OIC Rules Coordinator

From: Alan Michael Singer <asinger@tseytlinlaw.com>

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To: OIC Rules Coordinator

Subject: R2025-05 - 1st prepublication draft - comment

External Email

Hi,

As an attorney with experience defending insurers and their insureds, and also representing claimants/plaintiffs, I strongly support all of the proposed changes.

Please, if you would, consider a few suggestions.

One small but potentially useful change to the proposed added sentence in WAC 284-30-330(4) would add the word "reasonable" as follows: "A reasonable investigation includes, but is not limited to, conducting an reasonable individual assessment of either the covered loss, or damages, or both, and cannot rely solely on the use of a database." There should not be any argument that insurers can simply conduct "an individual assessment" without it being a reasonable one. An individual assessment can certainly be done unreasonably, and this added word would make clear such would not be acceptable.

The change to WAC 284-30-340(2) may benefit from two minor changes in its last sentence. First, change "The insurer has 15 business days to provide [...]" to "The insurer has 15 business days from receipt of the request to provide [...]" Second, change "[...] to the first party claimant" to "[...] to the first party claimant or to his or her attorney or legal representative."

The changes to WAC 284-30-390(1)(a)(1) and (b)(1) may require some minor changes. For example, these sections add proposed language which adds a proposed subsection "(A)" but no subsection "(B)" – which may lead to confusion.

WAC 284-30-390(1)(b)(v) currently proposes "Insurers must clearly explain how storage and towing fees are covered under the policy within three business days of the notification of claim." I suggest it state instead "Within three business days of the notification of a claim, insurers must provide the claimant with a clear written explanation of how storage fees and towing fees are covered under the policy." I have seen cases where consumer/insured misunderstanding and insurer inaction has resulted in claimants incurring significant extra storage fees, so this is a particularly helpful change.

Thank you.

Alan

Alan Michael Singer Attorney at Law



Law Offices of Anna R. Tseytlin, PLLC

Personal Injury and Immigration Attorneys Main Office: 6720 Fort Dent Way, Suite 150 Tukwila, WA 98188 (425) 524-4600

Bellevue office location: 375 118th Ave SE, Ste 203 Bellevue, WA, 98005 (425) 746-4800

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