

Society of Professional Social Workers

Association's Liability policy

1. Duty of Disclosure

Before you enter into a contract of general insurance with an insurer, you have a duty, under the Insurance Contracts Act 1984, to disclose to the insurer every matter that you know, or could reasonably be expected to know, is relevant to the insurer's decision whether to accept the risk of insurance, and if so, on what terms.

You have the same duty to disclose those matters to the insurer before you renew, extend, vary or reinstate a contract of general insurance.

Your duty, however, does not require disclosure of any matter:

- that diminishes the risk to be undertaken by the insurer;
- that is of common knowledge;
- that your insurer knows or, in the ordinary course of his business, ought to know;
- as to which compliance with your duty is waived by the insurer.

Non-disclosure

If you fail to comply with your duty of disclosure, the insurer may be entitled to reduce its liability under the contract in respect of a claim, refuse to pay the claim or may cancel the contract. If your non-disclosure is fraudulent, the insurer may also have the option of avoiding the contract from its beginning.

2. This Professional Indemnity Policy is issued on a claims made and notified basis

This means that the policy responds to claims first made against you during the policy period and notified to the insurer during that policy period.

The policy does not respond to any claim arising out of facts or circumstances of which you were aware at any time prior to the policy period which would have put a reasonable person in your position on notice that a claim may be made against you. (Some cover may be available under the Continuous Cover extension for innocent non-disclosure of facts and circumstances – but only if you are continuously insured under a professional indemnity policy issued by Vero Insurance from the time when you first become aware of such facts or circumstances to the time when you notify a claim arising from those facts and circumstances to Vero Insurance).

T Insurance of facts that might give rise to a claim against you. Such notification must be given as soon as reasonably practicable after you become aware of the facts and most importantly notification must be prior to the expiry of the policy period. If you give written notification of facts the policy will respond even though a claim arising from those facts is made against you after the policy has expired. For your information, S40(3) of the Insurance Contracts Act 1984 is set out below;

"S40(3) - Where the insured gave notice in writing to the insurer of *facts* that might give rise to a claim against the insured as soon as was reasonably practicable after the insured became aware of those *facts* but before the insurance cover provided by the contract expired, the insurer is not relieved of liability under the contract in respect of the claim when made by reason only that it was made after the expiration of the period of insurance cover provided by the contract." he policy does not respond to any claim resulting from an act, error or omission occurring or committed by you prior to the retroactive date, where a retroactive date is specified in the policy terms which are offered to you.

Once the policy period has expired, no notification of claims or facts or circumstances can be made on the policy even though:

- i) the event giving rise to the claim against you may have occurred during the policy period
- ii) you may have first become aware of the facts or circumstances giving rise to the claim during the policy period.

This policy does **not** contain a clause allowing you to notify facts or circumstances during the policy period.

3. Statutory right to notify facts that might give rise to a claim

By reason of section 40 (3) of the Insurance Contracts Act 1984, you have the right to notify Vero