

304.39-020 Definitions for subtitle. (Effective July 15, 2026)

As used in this subtitle:

- (1) "Added reparation benefits" mean benefits provided by optional added reparation insurance;
- (2) "Basic reparation benefits" mean benefits providing reimbursement for net loss suffered through injury arising out of the operation, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle, subject, where applicable, to the limits, deductibles, exclusions, disqualifications, and other conditions provided in this subtitle. The maximum amount of basic reparation benefits payable for all economic loss resulting from injury to any one (1) person as the result of one (1) accident shall be ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), regardless of the number of persons entitled to such benefits or the number of providers of security obligated to pay such benefits. Basic reparation benefits consist of one (1) or more of the elements defined as "loss";
- (3) "Basic reparation insured" means:
 - (a) A person identified by name as an insured in a contract of basic reparation insurance complying with this subtitle; and
 - (b) While residing in the same household with a named insured, the following persons not identified by name as an insured in any other contract of basic reparation insurance complying with this subtitle:
 1. A spouse or other relative of a named insured; and
 2. A minor in the custody of a named insured or of a relative residing in the same household with the named insured if he usually makes his home in the same family unit, even though he temporarily lives elsewhere;
- (4) "Injury" and "injury to person" mean bodily harm, sickness, disease, or death;
- (5) "Loss" means accrued economic loss consisting only of medical expense, work loss, replacement services loss, and, if injury causes death, survivor's economic loss and survivor's replacement services loss. Noneconomic detriment is not loss. However, economic loss is loss although caused by pain and suffering or physical impairment.
 - (a) 1. "Medical expense" means reasonable charges incurred for reasonably needed products, services, and accommodations, including those for medical care, physical rehabilitation, rehabilitative occupational training, licensed ambulance services, and other remedial treatment and care. "Medical expense" may include non-medical remedial treatment rendered in accordance with a recognized religious method of healing. The term includes a total charge not in excess of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per person for expenses in any way related to funeral, cremation, and burial. It does not include that portion of a charge for a room in a hospital, clinic, convalescent or nursing home, or any other institution engaged in providing nursing care and related services, in excess of a reasonable and customary charge for semi-private accommodations, unless intensive care is medically required. "Medical expense" shall include all healing arts professions licensed by the

Commonwealth of Kentucky.

2. a. A medical expense paid by a reparation obligor or its third-party administrator pursuant to this subtitle shall not:
 - i. Except as provided in subpart ii. of this subdivision, exceed the maximum fee allowed or listed for that expense on the relevant schedule of fees established pursuant to KRS 342.035 that is in effect at the time the medical expense is incurred; or
 - ii. Be less than the maximum fee allowed or listed for that expense on the relevant schedule of fees established pursuant to KRS 342.035 that is in effect on July 15, 2026.

Other requirements, terms, or conditions imposed under or associated with the relevant schedule of fees established pursuant to KRS 342.035 shall not apply to this subtitle.

- b. Subdivision a. of this subparagraph shall not be construed as making basic reparation benefits or added reparation benefits primary.
 3. Solely for the purpose of basic reparation benefits and added reparation benefits, there shall be a presumption that any medical expense submitted in accordance with this paragraph is reasonable.
- (b) "Work loss" means loss of income from work the injured person would probably have performed if he had not been injured, and expenses reasonably incurred by him in obtaining services in lieu of those he would have performed for income, reduced by any income from substitute work actually performed by him.
 - (c) "Replacement services loss" means expenses reasonably incurred in obtaining ordinary and necessary services in lieu of those the injured person would have performed, not for income but for the benefit of himself or his family, if he had not been injured.
 - (d) "Survivor's economic loss" means loss after decedent's death of contributions of things of economic value to his survivors, not including services they would have received from the decedent if he had not suffered the fatal injury, less expenses of the survivors avoided by reason of decedent's death.
 - (e) "Survivor's replacement services loss" means expenses reasonably incurred by survivors after decedent's death in obtaining ordinary and necessary services in lieu of those the decedent would have performed for their benefit if he had not suffered the fatal injury, less expenses of the survivors avoided by reason of the decedent's death and not subtracted in calculating survivor's economic loss;
- (6) "Use of a motor vehicle" means any utilization of the motor vehicle as a vehicle including occupying, entering into, and alighting from it. It does not include:
 - (a) Conduct within the course of a business of repairing, servicing, or otherwise maintaining motor vehicles unless the conduct occurs off the business premises; or

- (b) Conduct in the course of loading and unloading the vehicle unless the conduct occurs while occupying, entering into, or alighting from it;
- (7) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle which transports persons or property upon the public highways of the Commonwealth, propelled by other than muscular power except road rollers, road graders, farm tractors, vehicles on which power shovels are mounted, such other construction equipment customarily used only on the site of construction and which is not practical for the transportation of persons or property upon the highways, such vehicles as travel exclusively upon rails, and such vehicles as are propelled by electrical power obtained from overhead wires while being operated within any municipality or where said vehicles do not travel more than five (5) miles beyond the said limits of any municipality. "Motor vehicle" shall not mean moped as defined in this section or an electric low-speed scooter as defined in KRS 189.010;
- (8) "Moped" means either a motorized bicycle whose frame design may include one (1) or more horizontal crossbars supporting a fuel tank so long as it also has pedals, or a motorized bicycle with a step-through type frame which may or may not have pedals rated no more than two (2) brake horsepower, a cylinder capacity not exceeding fifty (50) cubic centimeters, an automatic transmission not requiring clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged, and capable of a maximum speed of not more than thirty (30) miles per hour;
- (9) "Public roadway" means a way open to the use of the public for purposes of motor vehicle travel;
- (10) "Net loss" means loss less benefits or advantages, from sources other than basic and added reparation insurance, required to be subtracted from loss in calculating net loss;
- (11) "Noneconomic detriment" means pain, suffering, inconvenience, physical impairment, and other nonpecuniary damages recoverable under the tort law of this Commonwealth. The term does not include punitive or exemplary damages;
- (12) "Owner" means a person, other than a lienholder or secured party, who owns or has title to a motor vehicle or is entitled to the use and possession of a motor vehicle subject to a security interest held by another person. The term does not include a lessee under a lease not intended as security;
- (13) "Reparation obligor" means an insurer, self-insurer, or obligated government providing basic or added reparation benefits under this subtitle;
- (14) "Survivor" means a person identified in KRS 411.130 as one entitled to receive benefits by reason of the death of another person;
- (15) A "user" means a person who resides in a household in which any person owns or maintains a motor vehicle;
- (16) "Maintaining a motor vehicle" means having legal custody, possession or responsibility for a motor vehicle by one other than an owner or operator; and
- (17) "Security" means any continuing undertaking complying with this subtitle, for payment of tort liabilities, basic reparation benefits, and all other obligations imposed by this subtitle.

Effective: July 15, 2026

History: Amended 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 149, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2026. -- Amended 2019 Ky. Acts ch. 22, sec. 10, effective June 27, 2019. -- Amended 2000 Ky. Acts ch. 343, sec. 17, effective July 14, 2000. -- Amended 1982 Ky. Acts ch. 194, sec. 6, effective July 15, 1982. -- Amended 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 215, sec. 1, effective June 17, 1978; and ch. 349, sec. 12, effective June 17, 1978. -- Created 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 385, sec. 2, effective July 1, 1975.

Legislative Research Commission Note (7/15/2026). 2026 Ky. Acts ch. 149, sec. 7, provides that the amendments to this statute in that Act apply to basic and added reparation benefits that are issued or renewed on or after July 15, 2026.