

A replacement may not be in your best interest, or your decision could be a good one. You should make a careful comparison of the costs and benefits of your existing policy or contract. One way to do this is to ask the company or agent that sold you your existing policy or contract to provide you with information concerning your existing policy or contract. This may include an illustration of how your existing policy or contract is working now and how it would perform in the future based on certain assumptions. Illustrations should not, however, be used as a sole basis to compare policies or contracts. You should discuss the following with your agent to determine whether replacement or financing your purchase makes sense:

Premiums:

- Are they affordable?
- Could they change?
- You're older-are premiums higher for the proposed new policy?
- How long will you have to pay premiums on the new policy? On the old policy?

Policy Values:

- New policies usually take longer to build cash values and to pay dividends.
- Acquisition costs for the old policy may have been paid. You will incur costs for the new one.
- What surrender charges do the policies have?
- What expense and sales charges will you pay on the new policy?
- Does the new policy provide more insurance coverage?

Insurability:

- If your health has changed since you bought your old policy, the new one could cost you more, or you could be turned down.
- You may need a medical exam for a new policy.
- Claims on most new policies for up to the first two years can be denied based on inaccurate statements.
- Suicide limitations may begin anew on the new coverage.

If You Are Keeping The Old Policy As Well As The New Policy:

- How are premiums for both policies being paid?
- How will the premiums on your existing policy be affected?
- Will a loan be deducted from death benefits?
- What values from the old policy are being used to pay premiums?

If You Are Surrendering An Annuity Contract Or Interest-Sensitive Life Product:

- Will you pay surrender charges on your old contract?
- What are the interest rate guarantees for the new contract?
- Have you compared the contract charges or other policy expenses?

Other Issues To Consider For All Transactions:

- What are the tax consequences of buying the new policy?
- Is this a tax free exchange? (See your tax advisor.)
- Is there a benefit from favorable "grandfathered" treatment of the old policy under the federal tax code?
- Will the existing insurer be willing to modify the old policy?
- How does the quality and financial stability of the new company compare with your existing company?