

## Office of Workers' Compensation

## EMPLOYEE'S RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

### District of Columbia Workers' Compensation Law

- You are required by law to promptly report your injury by filing Form No. 7 DCWC, Employee's Notice of Accidental Injury or Occupational Disease, with your employer and the Office of Workers' Compensation within thirty (30) days of the date of injury or the date you have knowledge that the injury is related to your job.
- In order to preserve your right to workers' compensation benefits under the law, you must file a written claim on Form No. 7A DCWC, Employee's Claim Application, within one (1) year after your injury, or within one (1) year after the last payment of benefits. Benefits include indemnity payments for lost wages, medical services and treatment, and vocational rehabilitation.
- Failure to timely file the Notice of Accidental Injury or Occupational Disease, Form No. 7 DCWC, or the Employee's Claim Application, Form No. 7A DCWC, may bar your right to future compensation. Copies of these forms and other pertinent information are available on the Department of Employment Services, Office of Workers' Compensation's website. The website address is <http://does.dc.gov>.
- You may not sue your employer as a result of a work-related injury or disease, the Workers' Compensation Law is your exclusive remedy.
- You have the right to choose a treating physician. Once you choose a treating physician you may not change physicians unless you get approval from your employer's insurance company or the Office of Workers' Compensation. Medical treatment includes medical services, supplies, prosthetic devices, and prescriptions. Medical services include treatment by a dentist, osteopath, podiatrist, and chiropractor.
- Compensation is not paid for the first three (3) days of disability unless the disability exceeds fourteen (14) days. Compensation is paid at the rate of 66 ⅔% of your average weekly wage. Unless your employer controverts your right to compensation within fourteen (14) days after he/she has knowledge of the injury, the first installment of compensation becomes due on the 14th day and must be paid within fourteen (14) days after it is due.
- You have the right to request an informal conference or a formal hearing on disputes arising on matters regarding your claim and you have the right to be represented by an attorney or other representative if you so desire.
- You may be entitled to vocational rehabilitation services if you are unable to return to the job you had prior to the injury.
- For injuries occurring on or after 4/16/1999, disability benefits for any one (1) injury causing temporary or permanent partial disability shall be limited to 500 weeks. However, within sixty (60) days of the expiration of the 500 week duration, an employee may petition the Mayor for an extension of up to 167 weeks.
- Your employer is required to advise you of your rights and obligations under the Workers' Compensation Law and if you need further information, call the Office of Workers' Compensation at (202) 671-1000 or fax (202) 671-1929. The web address is <http://does.dc.gov>.