

Paladin Insurance Advocates A Public Insurance Adjuster That Works for YOU

By Cheryl Wooten

When a fire, water or storm disaster strikes your home or business, the results can be devastating. Who do you turn to as an advocate, someone to help you receive a fair and equitable settlement? A public insurance adjuster.

Shawn Blank, owner of Paladin Insurance Advocates, is a Certified Public Insurance Adjuster (CPIA) and works directly with the insurance company on behalf of the home or business owner to level the playing field after a claim has been made. Data from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) suggests that public adjusters will typically deliver larger payments to policyholders.

The most common loss experienced by homeowners is fire, followed by water/mold and storm damage. "We get calls every day from people needing help with their insurance claims," says Shawn. "Most people call us after they've experienced problems in getting their claim paid and realize they can't do it by themselves. We work for the insured, not the insurance company. I and my staff will work with the home or business owner



The Paladin Team (L-R): Patti, Tate, Shawn, Barbie and Jessica.



Shawn assessing the fire damage for a homeowner.

every step of the way to be sure they receive exactly what they deserve. We want to get them back into their home or get their business back up and running as quickly as possible."

Shawn has been in the insurance industry for 30 years and has been a CPIA since 2012. "After a fire of my own, I had the desire to help others and be an advocate for the insured. If you try to present a claim on your own, you're at a disadvantage. Remember, insurance companies hire professionals to represent their interests." Paladin has no up-front fees and doesn't get paid until the insured gets paid. In addition, their fees are regulated by the Indiana Department of Insurance.

When a loss does occur, Shawn recommends you contact a public adjuster right away instead of waiting for things to go wrong with the claim. He is licensed in Indiana, Illinois and Michigan and is a member of the National Association of Public Insurance Adjusters. Paladin is a BBB Accredited Business and a member of the Valparaiso Chamber.

In addition to advocating for the insured, Paladin offers a new service for inventorying your home or business. Paladin Inventory Services, headed by Shawn's daughter, Barbie Blank, will come to your home or business and take photos of your contents, especially those items of significant value. "We compile an inventory list, place the photos in a secure digital location and on flash drives, and Paladin keeps a copy," says Barbie. "It's triple redundancy to ensure your contents are documented. When a fire occurs, most people can't remember everything they own, so this is just another way to assist insureds in the event of a loss." The process takes about an hour.

The Paladin team also includes content specialist Jessica Taylor, estimator Tate Kwiecinski and office manager Patti Gildein, who Shawn says is "the backbone of the business!"

Shawn lives in Hebron on a mini farm and attends Gracepoint church in Valparaiso. He has two daughters and will soon be a grandfather for the first time. He enjoys participating in community events and sponsors several fundraisers and non-profit organizations.

To speak with Shawn or the Paladin team on how they can go to bat for you, call 219-286-3903 or visit www.paladincpia.com.



Helping the Insured Receive a Fair and Equitable Settlement
Proud sponsor of VHS Athletics!

PALADIN

INSURANCE ADVOCATES
470 Vale Park Rd., Suite 200

www.paladincpia.com
219-286-3903