If canceling or removing dependent coverage and expecting a reduction in cost of monthly premiums, employee must submit all documentation by the tenth of the month in which the change would take effect. If documentation is received after the tenth of the month, premium adjustments will be reflected in the next payroll cycle.

Submission instructions

Send forms and documents via secured fax or unsecured email, regular mail or in person:

Fax: 303.860.4299 (secured)

Email: benefits@cu.edu (unsecured)

Employee Services: 1800 Grant St. suite 400, Denver, CO 80203

Employees can check their Benefits Summary in their [employee portal](#), to ensure enrollment accuracy after forms are processed.

Questions?

Benefits Office:

Monday - Friday

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

303-860-4200, option 3

Other benefits to consider (Not subject to QLC requirements)

During the course of a Life Change, there are other benefit changes to consider that are not subject to Qualifying Life Changes. The following changes can be made at any time during the plan year:

HSA – Health Savings Account

The employee can enroll, increase, decrease or cancel at any time during the year without a Qualifying Life Change. The employee must be enrolled on the CU Health Plan – High Deductible in order to open and contribute to the HSA offered by CU. Contributions cannot be made to both the HCFSA and the HSA at the same time. Please see the [HSA Fact Sheet](#) for more detailed information.

- Effective date Via Form: Effective that month if form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.
- Effective date via Self-Service-Portal: Effective that month, if enrolled online before that month's payroll processing. Employee must call a [benefits professional](#) to activate online enrollment.

Optional Life Insurance

The employee can enroll in or increase, at any time, in Optional Life Insurance:

1. **Complete and sign** the evidence of insurability (EOI)*
[Medical History Statement Faculty and University Staff](#)
[Medical History Statement Classified](#)
2. **Submit Form**
The Standard Insurance Company
Medical Underwriting
900 SW Fifth Avenue
Portland OR 97204
3. **Approval**
 - a. The Standard will notify the applicant and the University when application is approved.
 - i. Effective date of the policy is the date of approval by The Standard.
 - ii. Premiums are effective the first day of the month following the approval date.
 - b. The University will notify the applicant when approval is received. At that time the applicant will designate beneficiaries and indicate tobacco usage via the provided form.

Cancellations: The employee can decrease or revoke personal and dependent Optional Life Insurance any time during the plan year by submitting the appropriate Benefits Enrollment/Change Form:

[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)
[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)

*EOI: By signing the [Medical History Statement](#), the applicant is authorizing the Standard Insurance Company to obtain information about the applicant's health, undergo a physical examination, if required, which may include blood testing, and provide any additional information about the applicant's insurability that The Standard may reasonably require.

Voluntary Accidental Death & Dismemberment (AD&D)

Voluntary AD&D can only be added during Open Enrollment and certain Qualifying Life Changes. However, employees can cancel AD&D any time during the plan year by submitting the appropriate Benefits Enrollment/Change Form:

[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#)
[Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#)

Short Term Disability

Faculty and University Staff:

Employees can cancel any time during the plan year by submitting the [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Faculty, Officers, University Staff](#). Effective date for cancellation is that month if the benefits enrollment/change form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month. The employee can enroll only during Open Enrollment.

Classified Staff: N/A (Must continue enrollment since it is mandatory and paid by CU)

Long Term Disability

Faculty and University Staff: N/A (Must continue enrollment since it is mandatory and paid by CU).

Classified Staff:

- The employee can enroll at any time during the year with a [Medical History Statement Classified Staff](#) approved by The Standard Insurance Company. Effective date is the first of the month following approval of The Standard Insurance Company.
- Premiums are based on employee's age, salary and vesting status with PERA.
- Employee can request change of premiums at any time during the year or when he/she becomes vested with PERA (five years of PERA service). Employee must submit Benefits Enrollment/Change and proof of vesting status (if status was gained outside CU's employment). Effective that month if form is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.
- The employee can change to Vested status anytime during the plan year.
- The employee can cancel any time during the plan year. Effective date for cancellation is that month if the [Benefits Enrollment/Change form Classified Staff](#) is received by the tenth of the month, otherwise it will be the first of the following month.

Definitions

Consistency Rule: Under the Consistency Rule, the election change is on account of and corresponds with the Qualifying Life Change that affects eligibility for coverage under an employer's plan. Changes to benefit plans must be consistent with the Qualifying Life Change, and correspond with a gain or loss of eligibility for coverage.

Evidence of Insurability (EOI): This means an applicant must submit the [Medical History Statement Faculty/University Staff](#) or [Medical History Statement Classified Staff](#) to The Standard Insurance Co, authorizing to obtain information about the applicant's health, undergo a physical examination which may include blood testing or any other information about the applicant's insurability reasonably required. Effective date of policy is the date of approval by The Standard however, premiums are effective the first of the month following the approval date.

Loss of group coverage: When adding CU coverage, CU requires proof that employee and/or dependents will lose or have lost group health coverage by submitting a letter or other document from other employer or insurer stating:

- Who are the individuals losing coverage (by name)
- When is the effect date when coverage ends
- What types of plans are being lost, specifically medical, dental and vision