

Policy Number	006-M-2007
Policy Group	Membership
Policy Name	Legal Assistance for Disability Appeals
Date of Origin	June 2007
Date Amended	September 2013
Date Reviewed	November 2013, September 2014, October 2015, November 2016, November 2017, November 2018

PURPOSE To provide legal assistance to SUN members who have been denied disability benefits and who choose to challenge the denial through a lawsuit to the Court of Queen's Bench.

SCOPE Members

POLICY STATEMENT Upon proof of denial of disability benefits any SUN member in good standing may be eligible for financial assistance. The member must have utilized the internal SUN disability appeal process first. The fund will not be available for challenges regarding partial settlements of disability claims.

PROCEDURE

Approval Process

- a) The Executive Director of SUN will determine if the request for assistance will be granted.
- b) SUN reserves the right to review medical evidence to determine eligibility to access the legal assistance fund for disability appeals.

Financial Assistance

- a) Up to \$5000 per member per claim will be granted to assist with the legal costs of a lawsuit against the insurer who has denied the disability benefit.
- b) The legal counsel will be selected by the member from a list established by SUN of legal representatives.
- c) Reimbursement will be to the lawyer contracted by SUN upon receipt of invoice.
- d) Funding is to appeal a denial of disability benefits to the Court of Queen's Bench and that legal counsel will be paid upon receipt of the invoice from the lawyer retained by the member.
- e) Appeals of court decisions will not be funded from this fund.

