



## Offer of Additional Uninsured Motorist Coverage and Optional Underinsured Motorist Coverage

### I. Explanation of Coverages

**Automobile liability insurance coverage** pays other motor vehicle drivers and their passengers for the damages caused by you and for which you are legally responsible. There are two types of automobile liability insurance coverage: bodily injury and property damage. **Bodily injury coverage** pays for bodily injuries to others inflicted by your motor vehicle. **Property damage coverage** pays for damages which your motor vehicle causes to other motor vehicles or property.

Under South Carolina law, an insurance company may refuse to write your automobile liability insurance for a number of reasons. If an insurance company decides to write your automobile liability insurance coverage, however, it must provide at least \$25,000 of bodily injury coverage for each person whom you may injure in any single accident and \$50,000 of bodily injury coverage for two or more people whom you may injure in any single accident. The insurance company must also provide at least \$25,000 in property damage coverage for each accident you may cause. You may have seen these limits described as \$25,000/\$50,000/\$25,000 or 25-50-25. These limits are commonly-known as **minimum limits**. In order to drive your automobile upon the roads of this State, you must have at least these minimum limits of insurance, unless you post a satisfactory bond or pay a \$550 fee to drive uninsured. There is no requirement that an insurance company offer higher than minimum limits of automobile liability insurance coverage. If your insurance company does offer more than the minimum limits, you will be required to pay an additional premium for those increased limits of protection.

An insurer that writes your automobile liability insurance coverage must also offer two additional coverages which will protect you in the event you are damaged in an automobile accident by an at-fault driver who either has no automobile insurance or whose automobile insurance liability limits are less than your damages in that accident. These coverages are termed additional uninsured motorist coverage and optional underinsured motorist coverage, respectively. You may also see them referred to as UM and/or UIM. If you decide to purchase either of these coverages, you will be required to pay an additional premium for each of these coverages.

**Uninsured motorist coverage** compensates you, or other persons insured under your automobile insurance policy, for amounts which you may be legally entitled to collect as damages from an owner or operator of an at-fault uninsured motor vehicle. An uninsured motor vehicle is a motor vehicle which either has no liability insurance coverage, has liability limits less than those required by the South Carolina Financial Responsibility Act, or is operated by a hit- and-run driver. By law, your automobile insurance policy automatically provides uninsured motorist coverage of \$25,000/\$50,000/\$25,000. There is a \$200 deductible for uninsured property damage claims.

You also have the right to buy **additional** uninsured motorist coverage, in various limits, up to the limits of the liability coverage you have purchased. The limits of additional uninsured motorist coverage which your insurance company is authorized to write and for which you are eligible are shown on this form, together with the additional premium for those increased limits. You may not purchase uninsured motorist coverage with limits in excess of your liability limits.

**Underinsured motorist coverage** compensates you, or other persons insured under your automobile insurance policy, for amounts which you legally may be entitled to collect as damages from an owner or operator of an at-fault underinsured motor vehicle. An underinsured motor vehicle is a motor vehicle which is covered by at least minimum South Carolina Financial Responsibility limits of liability insurance, but which is insufficient to fully compensate you for your damages.

Your automobile insurance policy does not automatically provide any underinsured motorist coverage. However, you have the right to buy, and your insurance company is required to offer, optional underinsured motorist coverage in various limits up to the limits of liability coverage you have purchased. The limits of optional underinsured motorist coverage which your insurer is authorized to write and for which you are eligible are shown on this form, together with the additional premium for those limits. You may not purchase underinsured motorist coverage with limits in excess of your liability limits.

If you reject optional underinsured or additional uninsured motorist coverages shown on this form and if you are involved in an automobile accident that is not your fault, this form may be used by your insurance company as evidence against you if you make a claim for additional uninsured motorist coverage or optional underinsured motorist coverage.

If you do not complete this form and return it to your insurance company or insurance agent within 30 days, your insurance company is required by law to add additional uninsured motorist coverage and optional underinsured motorist coverage, in the same limits as your automobile liability insurance, to your automobile insurance policy. You will be required to pay an additional premium for each of these coverages and your policy may be canceled for non-payment of that additional premium.

In the future, if you wish to increase or to decrease your limits of additional uninsured motorist coverage or optional underinsured motorist coverage, you must contact either your insurance agent or your insurance company. You will not be presented with another copy of this form by your insurance agent or insurance company upon renewal of your automobile liability insurance policy. You will not be presented with another copy of this form by your insurance agent or current insurance company when you extend, change, supersede, or replace your automobile liability insurance policy.