

**FOR THE COST OF A STREAMING SERVICE, YOU CAN GET THE MOST
IMPORTANT CAR INSURANCE COVERAGE YOU NEED**

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The other day I added a streaming service so I could watch a show on my phone a day earlier than it was showing on TV. When I go to sleep, I like to watch shows on my phone. So for \$5 a month, it is worth it to me to add this streaming service. I have more than one streaming service, so I am probably spending more than \$20 a month for these services, but I like having access to shows on my phone so I can watch them whenever and wherever.

In today's streaming age, most people have multiple streaming services for which they are okay paying \$20 every month if not more, to be able to watch a show or movie whenever and wherever. However, when people are offered the chance to purchase **uninsured motorist coverage (UM) coverage and underinsured motorist coverage (UIM) (you get both when paying the one premium for this coverage)** for their vehicle for the same \$20 a month, they routinely reject this coverage. The rationale is why should I pay for this UM/UIM coverage, as what benefit is this to me? Paying for liability coverage I have to do under the law and I have assets, so I will pay for more than the minimal coverage. Also, I want to protect my car, so I will get collision coverage. This UM/UIM coverage though, I do not even know what this is and my agent is letting me know if I have health insurance, I do not need this coverage. Even though the agent says that you do not need this UM/UIM coverage, this is insurance coverage where you have to sign a form in which you acknowledge rejecting UM/UIM coverage. So you sign the form and avoid paying the \$20 a month for this UM/UIM coverage.

You are driving home when a drunk driver, who is watching a streaming service show on his phone, smashes into your vehicle and sends you to UMC Trauma with bad injuries. You have the health insurance for UMC, but you are going to have co-pays/deductibles you will owe from your pocket. As for the drunk driver, he only wanted to pay for the minimal liability insurance of \$25,000 for any one person for injuries, bills, and lost wages; he did not want to pay any more money for insurance, as he needed that money for his streaming service shows. Your UMC bill alone is \$50,000, but luckily with your health insurance you get a reduction and the health insurance pays all of your ER bills for a total of \$25,000. Under the law, your health insurance has priority to get reimbursed from the drunk driver's insurance. As such, the health insurance is allowed to take the entire \$25,000 policy for the \$25,000 it paid.

This is a horrific situation, as you are going to need medical care for your injuries; you will have work; and what about compensation for your pain and suffering? Unfortunately, the drunk driver only has \$25,000 in insurance and your health insurance can legally take this entire \$25,000. You not only get nothing for your pain and suffering, but also you are out thousands of dollars in co-pays/deductibles and lost wages. This is truly a nightmare come to life. Why did my insurance agent not explain to me how important this UM/UIM coverage is? I would have gladly spent the \$20 a month just to have the minimum \$25,000 of UM/UIM coverage, as with this coverage at least there would be some compensation from the car accident.

UM/UIM coverage is the most important insurance coverage to have, as it protects you

from bodily harm caused by a driver who either has too little insurance or no insurance at all. Liability insurance protects you financially. Collision coverage protects the car. UM/UIM coverage protects you as a person because you can use the insurance to pay medical bills, to receive lost wages, and most importantly, to compensate you for pain and suffering caused by someone who is a bad driver and either has too little car insurance or none at all.

Just during the holidays, I had accident victims contact me who were victims of drunk driving accidents caused by drivers with minimal insurance. The drunk drivers had hit several vehicles, so there were multiple claimants. The injured people had collision coverage for their cars, but none of them had UM/UIM coverage. So these victims now became married to the other victims of the drunk driver, as they would all have to share and divide the drunk driver's minimal insurance policy. The division would be made based on injuries and bills and that was the only insurance available for the accident victims for their injuries, lost wages, and pain and suffering. This division of the limits often involves litigation to divide the insurance policy and it can take a year or more to divide the limits. Given that the people did not have any UM/UIM coverage, with or without an attorney they were in the same situation, a bad one, where they were looking at receiving only a small portion of the insurance proceeds in a year. Pursuing the drunk driver personally is throwing good money after bad, as you will be spending money to get a judgment on paper that has cost you several thousand dollars in court costs to obtain, but the judgment is worthless since the drunk driver has nothing to collect against. Without UM/UIM coverage, these victims were always driving and exposed on the road as to any injury claims, as they had coverage if they caused an accident or if they needed to get their vehicle fixed, but they did not have any coverage protecting them from the harm caused by bad drivers with too little insurance or no insurance at all.

As we enter the New Year and we make resolutions, one you might want to do is get UM/UIM coverage on your car, as the monthly cost of such coverage is about the same cost or less of adding streaming services. Just having the minimal UM/UIM coverage of \$25,000 makes a world of difference, as those victims of the drunk drivers would have had \$25,000 with their own company just for their claims. You are allowed to buy UM/UIM coverage up to the limits of your car liability coverage. **If able to, we recommend that you always have UM/UIM coverage equal to your liability limits, as this coverage is most important because it provides compensation for you if you are injured by a driver with too little insurance or none at all.** UM/UIM coverage applies to any passengers in your car; if you are a passenger in someone else's car; and even if you are just walking down the street and get hit. **We cannot emphasize enough the importance of having UM/UIM coverage.** In Las Vegas, there are lots of bad drivers and many with either too little insurance or none at all. For the price of a streaming service, you can buy UM/UIM coverage so that you are protected on the road from these drivers.