



## Offbeat insurance: Alien abduction cover



**Brundha Krishnamoorthi**  
Senior Actuarial Associate  
Chubb

'Do aliens really exist?' is a question which is still up in the air. But alien abduction insurance has been in vogue for a pretty long time now.

Saint Lawrence Agency in Altamonte Springs, Florida, started selling an alien abduction cover in 1987 with a steep surge in sales in September 2019, post the 'storm Area-51' event, which went viral on Facebook. Area-51 is a high surveillance and classified US military facility in Nevada, which is said to house development and test initiatives involving battle spaces, aircraft and defence equipment. As it is shrouded in secrecy, there are several speculations about Area-51, among which 'alien research facility' is the most popular belief. Even though such beliefs are understood to be generally baseless with no concrete evidence, the related Facebook event stimulated a lot of interest and the resulting demand for this insurance.

This product provides cover for those who believe that there is a possibility of them being taken on an intergalactic journey without their consent. It is a lifetime cover which includes cover for outpatient psychiatric care, and also 'sarcasm coverage', which covers the psychological stress due to enduring mockery or sarcasm from an immediate family member following an alien abduction. It is a single premium contract (\$24.95 for the hard copy and \$19.95 for the digital version) which pays out \$1 a year for 10 million years if concrete proof of alien abduction is provided. Photographs of the alien and any bodily implants of unearthly elements are accepted as tangible evidence to process the claim payments.

The agency claims to have sold 6,000 policies, each worth \$10 million. So far, two claims have been reported, among them one has qualified as a valid claim!

*Editor's note: What probably started out as an inside joke for industry insiders has taken on a credence of its own – with surprising demand for such insurance coverage!*