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## Could Your Finances Survive a Critical Illness?

Nobody wants to think about it, but what if you get seriously ill? We all like to believe it won't happen to us – cancer, a heart attack, or a stroke – are things that happen to other people. And we might assume that if something does happen, the healthcare system will take care of everything. Unfortunately, that's just not the reality.

Let's look at some real-life scenarios. Take Darren, for example. He battled cancer for nearly three years, undergoing countless rounds of chemo. His wife, Jolene, had to shoulder most of the financial burden during his recovery. Even after Darren beat the cancer, he couldn't go back to his old job. He had to take a lower-paying position, and they struggled to make ends meet while also trying to pay off debts. It was incredibly stressful for them both.

Then there's Sean. He owned a small business and was in great shape. So, his cancer diagnosis came as a complete shock. He needed to take a year off work to focus on his health. His employees were worried – not just about Sean, but also about what his absence would mean for their jobs. It put a strain on everyone.

Or consider Sarah. She's a working mom with two young kids. She had a stroke. Thankfully, it wasn't severe, but her recovery was long and difficult. Her disability insurance helped with some expenses, but her husband, Adam, had to take unpaid leave to care for Sarah, the children, and their home. Suddenly, they were down one income, and the pressure was immense.

And finally, there's Mike. He lived a high-pressure, fast-paced life, and it caught up with him in the form of a heart attack. It was a wake-up call. He had to make significant lifestyle changes, which included taking extra unpaid time off and working fewer hours when he eventually returned.

These stories, unfortunately, aren't unique. They highlight a critical gap in our thinking about serious illness. While healthcare covers the treatment, it doesn't cover the financial fallout. What happens when you can't work? How do you pay the mortgage, the bills, the extra expenses that come with being sick?

That's where critical illness insurance comes in. It provides a lump-sum, tax-free payment if you're diagnosed with a covered condition, like cancer, heart attack, or stroke. The best part? You get to decide how to use the money. There are no restrictions.

Think about it. Maybe you need it for unexpected medical expenses. Maybe you want to take an extended vacation to recover. Maybe you want to pay off your mortgage for a few years, or maybe it allows your partner to take time off work to support you. It reduces the financial stress that comes with a critical illness, allowing you to focus on getting better. It's about protecting your financial well-being when you're facing a health crisis. It's about peace of mind.

**Want help getting started with your insurance strategy? Contact our office!**

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