

5302

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

May 16, 2013

Introduced by Sen. NOZZOLIO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Insurance

AN ACT to amend the insurance law, in relation to examination under oath of covered persons pursuant to the comprehensive motor vehicle insurance reparations act

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 5103 of the insurance law is amended by adding a
2 new subsection (i) to read as follows:
3 (I) WITH REGARD TO ANY CLAIM FOR FIRST PARTY BENEFITS PURSUANT TO THIS
4 ARTICLE, THE EXAMINATION UNDER OATH OF A PERSON CLAIMING TO BE A COVERED
5 PERSON SHALL BE SCHEDULED BY THE INSURER DIRECTLY OR BY AN ATTORNEY
6 APPOINTED BY THE INSURER FOR PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING SUCH EXAMINATION
7 UNDER OATH FOR WHOSE CONDUCT AND ACTIVITY THE INSURER SHALL BE DIRECTLY
8 RESPONSIBLE. THE EXAMINATION UNDER OATH OF A CLAIMANT SHALL NOT BE
9 DEMANDED UNLESS AND UNTIL AN APPLICATION FOR FIRST PARTY BENEFITS HAS
10 BEEN RECEIVED BY THE INSURER. IN ANY EXAMINATION UNDER OATH, THE CLAIM-
11 ANT SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL. THE EXAMINATION
12 SHALL BE CONDUCTED UPON OATH OR AFFIRMATION. THE EXAMINATION UNDER OATH
13 SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN THE COUNTY WHERE THE CLAIMANT RESIDES OR, AT THE
14 CLAIMANT'S OPTION, IN THE OFFICE OF HIS OR HER REPRESENTATIVE UNLESS THE
15 CLAIMANT OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE AND THE INSURER AGREE OTHERWISE.
16 THE DAY AND TIME THAT THE EXAMINATION UNDER OATH IS SCHEDULED SHALL BE
17 AGREED UPON BY THE INSURER AND THE CLAIMANT OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE.
18 A DEMAND FOR AN EXAMINATION UNDER OATH SHALL BE IN WRITING AND
19 SHALL BE SERVED PERSONALLY OR BY REGISTERED OR CERTIFIED MAIL UPON THE
20 CLAIMANT UNLESS THE CLAIMANT IS REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY, WHEN IT
21 SHALL BE SERVED PERSONALLY OR BY MAIL UPON HIS OR HER ATTORNEY. THE
22 DEMAND SHALL STATE THE PERSON BEFORE WHOM THE EXAMINATION IS TO BE HELD,
23 THE TIME, PLACE AND SUBJECT MATTER THEREOF. WRITTEN NOTICE OF AN EXAM-
24 INATION UNDER OATH MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE CLAIMANT OR HIS OR HER REPRESENTATIVE.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

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1 SENTATIVE NOT LESS THAN FOURTEEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION DATE TO
2 BE EFFECTIVE TO REQUIRE CLAIMANT TO APPEAR. THE NOTICE SHALL ADVISE THE
3 CLAIMANT OF THE RIGHT TO VIDEO OR OTHERWISE RECORD THE EXAMINATION. THE
4 CLAIMANT SHALL BE ALLOWED REASONABLE ADJOURNMENTS WHICH SHALL BE
5 ACCEPTED UP TO NO LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION.
6 IF THE CLAIMANT TO BE EXAMINED DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE,
7 UPON REASONABLE NOTICE TO THE INSURER SEEKING THE EXAMINATION, THE
8 INSURER SHALL, AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, PROVIDE A TRANSLATION OF ALL QUES-
9 TIONS AND ANSWERS, AND MAY USE THE SERVICES OF AN INTERPRETER WHOSE
10 COMPENSATION SHALL BE PAID BY THE INSURER SEEKING THE EXAMINATION. THE
11 EXAMINATION UNDER OATH SHALL BE TRANSCRIBED BEFORE A NOTARY PUBLIC
12 COMMISSIONED TO ADMINISTER OATHS IN THIS STATE. ANY EXAMINATION UNDER
13 OATH THAT IS NOT SO TRANSCRIBED SHALL NOT BE CITED AS THE BASIS OF ANY
14 DENIAL OF A CLAIM FOR FIRST PARTY BENEFITS. THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE EXAM-
15 INATION SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO OR AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION,
16 EXCEPT UPON COURT ORDER UPON GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, BUT SHALL BE FURNISHED TO
17 THE CLAIMANT OR HIS OR HER REPRESENTATIVE WITHIN SIXTY DAYS OF THE EXAM-
18 INATION. THE CONDUCT OF EXAMINATIONS UNDER OATH SHALL BE GOVERNED BY THE
19 UNIFORM RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF DEPOSITIONS, PART 221 OF THE UNIFORM
20 RULES FOR THE NEW YORK STATE TRIAL COURTS. AN EXAMINATION UNDER OATH OF
21 THE CLAIMANT MAY BE REQUESTED WHERE (1) THE INSURER SUSPECTS FRAUD
22 PERPETRATED BY THE CLAIMANT WHICH MUST BE CLEARLY CONVEYED TO THE CLAIM-
23 ANT OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE. THE INSURER SHALL SUPPLY THE CLAIMANT
24 OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE WITH ANY AND ALL EVIDENCE SUPPORTING ITS
25 CLAIM OF FRAUD NOT LESS THAN TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION UNDER
26 OATH SO AS TO PRESERVE THE CLAIMANT'S FEDERAL FIFTH AMENDMENT RIGHT
27 AGAINST BEING COMPELLED TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIMSELF OR HERSELF; (2) THE
28 INSURER SUSPECTS THAT THE CLAIMANT IS RECEIVING UNNECESSARY TREATMENT
29 WHICH SHALL BE CLEARLY CONVEYED TO THE CLAIMANT OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE. THE INSURER SHALL SUPPLY THE CLAIMANT OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE WITH ANY AND ALL EVIDENCE SUPPORTING ITS CLAIM THAT THE TREATMENT IS UNNECESSARY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PEER REVIEWS NOT LESS THAN
30 TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION UNDER OATH; (3) THE INSURER SUSPECTS
31 THAT THE TREATING PROVIDER OR FACILITY IS BILLING FOR TREATMENT THAT THE
32 CLAIMANT IS NOT RECEIVING WHICH SHALL BE CLEARLY CONVEYED TO THE CLAIM-
33 ANT OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE. THE INSURER SHALL PROVIDE THE CLAIM-
34 ANT OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE WITH ANY AND ALL EVIDENCE SUPPORTING
35 ITS CLAIM THAT THE BILLING IS NOT COMMENSURATE WITH THE ACTUAL TREATMENT
36 RECEIVED, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE BILLS SUBMITTED BY THE
37 TREATING PROVIDER NOT LESS THAN TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXAMINATION UNDER
38 OATH; OR (4) THE INSURER HAS A SUSPICION THAT THE CLAIM NEEDS TO BE
39 VERIFIED FOR A REASON NOT ENUMERATED ABOVE. THE JUSTIFICATION MUST BE
40 RELEVANT TO THE VERIFICATION OF THE CLAIM AND THE REASON MUST BE CLEARLY
41 CONVEYED TO THE CLAIMANT OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE. THE INSURER SHALL
42 PROVIDE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ITS CLAIM TO THE CLAIMANT OR
43 CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE NOT LESS THAN TEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE EXAMINA-
44 TION UNDER OATH. IF THE CLAIMANT OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE WISHES TO
45 CONTEST THE REQUEST FOR AN EXAMINATION UNDER OATH BECAUSE CLAIMANT OR
46 CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE BELIEVES THE REQUEST TO BE PRE-TEXTUAL OR
47 SUSPECTS ABUSE IN REQUESTING THE EXAMINATION, HE OR SHE SHALL SUBMIT AN
48 APPLICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW WITHIN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS OF
49 RECEIPT OF THE WRITTEN REQUEST FROM THE INSURER. NO INSURER SHALL DENY A
50 CLAIM BASED UPON A TREATING PROVIDER'S FAILURE TO APPEAR AT AN EXAMINA-
51 TION UNDER OATH OTHER THAN BILLS SUBMITTED BY SUCH PROVIDER, NOR SHALL
52 IT FORM THE BASIS OF ANY LIABILITY ON THE PART OF ANY PROVIDER OR CLAIM-
53 ANT FOR PAYMENT PREVIOUSLY MADE RELATING TO THE CLAIM IN QUESTION. IF
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1 THE TREATING PROVIDER FAILS TO APPEAR AT AN EXAMINATION UNDER OATH, THE
2 CLAIMANT SHALL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE TO THE PROVIDER FOR SERVICES
3 RENDERED BY THAT PROVIDER. WHEN AN INSURER REQUIRES AN EXAMINATION UNDER
4 OATH OF A CLAIMANT TO ESTABLISH PROOF OF CLAIM, SUCH REQUIREMENT SHALL
5 BE BASED ON THE APPLICATION OF OBJECTIVE STANDARDS SO THAT THERE IS
6 SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATION FOR THE USE OF SUCH EXAMINATION. INSURER STAND-
7 ARDS SHALL BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW BY DEPARTMENT EXAMINERS, AS WELL AS
8 BY THE CLAIMANT AND HIS OR HER REPRESENTATIVE. THE SCOPE OF THE EXAM-
9 INATION UNDER OATH SHALL BE NARROWLY TAILORED TO THE REASONS OR JUSTI-
10 FICATION FOR SEEKING THE EXAMINATION AS SET FORTH IN THE INSURER'S WRIT-
11 TEN REQUEST. ANY QUESTION THAT GOES BEYOND THE SCOPE MAY BE OBJECTED TO
12 AND SUCH OBJECTED TO QUESTION SHALL BE SUBMITTED BY THE INSURER WITHIN
13 SEVEN DAYS OF THE COMPLETION OF THE SCHEDULED AND CONDUCTED EXAMINATION
14 TO THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE IF THE OBJECTED TO QUESTION IS BEYOND THE
15 SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION. IF ANY QUESTION IS DETERMINED TO BE BEYOND THE
16 LEGITIMATE SCOPE OF THE EXAMINATION AND ITS ORIGINAL WRITTEN JUSTIFICA-
17 TION FOR THE SAME, THE CLAIMANT SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO RESPOND TO THE
18 QUESTION AND CANNOT FORM THE BASIS OF A DENIAL. IF THE OBJECTED TO QUES-
19 TION IS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO BE LEGITIMATE AND NARROWLY
20 TAILORED TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES CONTAINED IN THE WRITTEN REQUEST FOR THE
21 EXAMINATION UNDER OATH INITIALLY GIVEN BY THE INSURER WHEN THE EXAMINA-
22 TION WAS SCHEDULED, THE EXAMINATION MAY BE RESCHEDULED IN THE MANNER SET
23 FORTH ABOVE FOR THE LIMITED PURPOSE OF RECEIVING RESPONSES TO THE
24 IMPROPERLY OBJECTED TO QUESTIONS, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, AND
25 RESPONSES TO OTHER QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT NATURALLY FLOW FROM THE CLAIM-
26 ANT'S RESPONSES THAT ARE LIKEWISE NARROWLY TAILORED TO INVESTIGATE THE
27 LEGITIMATE JUSTIFICATION FOR CONDUCTING THE EXAMINATION GIVEN IN THE
28 INSURER'S ORIGINAL WRITTEN REQUEST, WITH THE SAME RULES FOR OBJECTIONS
29 APPLYING AS SET FORTH ABOVE. AN INSURER SHALL NOT DENY A CLAIM BASED
30 UPON AN OBJECTION AT AN EXAMINATION UNDER OATH UNLESS THE INSURER
31 COMPLETES THE ABOVE OBJECTION APPEALS PROCEDURE, WINS SAID APPEAL, AND
32 THE CLAIMANT THEREAFTER FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE DEMAND FOR A FURTHER
33 EXAMINATION UNDER OATH. EACH EXAMINATION UNDER OATH SHALL NOT EXCEED
34 THREE HOURS FROM THE TIME THE FIRST QUESTION IS ASKED UNTIL THE LAST
35 QUESTION IS ASKED UNLESS REASONABLE CAUSE EXISTS. FOR EXAMINATION
36 CONSTRUCTED WITH THE AID OF AN INTERPRETER, THE TIME SHALL NOT EXCEED
37 FOUR HOURS UNLESS REASONABLE CAUSE EXISTS. THE CLAIMANT OR CLAIMANT'S
38 REPRESENTATIVE SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO TERMINATE THE EXAMINATION UPON
39 THE PASSAGE OF THE ABOVE TIME LIMITS. THE CLAIM SHALL NOT BE DENIED IF
40 THE CLAIMANT OR CLAIMANT'S REPRESENTATIVE TERMINATES THE EXAMINATION
41 AFTER THE ALLOTTED TIME HAS EXPIRED. ISSUES OF LIABILITY RELATED TO ANY
42 ONGOING OR POTENTIAL THIRD PARTY ACTION ARISING FROM THE SUBJECT CLAIM
43 MAY BE ADDRESSED AT THE EXAMINATION UNDER OATH. THE EXAMINATION UNDER
44 OATH AND ANY INVESTIGATION RELATED THERETO SHALL BE CONFIDENTIAL AND
45 SHALL NOT BE SUBJECT TO DISCOVERY OR USE IN ANY THIRD PARTY ACTION ARIS-
46 ING OUT OF THE INCIDENT THAT SERVES AS THE BASIS OF THE CLAIM FOR FIRST
47 PARTY BENEFITS, AND SHALL NOT BE USED AGAINST THE CLAIMANT IN ANY SUCH
48 THIRD PARTY ACTION. ABSENT AN ADMISSION OF FRAUD BY A CLAIMANT DURING
49 THE EXAMINATION UNDER OATH, OR ALLEGATION OF FRAUD PERPETRATED BY THE
50 CLAIMANT SUPPORTED BY THE TESTIMONY ELICITED AT THE EXAMINATION, THE
51 EXAMINATION UNDER OATH ALONE SHALL NOT FORM THE BASIS OF A DENIAL OF
52 FIRST PARTY BENEFITS. ANY DENIAL OF FIRST PARTY BENEFITS BASED IN PART
53 UPON AN EXAMINATION UNDER OATH, INCLUDING ONE BASED ON FRAUD BY THE
54 CLAIMANT, SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ANY OTHER WRITTEN REPORTS, INCLUDING
55 INVESTIGATIVE, THAT IN WHOLE OR IN PART FORM THE BASIS OF THE DENIAL.
56 THE CLAIMANT AND HIS OR HER REPRESENTATIVE SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO

1 CONDUCT AN EXAMINATION UNDER OATH, UPON WRITTEN REQUEST TO THE INSURER,
2 OF ANY INDIVIDUAL, INCLUDING THE PERSON OR ATTORNEY CONDUCTING OR
3 REVIEWING THE EXAMINATION, WHOSE REPORTS OR OPINIONS FORM THE BASIS OF
4 ANY DENIAL OF FIRST PARTY BENEFITS BASED IN WHOLE OR IN PART ON THE
5 EXAMINATION. ONCE AN INSURER HAS DENIED FURTHER FIRST PARTY BENEFITS TO
6 THE CLAIMANT FOR ANY REASON, IT SHALL BE BARRED FROM SEEKING ANY FURTHER
7 VERIFICATION OF THE CLAIM INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CONDUCTING
8 MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS AND/OR FURTHER EXAMINATIONS UNDER OATH. THE DENIAL
9 OF A CLAIM FOR FAILURE TO ATTEND AN EXAMINATION UNDER OATH SHALL NOT BE
10 RETROACTIVE TO THE DATE OF THE CLAIM, BUT SHALL ONLY RESULT IN THE
11 DENIAL OF ALL BENEFITS RECEIVED AFTER THE DATE OF THE EXAMINATION UNDER
12 OATH.

13 S 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall apply to all
14 claims for first party benefits pending on or after such date.