

## **The Insurance Corner: Are my Holiday Gifts Insured?**

by Stacy Flynn, FLMI, ACS

With Christmas just behind us and Valentine's Day right around the corner, have you stopped to ask yourself *how* or *if* your gifts are covered under your homeowners or renters policy?

Or suppose this scenario: last Valentine's Day Johnny and Sally got engaged, are now newly married, and beginning their happily-ever-after until on their honeymoon Sally's ring flies off her finger into the ocean while applying sunscreen. The ring cannot be found. Will their insurance policy cover the ring?

The answer to both scenarios depends on what optional coverages have been added. The standard homeowners or renters policy has a dollar limit for theft on certain items, such as jewelry, firearms, cameras, and golf equipment, to name a few. For example the coverage for jewelry under the standard homeowners policy (ISO) is only \$1500. Not only does your standard homeowners policy limit monetarily for items that are more mobile but it also won't cover mysterious disappearance or accidental loss.

What is the solution?

The **Scheduled Personal Property Endorsement** helps close the gaps in the typical homeowners or renters policy. This optional coverage removes the deductible for your scheduled items and increases the limits of coverage. This endorsement also adds coverage against mysterious disappearance, accidental loss, and all causes of loss except those that are specifically excluded in the policy.

Back to our original example, is the engagement/wedding ring covered? If the newlyweds had added the optional Special Personal Property coverage to their policy, yes. Under the standard homeowners policy without the optional coverage, no. The lost ring it just that, lost.

I encourage you to review your current insurance policy and make sure that you not only have this valuable endorsement protecting your special items, but you should also review the limits you have established for your valuables at least annually, as prices to replace these items often inflate.