



For Current/Retired
City and DWP employees.



October 6, 2002
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Los Angeles Zoo

SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS

Claims Update

Tips on Filing a Disability Claim

Hello! I'm Cecilia Talbot-Camacho, claims administrator with your City Employees Club. It's such an exciting time to be a member!

I'll be writing a column on benefits in each issue. I have lots of topics I can write about, but please, if you have a question, send it in (the e-mail address is at the bottom). I'll answer those questions in print, if I can.

To start, I want to give you some advice if you need to file for disability. As soon as you know you will be on disability for four months or more, please contact our office and let us start your claim.

- The disability claim requires six completed forms from you, your doctor, your supervisor and your payroll office. Gathering this information takes time and effort.
- After the insurance company receives your completed forms, it takes approximately three to four weeks for the company to make a decision on your claim.
- Sometimes, the insurance company may need additional information from your doctor, your worker's compensation analyst and/or your employer. In this case, the time frame of your claim may be extended.
- So, start processing your disability claim as soon as possible. That way, you use your waiting period while your sick time is dwindling. It allows the insurance company to pay your benefit on time.

See you next time.



For questions about claims, contact Cecilia Camacho, Claims Administrator at (213) 620-0388

Wanna be heard?

Ask Cecilia a question, or send a general comment to the editor: claims@cityemployeesclub.com

Claims Paid Out in July 2002*

| TYPE | 2002 | | 2001 | |
|--|------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|
| | CLAIMS | YEAR-TO-DATE | CLAIMS | YEAR-TO-DATE |
| Life insurance | 51 | \$2,193,325 | 74 | \$2,802,168 |
| Disability Insurance | 76 | \$557,286 | 85 | \$880,287 |
| Long Term Care Insurance | 5 | \$22,449 | 3 | \$21,033 |
| Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance | 1 | \$7,732 | 18 | \$596,336 |
| GRAND TOTALS | 133 | \$2,780,795 | 180 | \$4,299,825 |

* May not include claims in process, or to be verified.

Minding Your Money

Nichole Baker, Certified Financial Planner™



Nichole Baker, CFP
Polaris Financial

Avoid Financial Chaos –

■ 5 Things You Need to Know About Financial Planning and Advisers

Hello! I'm Nichole Baker, a certified financial planner™. I'm proud to be part of *Alive!*, proud to be part of the new City Employees Club of Los Angeles. We can all help each other, like a real family. I welcome your questions, and I'll try to get to as many of them as I can in my monthly column. E-mail them to me at nichole@cityemployeesclub.com

But, to get things started, I thought I'd answer some very basic questions. Here we go!

With the stock market so wild these days, you may simply want to discuss your investments and get some guidance on what to do next.

What is financial planning?

Financial planning consists of everything from creating and maintaining a budget to solving complex tax problems. The main areas include:

- Insurance planning
- Investment management
- Tax planning
- Retirement planning
- Estate planning

Although these areas focus on money, there are other life considerations including who will care for your children if you pass away, and how can you best protect your family against catastrophe.

Some people have a full plan created, while others address one or two areas, such as if they are on track to retire when and how they want.

Would a financial planner be beneficial for me?

Why should you choose to use a financial planner? Is it a good value for you? Well, it depends. If you have these four things you can be your own adviser:

- time
- desire
- knowledge, and
- ability

If you lack any one of these four things, you should consider using a financial planner.

How do I choose an adviser who's right for me?

First, consider the credentials, licenses and affiliations of the adviser. Ask how he or she gets paid. Inquire about their length of time in the business and any areas of specialty or focus. Remember to ask about their philosophy.

There are a number of additional questions to ask, and sometimes the answers can be confusing. So I've developed an informational kit that will explain the questions and possible answers so that you can make an informed decision.

Most importantly, trust your intuition.

When would I need a financial adviser?

The most common times people use an adviser are during major life events, including retirement, change of job, marriage, divorce, birth of a child, death of a parent or spouse, and the realization that you need to meet your financial goals to meet your life goals.

How much does this cost?

Most planners will offer a free initial consultation – take advantage of this. At the first meeting, the adviser will tell you about his or her compensation structure (commissions or fees). If the planner charges commissions on products sold, make sure that you understand any conflicts of interest that may exist. Often an adviser will create a plan free if they are compensated by managing your investments. In any case, the cost can be a great value for financial peace of mind!

Here are two good resources on the Web for you to explore:

- www.cfp-board.org
- www.napfa.org

See you next month!



*To get a copy of our easy to understand *Choosing a Planner* information kit and checklist call our office and we'll mail one out to you FREE: (626) 441-0838.

If you have questions or would like to meet with a financial adviser for a personal consultation, contact Nichole at (626) 441-0838, or through the Club e-mail: alive@cityemployeesclub.com. Nichole is a principal at

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