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## FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| obligations may continue. See<br>Instruction 1(b). |
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## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 OMB APPROVAL
OMB Number: 3235-0287
Estimated average burden
hours per response: 0.5

| 1. Name and Addres               |  | J Person <sup>*</sup> | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC FFG ] |                        | tionship of Reporting Per<br>all applicable)<br>Director<br>Officer (give title         | son(s) to Issuer<br>10% Owner<br>Other (specify |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| (Last)<br>711 HIGH STRI          | (First)<br>EET   | (Middle)              | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>07/16/2004                  |                        | below)<br>Sr. VP & Chief M  | below)  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Street)<br>DES MOINES<br>(City) | IA<br>(State)  | 50392<br>(Zip)        | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                        | 6. Indiv<br>Line)<br>X | idual or Joint/Group Filin<br>Form filed by One Rep<br>Form filed by More tha<br>Person | orting Person                                   |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                  | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned |                       |   |                        |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |

|                                 |  | •        | -            |   | -   |               |       |                                    |   |   | 1 |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|--------------|---|---|---------------|-------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | if any 🤺 | Code (Instr. |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and<br>5) |               |       | Securities<br>Beneficially         | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) | , |
|                                 |  |          | Code         | v | Amount  | (A) or<br>(D) | Price | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |   | (1150. 4)   |   |

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| (   |   |  |   |                              |   |  |                                 |  |                    |  |  |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |   | 5. Nu<br>of<br>Deriv<br>Secu<br>Acqu<br>(A) or<br>Dispo<br>of (D)<br>(Instr<br>and 5 | ative<br>rities<br>ired<br>osed | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                    | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |  | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4) | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|   |   |  |   | Code                         | v | (A)  | (D)                             | Date<br>Exercisable  | Expiration<br>Date | Title  | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |   |  |  |  |
| Phantom<br>Stock<br>Units                           | (1)   | 07/16/2004                                 |   | А                            |   | 36.6   |                                 | (2)  | (2)                | Common<br>Stock  | 36.6                                   | \$34.4  | 3,257  | D  |  |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Security converts to common stock on a one-for-one basis.

2. The reported phantom stock units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Select Savings Excess Plan and may be transferred at any time into another investment alternative under the plan. Interests under the plan will be settled upon the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.

Remarks:

## Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of Attorney

07/20/2004

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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