

Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation

What is Worker's Compensation?

If you are hurt while working, every state has a law that pays you for loss of your wages and pays for your medical bills. But every state has different statutes, rules and regulations.

What is Worker's Compensation in Pennsylvania?

In Pennsylvania, you have a right to compensation for an injury when you have an employment relationship, have had an injury arising in the course of employment and it was related to employment. You must tell your employer about your injury within 120 days of the injury. You must file a claim within three years of the injury. This is made with the Bureau of Worker's Compensation at the Department of Labor and Industry in Harrisburg. You are paid two thirds of your average weekly wage for a loss of work. You are not paid for the first week of the loss of work. Your average weekly wage is what you have been making from all jobs you may be working at, not only the job you were injured at, over the previously 13 weeks from the date of the injury. It includes all income, overtime-accrued vacation, and other income benefits from employment from the job you were injured on, or any other job you were working for 13 weeks prior to the injury.

Do they pay my medical bills as a result of my injury?

Yes. Even if you have no medical coverage at work, your employer must pay your medical bills.

This means for emergency room, x rays, medicine, hospital care, doctors appointments, operations, physical therapy, and chiropractic care. But for medical treatment, if your employer has given you a list of medical doctors or treating physicians, you must take treatment with one of those "listed" physicians. There has to be at least four medical doctors on the list, and one chiropractor. You can go to your own doctor, but they will not be paid for by your employer under worker's compensation. You must go to the employer's doctor for 90 days after the injury. Then you can go to any doctor of your choice for treatment as long as the treatment is for the injury and is medically reasonable and necessary. That doctor must notify the employer of their treatment within 30 days.

Be sure that you tell your doctor that you are seeking treatment for a worker's compensation injury. For instance, if you hurt your back and you go to the doctor and tell

him you back hurts, but do not tell him you hurt it at work, and he does not sent in the bill to your employer, then after 30 days the bill is yours, and you cannot claim it against your employer.

How do you apply for Worker's Compensation?

If your employer acknowledges your claim and pays you, you do not need to file. If your employer denies you claim, or refuses to acknowledge that you have a work injury, you have to file a claim with the Bureau of Workers Compensation, Department of Labor and Industry, in Harrisburg. You can do this over the internet at <http://www.state.pa.us>. There is no filing fee.

Why do you need an attorney to represent you for a workers' compensation claim?

The worker compensation law is a result of legislation, regulation, and court decisions that can be a difficult to understand. On top of this, many employers and their insurance companies will fight any claim because they have an attitude that if you are injured on a job, it must be your fault and they should not pay for your loss of wages, or your medical bill. They look at you as an unnecessary cost. You need an attorney because you need someone to watch out for your interest, and your needs. You need an attorney to steer you through the maze of the law and regulations.

What is the cost of having an attorney represent me?

The fee for representation before the Worker's Compensation Bureau is a contingent fee of 20 per cent of your Workers Compensation. What that means is that if you lose your claim, you would own nothing for the representation of the Attorney. If you win, you would own 20 per cent of what Worker Compensation would pay you.

Attorney Morgan does not charge you for an appointment to discuss you claim and decide whether you want him to represent you.

Why should Attorney Morgan represent me?

Attorney Morgan has been representing injured workers for over 39 years for Worker Compensation claims. He understands what is needed to win you claim, and how to keep the benefits coming to you. Also, Attorney John Morgan has his sole office at 115 South Washington Street in the City of Butler. He lives and has lived in the Butler Community. He will represent you personally. He does not refer your case to another attorney. He is available for you in your town to keep up on what your condition is and on how your case is proceeding.

Whom should I call if I have any questions?

Call my office at 724-283-2992 and speak to me. I take telephone calls. If am not in my office, I will call you back as soon as possible. Again, there is no charge for me to talk to you, to see if I can help you.