



K a n s a s I n s u r a n c e D e p a r t m e n t

Sandy Praeger

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COLLEGE STUDENTS URGED TO CHECK INSURANCE COVERAGE

Commissioner Praeger Reminds Students to Review Renters/Health Policies

The back-to-school season has college students making shopping lists for books, clothing and apartment and dorm essentials. Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger says those checklists should also include a review of renters and health insurance policies. "Many students bring thousands of dollars worth of personal property with them to school," Commissioner Praeger said. "To protect their property, college students should consider purchasing renters insurance to avoid losing everything in a storm or burglary."

Commissioner Praeger says renters insurance may be the most frequently overlooked type of insurance by consumers. "We know that fewer than half of all renters carry renters insurance, even though it may be one of the most affordable lines of coverage," said Commissioner Praeger. "Some renters mistakenly believe that a landlord's policy will protect them in the event of a disaster, but in fact, protecting the contents in a property is the responsibility of the renter."

Renters and condominium insurance are similar to homeowners insurance. Standard policies provide two major types of coverage: personal property and liability. Personal property pays to repair or replace personal belongings if they are damaged, destroyed or stolen. Liability provides coverage against a claim or lawsuit resulting from bodily injury or property damage to others caused by an accident on the renters' property.

Renters in college towns like Lawrence and Manhattan can usually purchase \$25,000 worth of coverage for \$125 to \$150 per year. "I recommend that renters talk with an insurance agent to find a policy that best suits their needs," said Commissioner Praeger.

Commissioner Praeger also recommends that college students and their parents review their health insurance policies to make sure there is no lapse in coverage while students are in school. Kansas law requires that dependents remain eligible for coverage until age 19, but most carriers offer higher age options that maintain eligibility as long as the dependent is enrolled in school. "Parents should determine what their group policies provide and be prepared to replace the coverage for their student when that eligibility ends," said Praeger.

In addition, Regents schools in Kansas and most higher education facilities offer some kind of low-cost student health insurance plan, although benefits may be limited or restricted.

Consumers are encouraged to call the Kansas Insurance Department's toll-free Consumer Hotline at 1-800-432-2484 or visit the Department's web site at www.ksinsurance.org if they have questions or need further information about any insurance product sold in Kansas.

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