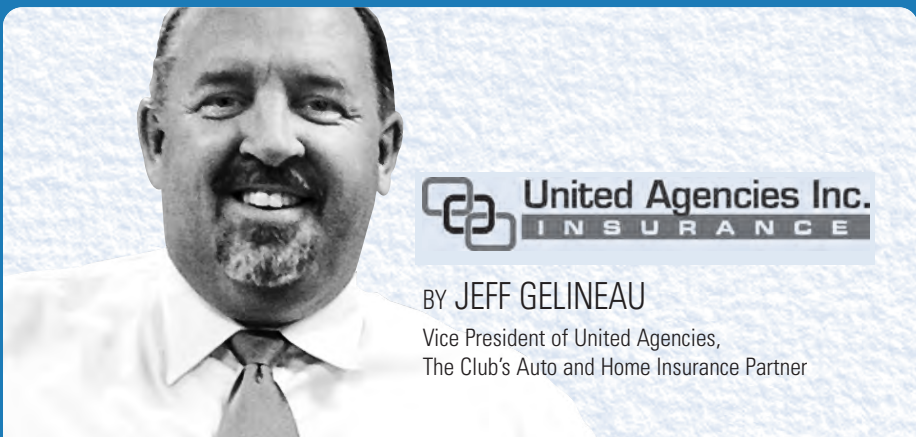


REST INSURED



United Agencies Inc.
INSURANCE

BY JEFF GELINEAU

Vice President of United Agencies,
The Club's Auto and Home Insurance Partner

Insure Kids At College

It's the time of year when a lot of families are packing their kids up to head off to college or university. Squeezed into the trunk along with books and clothes are all of the must-have items of today's college set: a laptop computer, a cell phone, a digital tablet, a television and a top-of-the-line mountain bike.

That's a lot of expensive stuff. That's why it's not a bad idea to also pack an insurance policy.

"Children take a significant amount of personal property with them at college, and the likelihood of theft or fire loss is increased while they are away at college," says David Thompson, a staff instructor with the Florida Association of Insurance Agents (FAIA) in Tallahassee, Fla.

Parents generally have two choices when insuring the possessions of their college-bound kids. They can get a child covered under their existing homeowners policy, or they can buy renters insurance. Both approaches have advantages and disadvantages.

Adding to an Existing Policy

The cheaper option is putting your child on your existing homeowner's policy. Parents can do this provided the child's primary residence remains the family home and it usually costs nothing.

Coverage is generally 10 percent of your homeowner's insurance policy. For example, if your family has a \$200,000 policy for its home, then your college-bound youngster would be covered up to \$20,000.

Depending on your existing policy and what sort of property coverage your child may need, you may need to add a rider, which would add to the cost.

The disadvantage of using your insurance to insure your child: Any claims made by your child will be made toward your policy. Repeated claims can raise your rates and can even make it difficult to keep or get another insurance policy.

In addition, having your child ride on the coattails of your homeowner's policy may not be enough coverage because of caps and high deductibles.

If you do the math, it may not work out so well: Most homeowners' policies have a \$500 or \$1,000 deductible. If you have a \$1,000 deductible and lose a laptop valued at \$3,000, with your \$1,000 deductible you'll get only \$2,000. There's no way you can replace the laptop for that kind of money.

When a Renter's Policy Makes Sense

If adequate coverage or putting your child on your own homeowner's policy is a concern, the other option is to get renter's insurance for your college-bound child.

The advantage here is that any claims won't affect your homeowner's insurance. In addition, the policy can be tailored specifically for your child's situation. A customized insurance policy can ensure that your child's possessions are adequately covered.

Indeed, many college students find that renters insurance is the only way to get property properly insured. Approximately 22 percent of college students aren't covered by their parents' property insurance either because they are foreigners or they don't permanently live with their parents.

The biggest disadvantage of renter's insurance is the higher cost. That said, a renter's policy doesn't have to be overly expensive. Some companies offer college student policies ranging from \$2,000 up to \$25,000 in coverage. The average student can buy a \$5,000 policy with a deductible of \$250 and an annual premium of only a few hundred dollars.

What to Consider

How do parents decide the right course? Start with what you've got. Ask your own agent exactly what your property insurance covers and whether your child can be added to the policy (and at what cost).

If you determine that renter's insurance is a better choice, again start with recommendations from your agent. And check with your child's school. Many universities and colleges strike deals with insurance companies or, at the very least, know what companies offer insurance to college students.

Check whether the policy covers replacement or the actual value of an item. You'll want a policy that pays replacement costs, that is the cost of getting a new item to replace the lost or stolen one.

Find out what's included or excluded from the policy. For example, if the policy excludes fire or flooding, you may want to look for a more inclusive insurance policy.

Look for a policy that covers losses not just in living quarters, but for school-sponsored trips.

You'll also want to make sure that coverage for liability claims is included, regardless of whether your child is covered on your homeowner's policy or a separate policy.

Be safe and have fun!

About United Agencies

United Agencies is the Club's partner in helping members with their home and auto insurance, and related products. We specialize in creating personal relationships with our customers, and serving their needs in a prompt, efficient and friendly manner.

Check out our City Employees Club page on the United Agencies Website at www.unitedagencies.com/cityclub. This website lists the upcoming visits we'll be making to City Department meetings where you can ask us any question in person, and get an instant quote!

Have a question?

Is there something about insurance that you've always wanted to know, but were too ashamed to ask? Maybe something that you've just always been curious about? Feel free to send me an email at jjelineau@unitedagencies.com, and I will try to answer your question in one of our monthly columns.

AIRPORTS

Play Ball!

LAX Airport Police hosts softball tournament.



From left: Anthony Ortiz, Warehouse Tool Worker, LAX, 10 years of City service; Nick Evaro, Warehouse Tool Worker LAX, 6 years; and David Turrietta, guest.



From left: John Judy, Police Officer, 10 years of City service, with umpire Brad Wiley.



Shane Young, Police Officer, 7 years of City service, Club Member.



Alana Gallegos, 4, daughter, Robert Gallegos, Police Officer, San Fernando PD, 5 years with his daughters Alana, 4 (left), and Audrey, 5.



Santiago Sanchez, Police Officer, 4 years of City service, Club Member.



Glen Huggins, Police Officer, 7 years, Club Member, with his girlfriend, LeAnne Liang.



Story by Jackie Causillas, Club Counselor;
Photos by Arlene Herrero, Club Products Director

On July 31, the Airport Police participated in a softball tournament at the Edison Community Park in Huntington Beach. The team is composed of 10 players.

This event served as a steppingstone for the team as next Saturday they will participate in the championship games in Las Vegas. They were also preparing for the Nevada Police and Fire Games.

The players rooted each other on as each inning came to an end. With such great sportsmanship and dedication, it's no wonder the team won three games in a row... on the same day!

Special thanks to Officer Shane Young, Club Member, for assisting Alive!



Mike Rasmussen, Safety Officer, Ontario Airport, 14 years of City service, Club Member, with his daughter, Averi.



From left: Madeleine Flanagan, Sr. Management Analyst I, LAX Airport Police, 24 years of City service, Club Member; and Jackie Causillas, Club Counselor.



Anthony Ortiz, Warehouse Tool Worker LAX, 10 years of City service.



Top row, from left: Nick Evaro, Warehouse Tool Worker, LAX, 6 years of City service; Mike Rasmussen, Safety Officer, Ontario Airport, 14 years, Club Member; Glen Huggins, Police Officer, 7 years, Club Member; Santiago Sanchez, Police Officer, 4 years, Club Member; Robert Gallegos, Police Officer San Fernando PD; John Judy, Police Officer, 10 years; and David Turrietta, guest. Bottom: Andrei Soto, FTO, 7 years, Club Member; Anthony Ortiz, Warehouse Tool Worker, LAX, 10 years; and Shane Young, Police Officer, 7 years, Club Member.