

Spring 2021

PROTECTION CONNECTION

Tawas Bay Insurance Agency's Newsletter



What does **FULL COVERAGE** really mean?

Occasionally we are asked for “full coverage” car insurance. But “full coverage” isn’t a standard coverage we can add. We have found that what people usually want is liability plus comprehensive and collision coverage to help protect their vehicle from physical damage. When financing or leasing a vehicle, your lender may use the term “full coverage,” but generally, they are requiring you to have comprehensive and collision coverage to protect their lien or interest in the vehicle.

Some coverages are required by state law – for example, liability insurance, commonly referred to as PLPD (personal liability and property damage). Motor vehicles on the road are required by law to carry PLPD insurance in almost every state, including Michigan.

Other coverages, like roadside assistance or rental reimbursement coverage, may be optional, depending on your insurer and your situation. You can choose the car insurance coverage that fits your needs, and we can help.

Full coverage means different things to different people, so instead consider asking us if you have the right coverage in your situation.

Paying for every protection offered by your insurance company could be a waste of money. On the other hand, while your lender may consider state-minimum liability as sufficient, that may not be enough coverage to properly protect you and the other drivers on your policy. Your coverages should be customized to you, your family, and your vehicle.



Snow Angels for a Cause!

From February 15-22, TBIA challenged our Facebook audience to post a picture or video of themselves doing a snow angel. TBIA then donated \$25 to a local charity on behalf of each participant. In addition, all participants were entered in to a Grand Prize Drawing for "Perchville in a Cooler," valued over \$200!



Nolan & Taylor Loew, Grand Prize Winners

Reaching almost 3,000 people, this challenge resulted in 36 snow angels and \$900 on donations to the following organizations:

\$100 to Tawas Football
\$100 to Holy Family Youth Group
\$100 to Ana's Treasures
\$100 to the Humane Society
\$500 to the Tawas Whittemore United Fund

We appreciate all our local charities and the good work they do for our community.



! No Fault Re-Cap !

It is less than a year since our auto insurance system was changed drastically. Even though we are still in the beginning of these changes, we are starting to see how those changes will impact our policies. Many of you have seen an increase in paperwork, and that looks like it is here to stay. The new law requires you to recertify your choice at every policy renewal if you have made certain choices before.

Every client will be offered the PIP form when they renew or start a policy after July 1, 2020. After that, you should only have to fill out a new form if you are making a change to your coverage or if you previously opted out or excluded someone in your household from PIP medical coverage. This is done to ensure you have not had a change in health insurance that could result in you no longer being eligible for these options. If you do not return the signed form, your coverage will default to the Unlimited PIP option.

Under the new law, the default Bodily Injury/Property Damage limits are now \$250,000/\$500,000/\$10,000. If you have selected lower limits, you will be required to sign and return those forms at every renewal. If your insurance company does not receive these forms prior to your renewal, your liability limits will default back to the \$250,000/\$500,000/\$10,000, and you will be charged the appropriate premium.

Having to provide these documents at every renewal can be an inconvenience, especially for those whose policies renew every six months. If you have a semi-annual policy, give our office a call to see if you are eligible for an annual term.

The Michigan Catastrophic Claims Association will be taking another reduction in its annual assessment charged to Michigan auto policies that have maintained the Unlimited PIP. In 2020 the fee was \$100 per vehicle, effective July 1st, 2021 it will be reduced to \$86.

When you change your coverage, there is a lot more to think about than just the cost. Lowering your coverage puts you at risk for lawsuits and medical bills, which could put your savings, retirement plans and even your home at risk. Consider your assets and what you want to protect.

If you have a spouse or children, these changes impact them too. Discuss the coverage with everyone in the household to make sure everyone is on board with your level of protection. Call us if you have questions.



Whitney Kelly earns the CISR Designation!



The Certified Insurance Service Representative (CISR) designation, offered through The National Alliance for Insurance Education and Research, empowers outstanding individuals to provide exceptional account management and customer service. Earning this designation indicates Whitney's comprehensive understanding of risks and exposures, as well as her commitment to ongoing education and the highest level of professional service.

DO YOU LIVE IN YOUR HOME?

- 🚚 Have you recently moved from your home?
- 🏠 Is your home for sale or considered vacant?
- 💰 Is your home rented out to someone else?
- 🏠 Is your home being used for purposes other than as your residence premises?

If any of these apply to you...
#TELLYOURAGENT



With the delay in mail due to increased mail utilization, we have received a lot of customer calls concerning delayed bills, late payments, and even policy cancellations.

Most, if not all, of the insurance companies we represent offer some form of electronic delivery and online information centers where you can access your policy, billing information and proof of insurance. We recommend this option.

In addition to those electronic options with our insurance companies, the USPS offers a service item called Informed Delivery. Per the USPS website, "Informed Delivery provides eligible residential consumers with a digital preview of their household's incoming mail scheduled to arrive soon." While this does not have the same effect as a paperless option with our carriers, it may offer a reminder of a certain piece of mail that you have been expecting.

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Independent
Insurance Agents



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AAA | Accident Fund | Auto-Owners
Blue Cross Blue Shield | Cincinnati
Citizens | Frankenmuth
Grand River | Hagerty | Hastings
Michigan | Pioneer | Priority Health
Progressive | Secura | Travelers



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Spring Home Maintenance Tips



Clean your gutters

Ensure gutters and downspouts properly drain to avoid flooding and water damage.



Inspect the roof

Check for signs of warping, cracking and loose shingles. Also check chimneys, skylights and vents.



Seal windows & doors

Check seals for loosening, hardening, and cracking.



Fix concrete cracks

Check driveways, sidewalks and paths for cracks.



Beat the heat

Have a qualified heating and cooling professional check your air conditioning system now to ensure it is running properly for summer.