

## CERTIFICATION of ERISA EXEMPTION

Many employee benefit plans offered by employers are subject to the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ERISA imposes a number of special requirements on employers and employee benefit plans.

To maintain the integrity of the Minnesota Service Cooperatives insurance pools, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota (BCBSM) and the Minnesota Service Cooperatives have decided that they would like to assure that only ERISA exempt benefit plans become a part of the Service Cooperative health insurance pools. ERISA specifically exempts from its scope specific types of plans. Your Service Cooperative would like to confirm that your entity is exempt from ERISA.

Please check the box that best describes your organization and then sign below:

- Governmental plan. Established or maintained for its employees by the United States, a state or local government, or by any agency or instrumentality of either of the above. Thus, benefit plans established by instrumentalities of local government units and political subdivisions are ERISA exempt. The political subdivision does not have to be a government itself in order for its benefit plan to be exempt.
  
- Church plan. Established or maintained for its employees by a Church or Church Organization, or by any agency or instrumentality of either of the above. Thus, benefit plans established by instrumentalities of local church units and religious subdivisions are ERISA exempt.
  
- School or other governmental agency. Some other entity whose plan has evidence of ERISA exempt status.

The enabling legislation or organizational documents of an entity may furnish information that will help determine this ERISA exempt status. If you have questions of whether your particular organization is an ERISA exempt entity, we recommend that you consult your tax advisor or legal counsel. If you know that your health benefit plan is ERISA exempt, please complete the information below.

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On behalf of the undersigned, I hereby Certify that the health benefit plan offered

by \_\_\_\_\_(Name of Entity) is exempt from the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA)

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Authorized Representative)

Its: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Title)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_