

Doctor: World Traveler – Kidnapping, Ransom, and Extortion

Insurance Coverage Available / Keeping You, Your Family, or your Business Covered

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Just for a moment, think the unthinkable - Your child or spouse has been kidnapped! In a moment like this, there is little that anyone can say or do that will make you feel better. You are faced with a very stressful situation and feel completely helpless. The emotional price you feel when such a crime occurs can be extremely difficult to accept. And the financial burden can be exhausting as well...unless you have insurance.

In these uncertain times of world unrest, it is comforting to know that coverage is available by purchasing a Kidnapping, Ransom, and Extortion Insurance Policy. While not a very common occurrence in North America, these crimes or perils are becoming a means for criminals to prosper at the emotional and financial expense of you and/or your loved ones. This type of policy covers incidents within the United States and internationally, with only a few exceptions. Most of these types of crimes occur outside the United States, so if you are planning an international trip this summer, you may want to consider this insurance. This insurance policy is usually written on an annual or three-year term, but can also be purchased for a specific trip as well, with coverage terminating at the end of the travel event.

The Kidnap & Ransom Policy provides comprehensive benefits for your family and/or company so that the crisis can be managed effectively. It covers the expenses associated with resolving a kidnapping, extortion, product

extortion, detention or hijack event where a ransom demand is made. Expenses can include ransoms, negotiator fees, medical expenses, salary expenses and legal liability expenses as well as a very broad range of other expenses that may be incurred while resolving an event.

Most kidnappings occur in Africa & the Middle East (30%) or Latin America (26%), followed by Asia & the Pacific (18%) and Europe & the Former Soviet Union (18%). North

Kidnapping Victims	
Dependents/Children	27%
Business personnel	23%
Tourists, aid workers, religious staff sports & entertainment	15%
Non-professional employees	14%
Government officials & security forces	8%
Journalists & related personnel	6%
Ranchers	4%
Project workers including engineers	3%

America and the Caribbean account for only (8%) of all kidnappings. Insurance for individuals or companies in Iraq is available but is subject to stricter underwriting guidelines. The insurance is available nationwide and is provided by carriers licensed in West Virginia.

Many types of organizations are eligible for this insurance including any for-profit or not-for-profit company, association, religious organization, or educational

institution. Coverage for high net-worth individuals and families is administered with the addition of the Family Conversion Endorsement which converts a corporate policy form into one tailored to individuals and families. Doctors and their families may be particularly interested in this coverage.

With increased international travel and a world in economic turmoil, the environment is ripe for criminals planning these types of crimes. When traveling through airports and the hustle & bustle of making deadlines, you or your family can be targeted by kidnappers as easy prey. Children are the most common targets (27%) followed by business personnel (23%) and tourists (15%). See the chart below for full details. And while purchasing this insurance won't guarantee the safe return of a loved one (or yourself), this policy can give you the aid of experienced crises management professionals and the financial means to help you through the process to help you and/or your family in this time of emotional unrest and stress. They will help with decision-making should a ransom be demanded and can assist with international law enforcement on a plan to address your specific needs.

Before leaving on your summer trip, give us a call and ask for an application package. To receive a quote, just complete the application and submit it to the West Virginia Medical Insurance Agency. Call us at 1-800-257-4747 (304-925-0342), ext. 22 for more details.

