

New York State Insurance Premium Deferral

On March 29, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued [Executive Order No. 202.13](#) which directed insurance carriers and those companies providing premium financing to provide relief to New York consumers and small businesses experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

In turn, the New York State Department of Financial Services adopted an [emergency regulation](#), the details of which are as follows:

- Applies to only those consumers or small businesses facing financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For the purposes of the executive order, a small business shall mean any business located in New York State, which is independently owned and operated, and employs fewer than 100 people.
- The grace period for the payment of premiums and fees for any life insurance policyholder or fraternal benefit society certificate holder has been extended to 90 days.
- A moratorium has been placed on property and casualty and workers' compensation insurers canceling, non-renewing or conditionally renewing any insurance policy for a period of 60 days.
- Premium finance agencies have been ordered to follow the guidelines set forth in reference to property and casualty insurers subject to the safety and soundness of the premium finance agencies.

Bender Insurance has been in contact with both carriers and finance agencies in an effort to determine the actions necessary to conform to the order. Being that this is unprecedented, there seems to be some confusion regarding how to best respond in a manner that is both acceptable to, and protects the interests of, all concerned. At this time neither the carriers nor the finance agencies are cancelling policies for non-payment and are flexible regarding payment terms for all insureds. Ideally, policyholders would continue to pay their premiums so they do not have large payments due at a later date.

As always we are here to help you. If you are having issues with paying your premiums please reach out to your account executive for information and guidance. Bender will continue to monitor the situation and will be sure to communicate any information as it is received.