

## Chapter Ins 25

### PRIVACY OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL AND HEALTH INFORMATION

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#### Subchapter I — General Provisions

**Ins 25.01 Authority.** This chapter is promulgated pursuant to the authority granted by ss. 601.41 (3), 610.70, 628.34 (12), and 633.17, Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.02 Purpose and scope. (1) PURPOSES.** This chapter governs the treatment of nonpublic personal health information and nonpublic personal financial information about individuals by all licensees of the office of the commissioner of insurance except to the extent that a licensee is exempted from a provision of this chapter. This chapter does all of the following:

(a) It requires a licensee to provide notice to individuals about its privacy policies and practices.

(b) It describes the conditions under which a licensee may disclose nonpublic personal health information and nonpublic personal financial information about individuals to affiliates and non-affiliated third parties.

(c) It provides methods for individuals to prevent a licensee from disclosing that information.

**(2) COMPLIANCE.** This chapter applies to:

(a) Nonpublic personal financial information about individuals who obtain or are beneficiaries of products or services primarily for personal, family or household purposes from licensees, about individuals who are beneficiaries under group health plans and claimants under workers' compensation policies, and about individuals who are third-party claimants against products or services obtained for business, commercial or agricultural purposes. This chapter does not apply to information about companies or about individuals who obtain products or services for business, commercial or agricultural purposes; and

(b) All nonpublic personal health information about individuals who obtain or are beneficiaries of products or services primarily for personal, family or household purposes from licensees, about individuals who are beneficiaries under group health plans and claimants under workers' compensation policies, and about individuals who are third-party claimants against products or services obtained for business, commercial or agricultural purposes, except to the extent the information is subject to s. 51.30, 146.81 to 146.84 or 610.70, Stats.

**(3) EXTRA-TERRITORIAL APPLICATION.** A licensee domiciled in this state that is in compliance with this chapter in a state that has

not enacted laws or regulations that meet the requirements of Title V of the Gramm–Leach–Bliley Act (PL 102–106) is in compliance with Title V of the Gramm–Leach–Bliley Act in such other state.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.03 Rule of construction.** The examples in this chapter and the sample clauses in Appendix A of this chapter are not exclusive. Compliance with an example or use of a sample clause, to the extent applicable, constitutes compliance with this chapter.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.04 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:

**(1)** “Affiliate” means any company that controls, is controlled by or is under common control with another company.

**(2)** (a) “Clear and conspicuous” means that a notice is reasonably understandable and designed to call attention to the nature and significance of the information in the notice.

(b) The following are examples of the application of “clear and conspicuous:”

1. ‘Reasonably understandable.’ A licensee makes its notice reasonably understandable if it does all of the following:

a. Presents the information in the notice in clear, concise sentences, paragraphs, and sections.

b. Uses short explanatory sentences or bullet lists whenever possible.

c. Uses definite, concrete, everyday words and active voice whenever possible.

d. Avoids multiple negatives.

e. Avoids legal and highly technical business terminology whenever possible.

f. Avoids explanations that are imprecise and readily subject to different interpretations.

2. ‘Designed to call attention.’ A licensee designs its notice to call attention to the nature and significance of the information in it if the licensee does all of the following:

a. Uses a plain-language heading to call attention to the notice.

b. Uses typeface and type sizes that are easy to read.

c. Provides wide margins and ample line spacing.

d. Uses boldface or italics for key words.

e. In a form that combines the licensee's notice with other information, uses distinctive type size, style, and graphic devices, such as shading or sidebars.

3. 'Notices on web sites.' If a licensee provides a notice on a web page, the licensee designs its notice to call attention to the nature and significance of the information in it if the licensee uses text or visual cues to encourage scrolling down the page if necessary to view the entire notice and ensures that other elements on the web site, such as text, graphics, hyperlinks or sound, do not distract attention from the notice, and the licensee does any of the following:

a. Places the notice on a screen that consumers frequently access, such as a page on which transactions are conducted.

b. Places a link on a screen that consumers frequently access, such as a page on which transactions are conducted, that connects directly to the notice and is labeled appropriately to convey the importance, nature and relevance of the notice.

(3) "Collect" means to obtain information that the licensee organizes or can retrieve by the name of an individual or by identifying number, symbol or other identifying particular assigned to the individual, irrespective of the source of the underlying information.

(4) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of insurance.

(5) "Company" means a corporation, limited liability company, business trust, general or limited partnership, association, sole proprietorship or similar organization.

(6) (a) "Consumer" means an individual about whom a licensee has nonpublic personal information, who:

1. Seeks to obtain, obtains or has obtained an insurance product or service from a licensee that is to be used primarily for personal, family or household purposes;

2. Is a claimant under a workers' compensation policy;

3. Is insured under a group health plan; or

4. Is a third-party claimant under an insurance product or service obtained for business, commercial or agricultural purposes.,

(b) The following are examples of consumers:

1. An individual who provides nonpublic personal information to a licensee in connection with obtaining or seeking to obtain financial, investment or economic advisory services relating to an insurance product or service is a consumer regardless of whether the licensee establishes an ongoing advisory relationship.

2. An applicant for insurance prior to the inception of insurance coverage is a licensee's consumer.

3. An individual is a licensee's consumer if all of the following conditions exist:

a. The individual is a beneficiary of a life insurance policy underwritten by the licensee, a claimant under an insurance policy issued by the licensee, a named insured or an annuitant under an insurance policy or an annuity, respectively, issued by the licensee, or a mortgagor of a mortgage covered under a mortgage insurance policy.

b. The licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information about the individual to a nonaffiliated third party other than as permitted under ss. Ins 25.50, 25.55, and 25.60.

(c) The following are examples of individuals who are not consumers:

1. Provided that the licensee provides the initial notice under s. Ins 25.10 to the plan sponsor, group or blanket insurance policyholder, group annuity contract-holder, or workers' compensation policyholder and that the licensee does not disclose to a nonaffiliated third party nonpublic personal financial information about such an individual other than as permitted under ss. Ins 25.50, 25.55, and 25.60, an individual is not the consumer of the licensee solely because the individual is any of the following:

a. A participant or a beneficiary of an employee benefit plan that the licensee administers or sponsors or for which the licensee acts as a trustee, insurer or fiduciary.

b. Covered under a group or blanket insurance policy or group annuity contract issued by the licensee.

c. A claimant under a workers' compensation policy.

2. a. The individuals described in subd. 1. a. to c. are consumers of a licensee if the licensee does not meet all the conditions of subd. 1.

b. In no event shall the individuals, solely by virtue of the status described in subd. 1. a. to c., be deemed to be customers for purposes of this chapter.

3. An individual is not a licensee's consumer solely because he or she is a beneficiary of a trust for which the licensee is a trustee.

4. An individual is not a licensee's consumer solely because he or she has designated the licensee as trustee for a trust.

5. An individual who is a consumer of another financial institution is not a licensee's consumer solely because the licensee is acting as agent for, or provides processing or other services to, that financial institution.

(d) "Consumer" includes the legal representative of an individual who is a consumer.

(7) "Consumer reporting agency" has the same meaning as in Section 603(f) of the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 USC 1681a(f)).

(8) "Control" means any of the following:

(a) Ownership, control or power to vote 25 % or more of the outstanding shares of any class of voting security of the company, directly or indirectly, or acting through one or more other persons.

(b) Control in any manner over the election of a majority of the directors, trustees or general partners, or individuals exercising similar functions, of the company or by an agreement establishing an attorney in fact for a reciprocal as defined by s. 600.03 (41), Stats.

(c) The power to exercise, directly or indirectly, a controlling influence over the management or policies of the company.

(9) "Customer" means a consumer who has a customer relationship with a licensee.

(10) (a) "Customer relationship" means a continuing relationship between a consumer and a licensee under which the licensee provides one or more insurance products or services to the consumer that are to be used primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

(b) The following are examples relating to customer relationship:

1. A consumer has a continuing relationship with a licensee if any of the following conditions exist:

a. The consumer is a current policyholder of an insurance product issued by or through the licensee.

b. The consumer obtains financial, investment or economic advisory services relating to an insurance product or service from the licensee for a fee.

2. A consumer does not have a continuing relationship with a licensee under any of the following conditions:

a. The consumer applies for insurance but does not purchase the insurance.

b. The licensee sells the consumer airline travel insurance in an isolated transaction.

c. The consumer is no longer a current policyholder of an insurance product or no longer obtains insurance services with or through the licensee.

d. The consumer is a beneficiary or claimant under a policy and has submitted a claim under that policy, choosing a settlement option involving an ongoing relationship with the licensee.

e. The consumer is a beneficiary or a claimant under a policy and has submitted a claim under that policy, choosing a lump sum settlement option.

f. The customer's policy is lapsed, expired, or otherwise inactive or dormant under the licensee's business practices, and the licensee has not communicated with the customer about the relationship for a period of twelve consecutive months, other than annual privacy notices, material required by law or regulation, communication at the direction of a state or federal authority, or promotional materials.

g. The consumer is an insured or an annuitant under an insurance policy or annuity, respectively, but is not the policyholder or owner of the insurance policy or annuity.

h. The consumer's last known address according to the licensee's records is deemed invalid. An address of record is deemed invalid if mail sent to that address by the licensee has been returned by the postal authorities as undeliverable and if subsequent attempts by the licensee to obtain a current valid address for the consumer have been unsuccessful.

**(11)** (a) "Financial institution" means any institution the business of which is engaging in activities that are financial in nature or incidental to such financial activities as described in Section 4(k) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 USC 1843(k)).

(b) Financial institution does not include any of the following:

1. Any person or entity with respect to any financial activity that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission under the Commodity Exchange Act (7 USC 1 *et seq.*).

2. The Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation or any entity charged and operating under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 USC 2001 *et seq.*).

3. Institutions chartered by Congress specifically to engage in securitizations, secondary market sales, including sales of servicing rights, or similar transactions related to a transaction of a consumer, as long as the institutions do not sell or transfer nonpublic personal information to a nonaffiliated third party.

**(12)** (a) "Financial product or service" means any product or service that a financial holding company could offer by engaging in an activity that is financial in nature or incidental to such a financial activity under Section 4(k) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 USC 1843(k)).

(b) Financial service includes a financial institution's evaluation or brokerage of information that the financial institution collects in connection with a request or an application from a consumer for a financial product or service.

**(13)** "Health care" means any of the following:

(a) Preventive, diagnostic, therapeutic, rehabilitative, maintenance or palliative care, services, procedures, tests or counseling that involves any of the following:

1. It relates to the physical, mental or behavioral condition of an individual.

2. It affects the structure or function of the human body or any part of the human body, including the banking of blood, sperm, organs or any other tissue.

(b) Prescribing, dispensing or furnishing to an individual drugs or biologicals, or medical devices or health care equipment and supplies.

**(14)** "Health care provider" means a physician or other health care practitioner licensed, accredited or certified to perform specified health services consistent with state law, or a health care facility.

**(15)** "Health information" means any information or data except age or gender, whether oral or recorded in any form or medium, created by or derived from a health care provider or the consumer that relates to any of the following:

(a) The past, present or future physical, mental or behavioral health or condition of an individual.

(b) The provision of health care to an individual.

(c) Payment for the provision of health care to an individual.

**(16)** (a) "Insurance product or service" means any product or service that is offered by a licensee pursuant to the insurance laws of this state.

(b) Insurance service includes a licensee's evaluation, brokerage or distribution of information that the licensee collects in connection with a request or an application from a consumer for an insurance product or service.

**(17)** (a) "Licensee" means all insurers, intermediaries, third party administrators and other persons licensed or required to be licensed, or authorized or required to be authorized, or registered or required to be registered under chs. 600 to 655, Stats.

(b) A licensee is not subject to the notice and opt out requirements for nonpublic personal financial information set forth in subchs. I to IV if the licensee is an employee, agent or other representative of another licensee ("the principal") and all of the following conditions exist:

1. The principal otherwise complies with, and provides the notices required by, the provisions of this chapter.

2. The licensee does not disclose any nonpublic personal financial information to any person other than the principal or its affiliates in a manner permitted by this chapter.

(c) 1. Subject to subd. 2., "licensee" also includes an unauthorized insurer that accepts business placed through a licensed surplus lines broker or agent in this state, but only in regard to placements placed pursuant to s. 618.41, Stats.

2. A surplus lines broker or agent or surplus lines insurer shall be deemed to be in compliance with the notice and opt out requirements for nonpublic personal financial information set forth in subchs. I to IV provided all of the following occur:

a. The broker, agent or insurer does not disclose nonpublic personal financial information of a consumer or a customer to nonaffiliated third parties for any purpose, including joint servicing or marketing under s. Ins 25.50, except as permitted by s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60.

b. The broker, agent or insurer delivers a notice to the consumer at the time a customer relationship is established on which the following is printed in 16-point type:

PRIVACY NOTICE

NEITHER THE U.S. BROKERS THAT HANDLED THIS INSURANCE NOR THE INSURERS THAT HAVE UNDERWRITTEN THIS INSURANCE WILL DISCLOSE NONPUBLIC PERSONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE BUYER TO NONAFFILIATES OF THE BROKERS OR INSURERS EXCEPT AS PERMITTED BY LAW.

**(18)** (a) "Nonaffiliated third party" means any person except any of the following:

1. A licensee's affiliate.

2. A person employed jointly by a licensee and any company that is not the licensee's affiliate. Under these circumstances "nonaffiliated third party" does include the other company that jointly employs the person.

(b) "Nonaffiliated third party" includes any company that is an affiliate solely by virtue of the direct or indirect ownership or control of the company by the licensee or its affiliate in conducting merchant banking or investment banking activities of the type described in Section 4(k)(4)(H) or insurance company investment activities of the type described in Section 4(k)(4)(I) of the federal Bank Holding Company Act (12 USC 1843(k)(4)(H) and (I)).

**(19)** "Nonpublic personal information" means nonpublic personal financial information and nonpublic personal health information.

**(20)** (a) “Nonpublic personal financial information” means all of the following:

1. Personally identifiable financial information.
2. Any list, description or other grouping of consumers, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived using any personally identifiable financial information that is not publicly available.

(b) Nonpublic personal financial information does not include any of the following:

1. Health information.
2. Publicly available information, except as included on a list described in par. (a) 2.
3. Any list, description or other grouping of consumers, and publicly available information pertaining to them, that is derived without using any personally identifiable financial information that is not publicly available.

(c) 1. Nonpublic personal financial information includes any list of individuals’ names and street addresses that is derived in whole or in part using personally identifiable financial information that is not publicly available, such as account numbers.

2. Nonpublic personal financial information does not include any list of individuals’ names and addresses that contains only publicly available information, is not derived in whole or in part using personally identifiable financial information that is not publicly available, and is not disclosed in a manner that indicates that any of the individuals on the list is a consumer of a financial institution.

**(21)** “Nonpublic personal health information” means any of the following health information:

(a) Health information that identifies an individual who is the subject of the information.

(b) Health information with respect to which there is a reasonable basis to believe that the information could be used to identify an individual.

**(22)** (a) “Personally identifiable financial information” means any of the following information:

1. Information a consumer provides to a licensee to obtain an insurance product or service from the licensee.
2. Information about a consumer resulting from a transaction involving an insurance product or service between a licensee and a consumer.
3. Information the licensee otherwise obtains about a consumer in connection with providing an insurance product or service to that consumer.

(b) The following are examples of personally identifiable financial information:

1. Personally identifiable financial information includes any of the following:
  - a. Information a consumer provides to a licensee on an application to obtain an insurance product or service.
  - b. Account balance information and payment history.
  - c. The fact that an individual is or has been one of the licensee’s customers or has obtained an insurance product or service from the licensee.
  - d. Any information about the licensee’s consumer if it is disclosed in a manner that indicates that the individual is or has been the licensee’s consumer.
  - e. Any information that a consumer provides to a licensee or that the licensee or its agent otherwise obtains in connection with collecting on a loan or servicing a loan.
  - f. Any information the licensee collects through an internet information–collecting device from a web server.
  - g. Information from a consumer report.
2. Personally identifiable financial information does not include any of the following:

- a. Health information.
- b. A list of names and addresses of customers of an entity that is not a financial institution.

c. Information that does not identify a consumer, such as aggregate information or blind data that does not contain personal identifiers such as account numbers, names or addresses.

**(23)** (a) “Publicly available information” means any information that a licensee has a reasonable basis to believe is lawfully made available to the general public from any of the following:

1. Federal, state or local government records.
2. Widely distributed media.
3. Disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by federal, state or local law.

(b) A licensee has a reasonable basis to believe that information is lawfully made available to the general public if the licensee has taken steps to determine all of the following:

1. That the information is of the type that is available to the general public.
2. Whether an individual can direct that the information not be made available to the general public and, if so, that the licensee’s consumer has not done so.

(c) The following are examples of publicly available information.

1. Publicly available information in government records includes information in government real estate records and security interest filings.

2. Publicly available information from widely distributed media includes information from a telephone book, a television or radio program, a newspaper or a web site that is available to the general public on an unrestricted basis. A web site is not restricted merely because an Internet service provider or a site operator requires a fee or a password, so long as access is available to the general public.

3. a. A licensee has a reasonable basis to believe that mortgage information is lawfully made available to the general public if the licensee has determined that the information is of the type included on the public record in the jurisdiction where the mortgage would be recorded.

b. A licensee has a reasonable basis to believe that an individual’s telephone number is lawfully made available to the general public if the licensee has located the telephone number in the telephone book or the consumer has informed the licensee that the telephone number is not unlisted.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

## **Subchapter II — Privacy and Opt–Out Notices for Financial Information**

**Ins 25.10 Initial privacy notice to consumers required.** (1) INITIAL NOTICE REQUIREMENT. A licensee shall provide a clear and conspicuous notice that accurately reflects its privacy policies and practices regarding nonpublic personal financial information to all of the following:

(a) *Customer.* An individual who becomes the licensee’s customer, not later than when the licensee establishes a customer relationship, except as provided in sub. (5).

(b) *Consumer.* A consumer, before the licensee discloses any nonpublic personal financial information about the consumer to any nonaffiliated third party, if the licensee makes a disclosure other than as authorized by ss. Ins 25.55 and 25.60.

(2) WHEN INITIAL NOTICE TO A CONSUMER IS NOT REQUIRED. A licensee is not required to provide an initial notice to a consumer under sub. (1) (b) if any of the following conditions apply:

(a) The licensee does not disclose any nonpublic personal financial information about the consumer to any nonaffiliated third party, other than as authorized by ss. Ins 25.55 and 25.60, and

the licensee does not have a customer relationship with the consumer.

(b) An affiliated licensee has provided a notice, as long as the notice clearly identifies all licensees to whom the notice applies and is accurate with respect to the licensee and the other institutions.

**(3) WHEN THE LICENSEE ESTABLISHES A CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP.** (a) *General rule.* A licensee establishes a customer relationship at the time the licensee and the consumer enter into a continuing relationship.

(b) *Examples of establishing customer relationship.* A licensee establishes a customer relationship when the consumer does any of the following:

1. Becomes a policyholder of a licensee that is an insurer when the insurer delivers an insurance policy or contract to the consumer, or in the case of a licensee that is an intermediary who is not acting as agent for an insurer licensee, obtains insurance through that licensee. A licensee does not establish a customer relationship due to issuance of a binder of coverage until the policy is issued, if the licensee allows the consumer to request delivery of the initial notice required under sub. (1) (a) and the licensee delivers the initial notice within a reasonable time after the licensee receives such a request.

2. Agrees to obtain financial, economic or investment advisory services relating to insurance products or services for a fee from the licensee.

**(4) EXISTING CUSTOMERS.** When an existing customer obtains a new insurance product or service from a licensee that is to be used primarily for personal, family or household purposes, the licensee satisfies the initial notice requirements of sub. (1) if any of the following conditions are met:

(a) The licensee may provide a revised policy notice, under s. Ins 25.20, that covers the customer's new insurance product or service.

(b) If the initial, revised or annual notice that the licensee most recently provided to that customer was accurate with respect to the new insurance product or service, the licensee does not need to provide a new privacy notice under sub. (1).

**(5) EXCEPTIONS TO ALLOW SUBSEQUENT DELIVERY OF NOTICE.** (a) A licensee may provide the initial notice required by sub. (1) (a) within a reasonable time after the licensee establishes a customer relationship if any of the following conditions exist:

1. Establishing the customer relationship is not at the customer's election.

2. Providing notice not later than when the licensee establishes a customer relationship would substantially delay the customer's transaction and the customer agrees to receive the notice at a later time.

(b) The following are examples of when exceptions may or may not apply:

1. Establishing a customer relationship is not at the customer's election if a licensee acquires or is assigned a customer's policy from another financial institution or residual market mechanism and the customer does not have a choice about the licensee's acquisition or assignment.

2. Providing notice not later than when a licensee establishes a customer relationship would substantially delay the customer's transaction when the licensee and the individual agree over the telephone to enter into a customer relationship involving prompt delivery of the insurance product or service.

3. Providing notice not later than when a licensee establishes a customer relationship would not substantially delay the customer's transaction when the relationship is initiated in person at the licensee's office or through other means by which the customer may view the notice, such as on a web site.

**(6) DELIVERY.** When a licensee is required to deliver an initial privacy notice by this section, the licensee shall deliver it according to s. Ins 25.25. If the licensee uses a short-form initial notice for non-customers according to s. Ins 25.15 (4), the licensee may deliver its privacy notice according to s. Ins 25.15 (4) (c).

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7-1-01.

**Ins 25.13 Annual privacy notice to customers required.**

**(1) ANNUAL NOTICE.** (a) *General rule.* A licensee shall provide a clear and conspicuous notice to customers that accurately reflects its privacy policies and practices with regard to nonpublic personal financial information not less than annually during the continuation of the customer relationship. Annually means at least once in any period of twelve consecutive months during which that relationship exists. A licensee may define the twelve consecutive-month period, but the licensee shall apply it to the customer on a consistent basis.

(b) *Example.* A licensee provides a notice annually if it defines the twelve consecutive-month period as a calendar year and provides the annual notice to the customer once in each calendar year following the calendar year in which the licensee provided the initial notice. For example, if a customer opens an account on any day of year 1, the licensee shall provide an annual notice to that customer by December 31 of year 2.

**(2) TERMINATED CUSTOMER.** (a) *Termination of customer relationship.* A licensee is not required to provide an annual notice to a former customer. A former customer is an individual with whom a licensee no longer has a continuing relationship.

(b) *Examples.* The following are examples of the termination of a customer relationship:

1. A licensee no longer has a continuing relationship with an individual if the individual no longer is a current policyholder of an insurance product or no longer obtains insurance services with or through the licensee.

2. A licensee no longer has a continuing relationship with an individual if the individual's policy is lapsed, expired or otherwise inactive or dormant under the licensee's business practices, and the licensee has not communicated with the customer about the relationship for a period of twelve consecutive months, other than to provide annual privacy notices, material required by law or regulation, or promotional materials.

3. For the purposes of this chapter, a licensee no longer has a continuing relationship with an individual if the individual's last known address according to the licensee's records is deemed invalid. An address of record is deemed invalid if mail sent to that address by the licensee has been returned by the postal authorities as undeliverable and if subsequent attempts by the licensee to obtain a current valid address for the individual have been unsuccessful.

4. A licensee no longer has a continuing relationship with a customer in the case of providing real estate settlement services, at the time the customer completes execution of all documents related to the real estate closing, payment for those services has been received, or the licensee has completed all of its responsibilities with respect to the settlement, including filing documents on the public record, whichever is later.

**(3) DELIVERY.** When a licensee is required by this section to deliver an annual privacy notice, the licensee shall deliver it according to s. Ins 25.25.

**(4) EXCEPTIONS.** The annual privacy notice requirement in this section does not apply when a licensee complies with either of the following:

(a) When a licensee provides nonpublic personal financial information to any person described by s. Ins 25.50 (1) (a) 2.

(b) When both of the following conditions are met:

1. The licensee provides nonpublic personal information only in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

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2. The licensee has not changed its policies and practices with regard to disclosing nonpublic personal information from the policies and practices that were disclosed in the licensee's most recent disclosure to consumers in accordance with this section.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01; CR 03–083: cr. (4) Register March 2004 No. 579, eff. 4–1–04; **CR 17–039: am. (4) (title), renum and am. (4) to (4) (intro.), (a), cr. (4) (b), Register February 2018 No. 746 eff. 3–1–18.**

**Ins 25.15 Information to be included in privacy notices. (1) GENERAL RULE.** The initial, annual and revised privacy notices that a licensee provides under ss. Ins 25.10, 25.13, and 25.20 shall include all of the following items of information, in addition to any other information the licensee wishes to provide, that applies to the licensee and to the consumers to whom the licensee sends its privacy notice:

(a) The categories of nonpublic personal financial information that the licensee collects.

**Note:** See sample clause A–1 in Appendix A

(b) The categories of nonpublic personal financial information that the licensee discloses.

**Note:** See sample clauses A–2 and A–3 in Appendix A

(c) The categories of affiliates and nonaffiliated third parties to which the licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information, other than those parties to whom the licensee discloses information under ss. Ins 25.55 and 25.60.

**Note:** See sample clauses A–2, A–3 and A–4 in Appendix A

(d) The categories of nonpublic personal financial information about the licensee's former customers that the licensee discloses and the categories of affiliates and nonaffiliated third parties to whom the licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information about the licensee's former customers, other than those parties to whom the licensee discloses information under ss. Ins 25.55 and 25.60.

**Note:** See sample clauses A–2 and A–3 in Appendix A

(e) If a licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information to a nonaffiliated third party under s. Ins 25.50 (and no other exception in ss. Ins 25.55 and 25.60 applies to that disclosure), a separate description of the categories of information the licensee discloses and the categories of third parties with whom the licensee has contracted.

**Note:** See sample clauses A–5 in Appendix A

(f) An explanation of the consumer's right under s. Ins 25.30 (1) to opt out of the disclosure of nonpublic personal financial information to nonaffiliated third parties, including the methods by which the consumer may exercise that right at that time.

**Note:** See sample clauses A–6 in Appendix A

(g) Any disclosures that the licensee makes under Section 603(d)(2)(A)(iii) of the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 USC 1681a(d)(2)(A)(iii)) (that is, notices regarding the ability to opt out of disclosures of information among affiliates).

(h) The licensee's policies and practices with respect to protecting the confidentiality and security of nonpublic personal financial information.

**Note:** See sample clauses A–7 in Appendix A

(i) Any disclosure that the licensee makes under sub. (2).

**(2) DESCRIPTION OF PARTIES SUBJECT TO EXCEPTIONS.** If a licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information as authorized under ss. Ins 25.55 and 25.60, the licensee is not required to list those exceptions in the initial or annual privacy notices required by ss. Ins 25.10 and 25.13. When describing the categories of parties to whom disclosure is made, the licensee is required to state only that it makes disclosures to other affiliated or nonaffiliated third parties, as applicable, as permitted by law.

**(3) EXAMPLES.** (a) *Categories of nonpublic personal financial information that the licensee collects.* A licensee satisfies the requirement to categorize the nonpublic personal financial information it collects if the licensee categorizes it according to all of the following sources of the information:

1. Information from the consumer.

2. Information about the consumer's transactions with the licensee or its affiliates.

3. Information about the consumer's transactions with nonaffiliated third parties.

4. Information from a consumer reporting agency.

(b) *Categories of nonpublic personal financial information a licensee discloses.* 1. A licensee satisfies the requirement to categorize nonpublic personal financial information it discloses if the licensee categorizes the information according to source, as described in par. (a), as applicable, and provides at least one example, and additional examples as are reasonably appropriate, to illustrate the types of information in each category. Examples may include any of the following:

a. Information from the consumer, including application information, such as assets and income and identifying information, such as name, address and social security number.

b. Transaction information, such as information about balances, payment history and parties to the transaction.

c. Information from consumer reports, such as a consumer's creditworthiness and credit history.

2. A licensee does not adequately categorize the information that it discloses if the licensee uses only general terms, such as transaction information about the consumer.

3. If a licensee reserves the right to disclose all of the nonpublic personal financial information about consumers that it collects, the licensee may simply state that fact without describing the categories or examples of nonpublic personal financial information that the licensee discloses.

(c) *Categories of affiliates and nonaffiliated third parties to whom the licensee discloses.* 1. A licensee satisfies the requirement to categorize the affiliates and nonaffiliated third parties to which the licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information about consumers if the licensee identifies the types of businesses in which they engage.

2. Types of businesses may be described by general terms only if the licensee uses at least one example, and additional examples as are reasonably appropriate, to illustrate the significant lines of business. For example, a licensee may use the term financial products or services if it includes appropriate examples of significant lines of businesses, such as life insurer, automobile insurer, consumer banking or securities brokerage.

3. A licensee also may categorize the affiliates and nonaffiliated third parties to which it discloses nonpublic personal financial information about consumers using more detailed categories than those described in this paragraph.

(d) *Disclosures under exception for service providers and joint marketers.* If a licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information under the exception in s. Ins 25.50 to a nonaffiliated third party to market products or services that it offers alone or jointly with another financial institution, the licensee satisfies the disclosure requirement of sub. (1) (e) if it does all of the following:

1. Lists the categories of nonpublic personal financial information it discloses, using the same categories and examples the licensee used to meet the requirements of sub. (1) (b), as applicable.

2. States whether the third party is any of the following:

a. A service provider that performs marketing services on the licensee's behalf or on behalf of the licensee and another financial institution.

b. A financial institution with whom the licensee has a joint marketing agreement.

(e) *Simplified notices.* If a licensee does not disclose, and does not wish to reserve the right to disclose, nonpublic personal financial information about customers or former customers to affiliates or nonaffiliated third parties except as authorized under ss. Ins 25.55 and 25.60, the licensee may simply state that fact, in addi-

tion to the information it shall provide under sub. (1) (a), (h), and (i) and (2).

(f) *Confidentiality and security.* A licensee describes its policies and practices with respect to protecting the confidentiality and security of nonpublic personal financial information if it does all of the following:

1. Describes in general terms who is authorized to have access to the information.

2. States whether the licensee has security practices and procedures in place to ensure the confidentiality of the information in accordance with the licensee's policy. The licensee is not required to describe technical information about the safeguards that it uses.

**(4) SHORT-FORM INITIAL NOTICE WITH OPT-OUT NOTICE FOR NON-CUSTOMERS.** (a) A licensee may satisfy the initial notice requirements in ss. Ins 25.10 (1) (b) and 25.17 (3) for a consumer who is not a customer by providing a short-form initial notice at the same time as the licensee delivers an opt out notice as required in s. Ins 25.17.

(b) A short-form initial notice shall comply with all of the following:

1. It shall be clear and conspicuous.

2. It shall state that the licensee's privacy notice is available upon request.

3. It shall explain a reasonable means by which the consumer may obtain that notice.

(c) The licensee shall deliver its short-form initial notice according to s. Ins 25.25. The licensee is not required to deliver its privacy notice with its short-form initial notice. The licensee instead may simply provide the consumer a reasonable means to obtain its privacy notice. If a consumer who receives the licensee's short-form notice requests the licensee's privacy notice, the licensee shall deliver its privacy notice according to s. Ins 25.25.

(d) *Examples of obtaining privacy notice.* The licensee provides a reasonable means by which a consumer may obtain a copy of its privacy notice if the licensee does any of the following:

1. Provides a toll-free telephone number that the consumer may call to request the notice.

2. For a consumer who conducts business in person at the licensee's office, maintains copies of the notice on hand that the licensee provides to the consumer immediately upon request.

**(5) FUTURE DISCLOSURES.** The licensee's notice may include any of the following:

(a) Categories of nonpublic personal financial information that the licensee reserves the right to disclose in the future, but does not currently disclose.

(b) Categories of affiliates or nonaffiliated third parties to whom the licensee reserves the right in the future to disclose, but to whom the licensee does not currently disclose, nonpublic personal financial information.

**(6) SAMPLE CLAUSES.** Sample clauses illustrating some of the notice content required by this section are included in Appendix A of this chapter.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.17 Form of opt out notice to consumers and opt out methods.** (1) **FORM.** (a) *Form of opt out notice.* If a licensee is required to provide an opt out notice under s. Ins 25.30 (1), it shall provide a clear and conspicuous notice to each of its consumers that accurately explains the right to opt out under that section. The notice shall include all of the following:

1. That the licensee discloses or reserves the right to disclose nonpublic personal financial information about its consumer to a nonaffiliated third party.

2. That the consumer has the right to opt out of that disclosure.

3. A reasonable means by which the consumer may exercise the opt out right.

(b) *Examples.* 1. A licensee provides notice that the consumer can opt out of the disclosure of nonpublic personal financial information to a nonaffiliated third party in compliance with this section if the licensee does all of the following:

a. Identifies all of the categories of nonpublic personal financial information that it discloses or reserves the right to disclose, and all of the categories of nonaffiliated third parties to which the licensee discloses the information, as described in s. Ins 25.15 (3) (b) and (c), and states that the consumer can opt out of the disclosure of that information.

b. Identifies the insurance products or services that the consumer obtains from the licensee, either singly or jointly, to which the opt out direction would apply.

2. A licensee provides a reasonable means to exercise an opt out right if it does any of the following:

a. Designates check-off boxes in a prominent position on the relevant forms with the opt out notice.

b. Includes a reply form together with the opt out notice.

c. Provides an electronic means to opt out, such as a form that can be sent via electronic mail or a process at the licensee's web site, if the consumer agrees to the electronic delivery of information.

d. Provides a toll-free telephone number that consumers may call to opt out.

3. A licensee does not provide a reasonable means of opting out if any of the following exist:

a. The only means of opting out is for the consumer to write his or her own letter to exercise that opt out right.

b. The only means of opting out as described in any notice subsequent to the initial notice is to use a check-off box that the licensee provided with the initial notice but did not include with the subsequent notice.

4. A licensee may require each consumer to opt out through a specific means, as long as that means is reasonable for that consumer.

**(2) SAME FORM AS INITIAL NOTICE PERMITTED.** A licensee may provide the opt out notice together with or on the same written or electronic form as the initial notice the licensee provides in accordance with s. Ins 25.10.

**(3) INITIAL NOTICE REQUIRED WHEN OPT OUT NOTICE DELIVERED SUBSEQUENT TO INITIAL NOTICE.** If a licensee provides the opt out notice later than required for the initial notice in accordance with s. Ins 25.10, the licensee shall also include a copy of the initial notice with the opt out notice in writing or, if the consumer agrees, electronically.

**(4) JOINT RELATIONSHIPS.** (a) If two or more consumers jointly obtain an insurance product or service from a licensee, the licensee may provide a single opt out notice. The licensee's opt out notice shall explain how the licensee will treat an opt out direction by a joint consumer, as explained in par. (e).

(b) Any of the joint consumers may exercise the right to opt out. The licensee may do either of the following:

1. Treat an opt out direction by a joint consumer as applying to all of the associated joint consumers.

2. Permit each joint consumer to opt out separately, subject to par. (c).

(c) If a licensee permits each joint consumer to opt out separately, the licensee shall permit one of the joint consumers to opt out on behalf of all of the joint consumers.

(d) A licensee may not require all joint consumers to opt out before it implements any opt out direction.

(e) *Example.* If John and Mary are both named policyholders on a homeowner's insurance policy issued by a licensee and the licensee sends policy statements to John's address, the licensee may do any of the following, but it shall explain in its opt out notice which opt out policy the licensee will follow:

1. Send a single opt out notice to John's address, but the licensee shall accept an opt out direction from either John or Mary.

2. Treat an opt out direction by either John or Mary as applying to the entire policy. If the licensee does so and John opts out, the licensee may not require Mary to opt out as well before implementing John's opt out direction.

3. If the licensee permits John and Mary to make different opt out directions, the licensee shall do all of the following:

a. It shall permit John and Mary to opt out for each other.

b. If both opt out, the licensee shall permit both of them to notify it in a single response, such as on a form or through a telephone call.

c. If John opts out and Mary does not, the licensee may only disclose nonpublic personal financial information about Mary, but not about John and not about John and Mary jointly.

(5) TIME TO COMPLY WITH OPT OUT. A licensee shall comply with a consumer's opt out direction as soon as reasonably practicable after the licensee receives it.

(6) CONTINUING RIGHT TO OPT OUT. A consumer may exercise the right to opt out at any time.

(7) DURATION OF THE CONSUMER'S OPT OUT DIRECTION. (a) A consumer's direction to opt out under this section is effective until the consumer revokes it in writing or, if the consumer agrees, electronically.

(b) When a customer relationship terminates, the customer's opt out direction continues to apply to the nonpublic personal financial information that the licensee collected during or related to that relationship. If the individual subsequently establishes a new customer relationship with the licensee, the opt out direction that applied to the former relationship does not apply to the new relationship.

(8) DELIVERY. When a licensee is required to deliver an opt out notice by this section, the licensee shall deliver it according to s. Ins 25.25.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–01–01.

**Ins 25.20 Revised privacy notices. (1) GENERAL RULE.** Except as otherwise authorized in this chapter, a licensee shall not, directly or through an affiliate, disclose any nonpublic personal financial information about a consumer to a nonaffiliated third party other than as described in the initial notice that the licensee provided to that consumer under s. Ins 25.10, unless all of the following have occurred:

(a) The licensee has provided to the consumer a clear and conspicuous revised notice that accurately describes its policies and practices.

(b) The licensee has provided to the consumer a new opt out notice.

(c) The licensee has given the consumer a reasonable opportunity, before the licensee discloses the information to the nonaffiliated third party, to opt out of the disclosure.

(d) The consumer does not opt out.

(2) EXAMPLES. (a) Except as otherwise permitted by ss. Ins 25.50, 25.55, and 25.60, a licensee shall provide a revised notice before it does any of the following:

1. Discloses a new category of nonpublic personal financial information to any nonaffiliated third party.

2. Discloses nonpublic personal financial information to a new category of nonaffiliated third party.

3. Discloses nonpublic personal financial information about a former customer to a nonaffiliated third party, if that former customer has not had the opportunity to exercise any opt out right regarding that disclosure.

(b) A revised notice is not required if the licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information to a new nonaffiliated third party that the licensee adequately described in its prior notice.

(3) DELIVERY. When a licensee is required to deliver a revised privacy notice by this section, the licensee shall deliver it according to s. Ins 25.25.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.25 Delivery. (1) HOW TO PROVIDE NOTICES.** A licensee shall provide any notices that this chapter requires so that each consumer can reasonably be expected to receive actual notice in writing or, if the consumer agrees, electronically.

(2) EXAMPLES. (a) *Examples of reasonable expectation of actual notice.* A licensee may reasonably expect that a consumer will receive actual notice of its privacy policies and practices if the licensee does any of the following:

1. Hand-delivers a printed copy of the notice to the consumer.

2. Mails a printed copy of the notice to the last known address of the consumer separately, or in a policy, billing or other written communication.

3. For a consumer who conducts transactions electronically, posts the notice on the electronic site and requires the consumer to acknowledge receipt of the notice as a necessary step to obtaining a particular insurance product or service.

4. For an isolated transaction with a consumer, such as the licensee providing an insurance quote or selling the consumer travel insurance, posts the notice and requires the consumer to acknowledge receipt of the notice as a necessary step to obtaining the particular insurance product or service.

(b) *Examples of unreasonable expectation of actual notice.* A licensee may not, however, reasonably expect that a consumer will receive actual notice of its privacy policies and practices if it does any of the following:

1. Only posts a sign in its office or generally publishes advertisements of its privacy policies and practices.

2. Sends the notice via electronic mail to a consumer who does not obtain an insurance product or service from the licensee electronically.

(3) ANNUAL NOTICES ONLY. A licensee may reasonably expect that a customer will receive actual notice of the licensee's annual privacy notice if it does any of the following:

(a) The customer uses the licensee's web site to access insurance products and services electronically and agrees to receive notices at the web site and the licensee posts its current privacy notice continuously in a clear and conspicuous manner on the web site.

(b) The customer has requested that the licensee refrain from sending any information regarding the customer relationship, the licensee maintains a record of the request and the licensee's current privacy notice remains available to the customer upon request.

(4) ORAL DESCRIPTION OF NOTICE INSUFFICIENT. A licensee may not provide any notice required by this chapter solely by orally explaining the notice, either in person or over the telephone.

(5) RETENTION OR ACCESSIBILITY OF NOTICES FOR CUSTOMERS.

(a) For customers only, a licensee shall provide the initial notice required by s. Ins 25.10 (1) (a), the annual notice required by s. Ins 25.13 (1), and the revised notice required by s. Ins 25.20 so that the customer can retain them or obtain them later in writing or, if the customer agrees, electronically.

(b) *Examples of retention or accessibility.* A licensee provides a privacy notice to the customer so that the customer can retain it or obtain it later if the licensee does any of the following:

1. Hand-delivers a printed copy of the notice to the customer.

2. Mails a printed copy of the notice to the last known address of the customer.

3. Makes its current privacy notice available on a web site or a link to another web site for the customer who obtains an insurance product or service electronically and agrees to receive the notice at the web site.

(6) **JOINT NOTICE WITH OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.** A licensee may provide a joint notice from the licensee and one or more of its affiliates or other financial institutions, as identified in the notice, as long as the notice is accurate with respect to the licensee and the other institutions. A licensee also may provide a notice on behalf of another financial institution.

(7) **JOINT RELATIONSHIPS.** If two or more consumers jointly obtain an insurance product or service from a licensee, the licensee may satisfy the initial, annual and revised notice requirements of ss. Ins 25.10 (1), 25.13 (1), and 25.20 (1), respectively, by providing one notice to those consumers jointly.

(8) **MULTIPLE INSURANCE PRODUCTS OR SERVICES.** If a consumer or two or more consumers jointly seek to obtain or obtain multiple insurance products or services from a licensee or its affiliates, the licensee may satisfy the initial, annual and revised notice requirements of ss. Ins 25.10 (1), 25.13 (1), and 25.20 (1), respectively, for the licensee and its affiliates by providing one notice to those consumers.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

### Subchapter III — Limits on Disclosures of Financial Information

#### Ins 25.30 Limits on disclosure of nonpublic personal financial information to nonaffiliated third parties.

(1) **PROCESS.** (a) *Conditions for disclosure.* Except as otherwise authorized in this chapter, a licensee may not, directly or through any affiliate, disclose any nonpublic personal financial information about a consumer to a nonaffiliated third party unless all of the following have occurred:

1. The licensee has provided to the consumer an initial notice as required under s. Ins 25.10.
2. The licensee has provided to the consumer an opt out notice as required in s. Ins 25.17.
3. The licensee has given the consumer a reasonable opportunity, before it discloses the information to the nonaffiliated third party, to opt out of the disclosure.
4. The consumer does not opt out.

(b) *Opt out definition.* Opt out means a direction by the consumer that the licensee not disclose nonpublic personal financial information about that consumer to a nonaffiliated third party, other than as permitted by ss. Ins 25.50, 25.55, and 25.60.

(c) *Examples of reasonable opportunity to opt out.* A licensee provides a consumer with a reasonable opportunity to opt out if it does any of the following:

1. ‘By mail.’ The licensee mails the notices required in par. (a) to the consumer and allows the consumer to opt out by mailing a form, calling a toll-free telephone number or any other reasonable means within thirty days from the date the licensee mailed the notices.
2. ‘By electronic means.’ A customer purchases an insurance service or product from a licensee and agrees to receive the notices required in par. (a) electronically, and the licensee allows the customer to opt out by any reasonable means within 30 days after the date that the customer acknowledges receipt of the notices in conjunction the transaction.
3. ‘Isolated transaction with consumer.’ For an isolated transaction such as providing the consumer with an insurance quote, a licensee provides the consumer with a reasonable opportunity to opt out if the licensee provides the notices required in par. (a) at the time of the transaction and requests that the consumer decide, as a necessary part of the transaction, whether to opt out before completing the transaction.

(2) **APPLICATION OF OPT OUT TO ALL CONSUMERS AND ALL NON-PUBLIC PERSONAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION.** (a) A licensee shall comply with this section, regardless of whether the licensee and the consumer have established a customer relationship.

(b) Unless a licensee complies with this section, the licensee may not, except as permitted in ss. Ins 25.50, 25.55, and 25.60, directly or through any affiliate, disclose any nonpublic personal financial information about a consumer that the licensee has collected, regardless of whether the licensee collected it before or after receiving the direction to opt out from the consumer.

(3) **PARTIAL OPT OUT.** A licensee may allow a consumer to select certain nonpublic personal financial information or certain nonaffiliated third parties with respect to which the consumer wishes to opt out.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

#### Ins 25.35 Limits on re-disclosure and reuse of non-public personal financial information. (1) REDISCLOSURE UNDER EXCEPTION.

(a) *Information the licensee receives under an exception.* If a licensee receives nonpublic personal financial information from a nonaffiliated financial institution under an exception in s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60, the licensee may use or disclose that information only under the following conditions:

1. The licensee may disclose the information to the affiliates of the financial institution from which the licensee received the information.
2. The licensee may disclose the information to its affiliates, but the licensee’s affiliates may, in turn, disclose and use the information only to the extent that the licensee may disclose and use the information.
3. The licensee may disclose and use the information pursuant to an exception in s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60, in the ordinary course of business to carry out the activity covered by the exception under which the licensee received the information.

(b) *Example.* If a licensee receives information from a nonaffiliated financial institution for claims settlement purposes, the licensee may disclose the information for fraud prevention, or in response to a properly authorized subpoena. The licensee may not disclose that information to a third party for marketing purposes or use that information for its own marketing purposes.

(2) **REDISCLOSURE OUTSIDE EXCEPTION.** (a) *Information a licensee receives outside of an exception.* If a licensee receives nonpublic personal financial information from a nonaffiliated financial institution other than under an exception in s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60, the licensee may not disclose the information except to any of the following:

1. To the affiliates of the financial institution from which the licensee received the information.
2. To its affiliates, but its affiliates may, in turn, disclose the information only to the extent that the licensee may disclose the information.
3. To any other person, if the disclosure would be lawful if made directly to that person by the financial institution from which the licensee received the information.

(b) *Example.* If a licensee obtains a customer list from a nonaffiliated financial institution outside of the exceptions in s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60 it may do any of the following:

1. The licensee may use that list for its own purposes.
2. The licensee may disclose that list to another nonaffiliated third party only if the financial institution from which the licensee purchased the list could have lawfully disclosed the list to that third party. That is, the licensee may disclose the list in accordance with the privacy policy of the financial institution from which the licensee received the list, as limited by the opt out direction of each consumer whose nonpublic personal financial information the licensee intends to disclose, and the licensee may disclose the list in accordance with an exception in s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60, such as to the licensee’s attorneys or accountants.

(3) **INFORMATION A LICENSEE DISCLOSES UNDER AN EXCEPTION.** If a licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information to a nonaffiliated third party under an exception in s. Ins 25.55 or

25.60, the third party may not disclose or use that information except under any of the following circumstances:

(a) The third party may disclose the information to the licensee's affiliates.

(b) The third party may disclose the information to its affiliates, but its affiliates may, in turn, disclose and use the information only to the extent that the third party may disclose and use the information.

(c) The third party may disclose and use the information pursuant to an exception in s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60 in the ordinary course of business to carry out the activity covered by the exception under which it received the information.

**(4) INFORMATION A LICENSEE DISCLOSES OUTSIDE OF AN EXCEPTION.** If a licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information to a nonaffiliated third party other than under an exception in s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60, the third party may not disclose the information except under any of the following circumstances:

(a) To the licensee's affiliates.

(b) To the third party's affiliates, but the third party's affiliates, in turn, may disclose the information only to the extent the third party can disclose the information.

(c) To any other person, if the disclosure would be lawful if the licensee made it directly to that person.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.40 Limits on sharing account number information for marketing purposes.** **(1) GENERAL PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSURE OF ACCOUNT NUMBERS.** A licensee shall not, directly or through an affiliate, disclose, other than to a consumer reporting agency, a policy number or similar form of access number or access code for a consumer's policy or transaction account to any nonaffiliated third party for use in telemarketing, direct mail marketing or other marketing through electronic mail to the consumer.

**(2) EXCEPTIONS.** Subsection (1) does not apply if a licensee discloses a policy number or similar form of access number or access code to any of the following:

(a) To the licensee's service provider solely in order to perform marketing for the licensee's own products or services, as long as the service provider is not authorized to directly initiate charges to the account.

(b) To a licensee who is a producer solely in order to perform marketing for the licensee's own products or services.

(c) To a participant in an affinity or similar program where the participants in the program are identified to the customer when the customer enters into the program.

**(3) EXAMPLES.** (a) *Policy number.* A policy number, or similar form of access number or access code, does not include a number or code in an encrypted form, as long as the licensee does not provide the recipient with a means to decode the number or code.

(b) *Policy or transaction account.* For the purposes of this section, a policy or transaction account is an account other than a deposit account or a credit card account. A policy or transaction account does not include an account to which third parties cannot initiate charges.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

#### Subchapter IV — Exceptions to Limits on Disclosure of Financial Information

**Ins 25.50 Exception to opt out requirements for disclosure of nonpublic personal financial information for service providers and joint marketing.** **(1) SERVICES.** (a) *General rule.* The opt out requirements in ss. Ins 25.17 and 25.30 do not apply when a licensee provides nonpublic personal financial information to either of the following:

1. A nonaffiliated third party to perform services for the licensee or functions on the licensee's behalf, if the licensee complies with all of the following:

a. It provides the initial notice in accordance with s. Ins 25.10.

b. It enters into a contractual agreement with the third party that prohibits the third party from disclosing or using the information other than to carry out the purposes for which the licensee disclosed the information, including use under an exception in s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60 in the ordinary course of business to carry out those purposes.

2. A nonaffiliated third party for the purpose of marketing goods or services under the brand name of a licensee under ch. Ins 15, or an affiliate of such a licensee, if the licensee complies with all of the following:

a. It provides the initial notice in accordance with s. Ins 25.10.

b. The licensee or its affiliate enters into a contractual agreement with the third party that prohibits the third party from disclosing or using the information other than to carry out the purposes for which the licensee or its affiliate disclosed the information, including use under an exception in s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60 in the ordinary course of business to carry out those purposes.

c. The licensee or its affiliate contractually requires the third party to comply with the licensee's or its affiliate's standards that are reasonably designed to ensure the quality of the goods or services, and customer services.

d. The licensee or affiliate enters into a contractual agreement with the third party that requires the third party to implement reasonable safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of its nonpublic personal financial information and take action that is necessary to enforce those safeguards.

(am) *Solicitations.* Nothing in this section shall be construed or otherwise permit telephone solicitation which would otherwise be prohibited under s. 100.52, Stats., or subch. V of ch. ATCP 127.

(b) *Example.* If a licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information under this section to a financial institution with which the licensee performs joint marketing, the licensee's contractual agreement with that institution meets the requirements of par. (b) if it prohibits the institution from disclosing or using the nonpublic personal financial information except as necessary to carry out the joint marketing or under an exception in s. Ins 25.55 or 25.60 in the ordinary course of business to carry out that joint marketing.

**(2) SERVICE MAY INCLUDE JOINT MARKETING.** The services a nonaffiliated third party performs for a licensee under sub. (1) may include marketing of the licensee's own products or services or marketing of financial products or services offered pursuant to joint agreements between the licensee and one or more financial institutions.

**(3) DEFINITION OF "JOINT AGREEMENT".** For purposes of this section, "joint agreement" means a written contract pursuant to which a licensee and one or more financial institutions jointly offer, endorse or sponsor a financial product or service.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01; CR: 03–083; am. (1) (a), cr. (1) (am) Register March 2004 No. 579, eff. 4–1–04.

**Ins 25.55 Exceptions to notice and opt out requirements for disclosure of nonpublic personal financial information for processing and servicing transactions.**

**(1) EXCEPTIONS FOR PROCESSING TRANSACTIONS AT A CONSUMER'S REQUEST.** The requirements for initial notice in s. Ins 25.10 (1) (b), the opt out in ss. Ins 25.17 and 25.30, and service providers and joint marketing in s. Ins 25.50 do not apply if the licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information as necessary to effect, administer or enforce a transaction that a consumer requests or authorizes, or in connection with any of the following:

(a) Servicing or processing an insurance product or service that a consumer requests or authorizes.

(b) Maintaining or servicing the consumer's account with a licensee, or with another entity as part of a private label credit card program or other extension of credit on behalf of such entity.

(c) A proposed or actual securitization, secondary market sale (including sales of servicing rights) or similar transaction related to a transaction of the consumer.

(d) Reinsurance or stop loss or excess loss insurance, including, but not limited to, for the purpose of placing, replacing or making a claim under reinsurance or stop-loss or excess loss insurance.

**(2) PROCESSING TRANSACTION.** "Necessary to effect, administer or enforce a transaction" means that the disclosure is any of the following:

(a) Required, or is one of the lawful or appropriate methods, to enforce the licensee's rights or the rights of other persons engaged in carrying out the financial transaction or providing the product or service.

(b) Required, or is a usual, appropriate or acceptable method to accomplish any of the following:

1. To carry out the transaction or the product or service business of which the transaction is a part, and record, service or maintain the consumer's account in the ordinary course of providing the insurance product or service.

2. To administer or service benefits or claims relating to the transaction or the product or service business of which it is a part.

3. To provide a confirmation, statement or other record of the transaction, or information on the status or value of the insurance product or service to the consumer or the consumer's agent or broker.

4. To accrue or recognize incentives or bonuses associated with the transaction that are provided by a licensee or any other party.

5. To underwrite insurance at the consumer's request or for any of the following purposes as they relate to a consumer's insurance: account administration, reporting, investigating or preventing fraud or material misrepresentation, processing premium payments, processing insurance claims, administering insurance benefits including utilization review activities, participating in research projects, workers compensation premium audits, workers' compensation first reports of injury, workers' compensation loss runs or as otherwise required or specifically permitted by federal or state law.

6. In connection with any of the following:

a. The authorization, settlement, billing, processing, clearing, transferring, reconciling or collection of amounts charged, debited or otherwise paid using a debit, credit or other payment card, check or account number, or by other payment means.

b. The transfer of receivables, accounts or interests therein.

c. The audit of debit, credit or other payment information.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.60 Other exceptions to notice and opt out requirements for disclosure of nonpublic personal financial information.** **(1) EXCEPTIONS TO OPT OUT REQUIREMENTS.** The requirements for initial notice to consumers in s. Ins 25.10 (1) (b), the opt out in ss. Ins 25.17 and 25.30, and service providers and joint marketing in s. Ins 25.50 do not apply when a licensee discloses nonpublic personal financial information under any of the following circumstances:

(a) With the consent or at the direction of the consumer, provided that the consumer has not revoked the consent or direction.

(b) 1. To protect the confidentiality or security of a licensee's records pertaining to the consumer, service, product or transaction.

2. To protect against or prevent actual or potential fraud or unauthorized transactions.

3. For required institutional risk control or for resolving consumer disputes or inquiries.

4. To persons holding a legal or beneficial interest relating to the consumer.

5. To persons acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity on behalf of the consumer.

(c) To provide information to insurance rate advisory organizations, guaranty funds or agencies, agencies that are rating a licensee, persons that are assessing the licensee's compliance with industry standards, and the licensee's attorneys, accountants and auditors.

(d) To the extent specifically permitted or required under other provisions of law and in accordance with the federal Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 (12 USC 3401 et seq.), to law enforcement agencies (including the Federal Reserve Board, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Office of Thrift Supervision, National Credit Union Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Secretary of the Treasury, with respect to 31 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Subchapter II (Records and Reports on Monetary Instruments and Transactions) and 12 U.S.C. Chapter 21 (Financial Record-keeping), a state insurance authority, and the Federal Trade Commission), self-regulatory organizations or for an investigation on a matter related to public safety.

(e) 1. To a consumer-reporting agency in accordance with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 USC 1681 et seq.).

2. Disclosure from a consumer report reported by a consumer-reporting agency.

(f) In connection with a proposed or actual sale, merger, transfer or exchange of all or a portion of a business or operating unit if the disclosure of nonpublic personal financial information concerns solely consumers of the business or unit.

(g) 1. To comply with federal, state or local laws, rules and other applicable legal requirements.

2. To comply with a properly authorized civil, criminal or regulatory investigation, or subpoena or summons by federal, state or local authorities.

3. To respond to judicial process or government regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over a licensee for examination, compliance or other purposes as authorized by law.

(h) For purposes related to the replacement of a group benefit plan, a group health plan, a group welfare plan or a workers' compensation policy.

**(2) EXAMPLE OF REVOCATION OF CONSENT.** A consumer may revoke consent by subsequently exercising the right to opt out of future disclosures of nonpublic personal financial information as permitted under s. Ins 25.17 (6).

**(3) RECEIVERSHIP.** This chapter does not apply to a receiver for an insurer subject to a delinquency proceeding under ch. 645, Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01; correction in (1) (intro.) made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., Register March 2004 No. 579.

## Subchapter V — Health Information

**Ins 25.70 When authorization required for disclosure of nonpublic personal health information.** **(1)** A licensee shall not disclose nonpublic personal health information about a consumer or customer unless an authorization is obtained from the consumer or customer whose nonpublic personal health information is sought to be disclosed or unless disclosure of the health information is permitted under ss. 51.30, or 146.81 to 146.84, Stats., or otherwise authorized by law.

**(2)** Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict or require an authorization for the disclosure of nonpublic personal health information by a licensee for the performance of the following insurance functions by or on behalf of the licensee: claims administration; claims adjustment and management; detection, investi-

gation or reporting of actual or potential fraud, misrepresentation or criminal activity; underwriting; policy placement or issuance; loss control; rate-making and guaranty fund functions; reinsurance and excess loss insurance; risk management; case management; disease management; quality assurance; quality improvement; performance evaluation; provider credentialing verification; utilization review; peer review activities; actuarial, scientific, medical or public policy research; grievance procedures; internal administration of compliance, managerial, and information systems; policyholder service functions; auditing; reporting; database security; administration of consumer disputes and inquiries; external accreditation standards; the replacement of a group benefit plan or workers compensation policy or program; workers' compensation premium audits; workers' compensation first reports of injury; workers' compensation loss runs; activities in connection with a sale, merger, transfer or exchange of all or part of a business or operating unit; any activity that permits disclosure without authorization pursuant to the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act privacy rules promulgated by the U.S. department of health and human services; disclosure that is required, or is one of the lawful or appropriate methods, to enforce the licensee's rights or the rights of other persons engaged in carrying out a transaction or providing a product or service that a consumer requests or authorizes; and any activity otherwise permitted by law, required pursuant to governmental reporting authority, or to comply with legal process. Additional insurance functions may be added with the approval of the commissioner to the extent they are necessary for appropriate performance of insurance functions and are fair and reasonable to the interest of consumers. A licensee may apply for approval of, and the commissioner may approve additional specific insurance functions that are subject to this subsection if the commissioner finds inclusion is fair and reasonable to the interests of consumers.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.73 Authorizations. (1)** A valid authorization to disclose nonpublic personal health information pursuant to this subchapter shall be in written or electronic form and shall contain all of the following:

- (a) The identity of the consumer or customer who is the subject of the nonpublic personal health information.
- (b) A general description of the types of nonpublic personal health information to be disclosed.
- (c) General descriptions of the parties to whom the licensee discloses nonpublic personal health information, the purpose of the disclosure and how the information will be used.
- (d) The signature of the consumer or customer who is the subject of the nonpublic personal health information or the individual who is legally empowered to grant authority and the date signed.
- (e) Notice of the length of time for which the authorization is valid and that the consumer or customer may revoke the authorization at any time and the procedure for making a revocation.

**(2)** An authorization for the purposes of this subchapter shall specify a length of time for which the authorization shall remain valid, which in no event shall be for more than the period permitted if the authorization were subject to s. 610.70 (2) (b), Stats., or twenty-four months, whichever is longer.

**(3)** A consumer or customer who is the subject of nonpublic personal health information may revoke an authorization provided pursuant to this subchapter at any time, subject to the rights of an individual who acted in reliance on the authorization prior to notice of the revocation.

**(4)** A licensee shall retain the authorization or a copy thereof in the record of the individual who is the subject of nonpublic personal health information.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.75 Authorization request delivery.** A request for authorization and an authorization form may be delivered to

a consumer or a customer as part of an opt-out notice pursuant to s. Ins 25.25, provided that the request and the authorization form are clear and conspicuous. An authorization form is not required to be delivered to the consumer or customer or included in any other notices unless the licensee intends to disclose protected health information pursuant to s. Ins 25.70 (1).

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.77 Relationship to federal rules.** Irrespective of whether a licensee is subject to the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act privacy rule as promulgated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, if a licensee complies with all requirements of that rule, regardless of whether it currently applies to the licensee, the licensee shall not be subject to the provisions of this subchapter.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.80 Insurers and agents compliance with s. 610.70, Stats. (1)** An insurer that is subject to s. 610.70, Stats., or an intermediary acting solely as an agent of an insurer subject to s. 610.70, Stats., with respect to health information is not required to comply with this subchapter. An insurer is responsible for the acts or omissions of its agents that constitute violations of s. 610.70, Stats.

**(2)** For the purposes of s. 610.70 (1) (d), Stats., "insurance that is primarily for personal, family or household purposes" includes group or individual health insurance policies and personal automobile, homeowners, disability and life policies. It does not include workers' compensation or commercial property and casualty policies.

**(3)** Nothing in this chapter or s. 610.70, Stats., restricts disclosure of nonpublic personal health information permitted under s. 102.13, Stats.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

## Subchapter VI — Additional Provisions

**Ins 25.90 Nondiscrimination. (1)** A licensee shall not unfairly discriminate against any consumer or customer because that consumer or customer has opted out from the disclosure of his or her nonpublic personal financial information pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

**(2)** A licensee shall not unfairly discriminate against a consumer or customer because that consumer or customer has not granted authorization for the disclosure of his or her nonpublic personal health information pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

**(3)** Failure to provide an insurance product or service based on usual and customary insurance underwriting practices and standards is not unfair discrimination under this section, even if such failure is the result of a consumer or customer's refusal to authorize the disclosure of his or her nonpublic personal information.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7–1–01.

**Ins 25.95 Effective date. (1) APPLICABILITY.** Enforcement under section 505 of the Gramm–Leach–Bliley Act (PL 102–106) is effective only on and after the effective date of this rule.

**(2) PHASE IN. (a) Phased in notice requirement for consumers who are the licensee's customers on the compliance date.** Beginning on the first day of the fourth month commencing after the after publication of this rule and by not later than June 30, 2002 a licensee shall provide an initial notice, as required by s. Ins 25.10, to consumers who are the licensee's customers on the first day of the fourth month commencing after the after publication of this rule.

**(b) Example.** A licensee provides an initial notice to consumers who are its customers on the first day of the fourth month commencing after the after publication of this rule, if, by that date, the licensee has established a system for providing an initial notice to

all new customers and if by June 30, 2002 the licensee has mailed the initial notice to all the licensee's existing customers.

**History:** Cr. Register, June, 2001, No. 546, eff. 7-1-01; CR 03-083: r. (3) Register March 2004 No. 579, eff. 4-1-04.