

# Insurance Expertise

The importance of having good insurance coverage if you're in the process serving industry, cannot be expressed enough. We live and work in a world where individuals are more than happy to sue anyone they can for anything they can think of; we know... we deliver their notifications from the courts! There are tons of insurance companies out there with a ton of different products; most of which have the same names... but not all insurance policies are truly the same. For example, a General Liability policy for a bookstore owner, probably won't cover an incident that happens during a promotional event for their business... their policy will cover only incidents that happen within the store. Process servers are least likely to have incidents happen within their offices, unless you're referring to the "office" being their automobile. So, the same policy provisions needed for a bookstore owner are different than the provisions needed for a process server or other delivery-type person.

Now that Texas Certified Process Servers are governed under the Judicial Branch Certification Commission, there are official policies and procedures to lodge a complaint against a certified process server. Personal and professional liability can be questioned not only in a court of law, but also before the JBCC. Proper insurance policies are not required by the JBCC, but certainly prove that the server and their business has gone above and beyond to protect themselves, their clients, and the information which we deal with on a daily basis. TxAPPS strongly recommends that all Texas certified process servers research their policies and coverage to make sure that they are getting exactly what they need from their insurance provider and not just a policy to prove "Yeah, I have insurance."

TxAPPS first Sustaining Member applicant is Michael Yergey of Yergey Insurance. I first met Mike a couple years ago at a NAPPS Conference, and was blown away by his presentation as an exhibitor there. Mr. Yergey isn't your typically salesman who is trying to sell you HIS policy... he literally starts off every conversation as a discussion about the policy you currently have. Mike has the heart of a teacher and through active listening, questioning, and conversation, it is apparent that he cares more that you have the right policy for your business than HIS policy. I can't say how many process server associates have asked me questions about insurance policies and the ever-dreaded question "Who do you use?" I've always responded that the providers I use may not be the best for your personal business, but I try to make a recommendation (or several) for you to research on your own to figure out what might work best for you. Yergey Insurance has been on that referral list as an insurance provider for some time, so I was super excited when he opted to join TxAPPS. As members within the same Association who support the same goals, we now have a go-to guy to ask all our insurance professional questions of and get educated answers!

We've provided a short list of some of the types of coverages that should be considered by process servers, private investigators, and other business owners with overviews of each.

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## ***General Liability***

*Provides defense and settlement protection to your business for claims brought about by customers and third parties. Coverage can include liability for injuries caused by you or your employees, damage to property owned by others, and even liability for damage or injury caused by your product or service.*

### **Errors & Omissions /Professional Liability**

*Provides defense, settlement and damage payments to a third party for claims brought against you for economic loss for acts of errors and omissions in your professional services.*

### **Property**

*Replacement and/or repair for business property lost or destroyed by fire, lightning, windstorm, vandalism, theft, or other natural acts. Includes coverage for portable equipment and technical equipment along with office inventory. Coverage can be written on a replacement basis or an actual cash value basis.*

### **Business Income & Extra Expense**

*When written with property insurance, business income provides replacement of income for a covered property loss that halts business activity or slows income streams due to loss of business. Coverage will supplement income for a specific period of time or in some cases until your business is at the income level it sustained before loss. Extra expense insurance supplements costs over and above normal operating expenses for setting up an office along with the expenses associated with the move.*

### **Workers Compensation**

*Provides coverage for medical benefits to the employee for bodily injury by accident or by disease. This policy includes indemnity coverage for lost wages due to injury and disability coverage for the period of time that the employee is out of work. Coverage also provided protection for the employer in the event an employee brings suit for alleged denial of benefits.*

### **Directors & Officers Liability (Profit/Not-for-Profit)**

*Provides a firm and its directors and officers protections from claims brought against them for misappropriation of funds or misdirection of the firm. Can be extended to include Employment Practices Liability.*

### **Employment Practices Liability**

*Provides employers with protection for claims brought by employees for discrimination and hiring/firing practices. This coverage can be written to include coverage for claims brought by third parties and vendors. The policy will included defense coverage and settlement coverage.*

### **Fiduciary Liability**

*Designed to offer defense and damage protection for the responsible parties and administrators of welfare and health plans. As an administrator you are responsible for making sure plans are appropriate and run correctly. This coverage allows for claim protection in the event accusations are made for mismanagement.*

### **Crime & Fidelity Insurance**

*Crime and Fidelity insurance provides first and potentially third party protection for theft of money and property from you or your customer. In most cases the individual responsible will be prosecuted and forced to repay. The coverage can be made contingent on this issue or can be structured without a conviction clause.*

### ***Bonding***

*Surety bonds are available for businesses that are required to obtain a bond by either a local or state jurisdiction to keep or maintain licensing.*

### ***Commercial Auto***

*Provides liability and physical damage protection to your business and owned automobiles. Coverage can also be tailored to include hired and non-owned autos used by your employees.*

### ***Life Insurance***

*Top-rated companies with the most competitive life insurance programs. Low Cost term plans with premiums guaranteed for up to 30 years. Return of Premium Term gives you all of your premiums back. Build tax deferred savings with Universal Life and Whole Life. These products can also be designed for use with Key Man and Buy/Sell arrangements including business transition and executive bonus.*

### ***Health Insurance***

*Individual plans including HSA programs. Group plans are available for groups with as little as two employees. Many different options exist including high deductible plans with savings accounts, health maintenance organizations with low co-payment an, no deductibles and everything in between.*

### ***Disability Insurance***

*Protect your income! Disability insurance provides income if you can not work due to injury or sickness. Plans are available on an individual and group basis. Coverage is written for a specified time limit or for disability due to retirement age and beyond.*

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Reach out to our fellow TxAPPS Member, Michael T. Yergey to get professional insight on the best policies to fit your business or individual needs!

