

# How to respond to a workplace injury:

For life-threatening medical emergencies, call 911.

For non-life-threatening injuries, call the 24/7 Nurse Line at (844) 581-0828 to report the incident and get your employee the right care



#### Workers' comp claims

You can file your first report of injury for a workers' comp claim in three simple ways:

Call the 24/7 claim intake line within 24 hours of the incident: (844) 581-0828

Submit the claim information online here

Email the claims team within 24 hours of he incident: claims@pieinsurance.com

- In your email, please include the following:
- The name of your business
- The policy number
- Reporting party's contact information (name. phone, email)
- The name, phone, and email address of the injured employee
- Date of the injury or accident
- A description of the injury or accident

#### Thank you.











COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

# NOTICE



IF YOU ARE INJURED ON THE JOB, YOU HAVE RIGHTS UNDER THE COLORADO WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT. YOUR EMPLOYER IS REQUIRED BY LAW TO HAVE WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE. THE COST OF THE INSURANCE IS PAID ENTIRELY BY YOUR EMPLOYER. IF YOUR EMPLOYER DOES NOT HAVE WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE, YOU STILL HAVE RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW.

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW FOR YOUR EMPLOYER TO HAVE A POLICY CONTRARY TO THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN THE COLORADO WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT. YOUR EMPLOYER IS INSURED THROUGH:

IF YOU ARE INJURED ON THE JOB, NOTIFY YOUR EMPLOYER AS SOON AS YOU ARE ABLE, AND REPORT YOUR INJURY TO YOUR EMPLOYER IN WRITING WITHIN 10 DAYS AFTER THE INJURY. IF YOU DO NOT REPORT YOUR INJURY PROMPTLY, YOU MAY STILL PURSUE A CLAIM.

ADVISE YOUR EMPLOYER IF YOU NEED MEDICAL TREATMENT. IF YOU OBTAIN MEDICAL CARE, BE SURE TO REPORT TO YOUR EMPLOYER AND HEALTH-CARE PROVIDER HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE THE INJURY OCCURRED.

YOU MAY FILE A WORKER'S CLAIM FOR COMPENSATION WITH THE DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION. TO OBTAIN FORMS OR INFORMATION REGARDING THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM, THE CUSTOMER SERVICE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION IS:



Division of Workers' Compensation 633 17th Street, Suite 400 Denver, CO 80202



303-318-8700 1-888-390-7936 (Toll-Free) cdle.colorado.gov/dwc





# AVISO



SI SE LESIONA EN EL TRABAJO, TIENE DERECHOS BAJO LA LEY DE COMPENSACIÓN DE TRABAJADORES DE COLORADO. SU EMPLEADOR ESTÁ OBLIGADO POR LEY A TENER UN SEGURO DE COMPENSACIÓN PARA TRABAJADORES. EL COSTO DEL SEGURO ES PAGADO EN SU TOTALIDAD POR SU EMPLEADOR. SI SU EMPLEADOR NO TIENE SEGURO DE COMPENSACIÓN PARA TRABAJADORES, USTED TODAVÍA TIENE DERECHOS BAJO LA LEY.

ES CONTRA LA LEY QUE SU EMPLEADOR TENGA UNA PÓLIZA CONTRARIA A LOS REQUISITOS DE INFORMES ESTABLECIDOS EN LA LEY DE COMPENSACIÓN DE TRABAJADORES DE COLORADO. SU EMPLEADOR ESTÁ ASEGURADO A TRAVÉS DE:

SI SE LESIONA EN EL TRABAJO, NOTIFIQUE A SU EMPLEADOR TAN PRONTO COMO PUEDA E INFORME SU LESIÓN A SU EMPLEADOR POR ESCRITO DENTRO DE LOS 10 DÍAS POSTERIORES A LA LESIÓN. SI NO INFORMA SU LESIÓN CON PRONTITUD, AÚN PUEDE PRESENTAR UN RECLAMO.

INFORME A SU EMPLEADOR SI NECESITA TRATAMIENTO MÉDICO. SI OBTIENE ATENCIÓN MÉDICA, ASEGÚRESE DE INFORMAR A SU EMPLEADOR Y PROVEEDOR DE ATENCIÓN MÉDICA CÓMO, CUÁNDO Y DÓNDE OCURRIÓ LA LESIÓN.

PUEDE PRESENTAR UN RECLAMO DE COMPENSACIÓN DEL TRABAJADOR ANTE LA DIVISIÓN DE COMPENSACIÓN DE LOS TRABAJADORES. PARA OBTENER FORMULARIOS O INFORMACIÓN SOBRE EL SISTEMA DE COMPENSACIÓN DE TRABAJADORES, LA INFORMACIÓN DE CONTACTO DE SERVICIO AL CLIENTE PARA LA DIVISIÓN DE COMPENSACIÓN DE LOS TRABAJADORES ES:



Division of Workers' Compensation 633 17th Street, Suite 400 Denver, CO 80202



303-318-8700 1-888-390-7936 (Llame Gratis) cdle.colorado.gov/dwc





## Know Your Rights as an Injured Worker

### **Your Rights**

You are strongly encouraged to review this information about the workers' compensation process and your rights as an injured worker. If you have questions, please contact your adjuster or the Division of Workers' Compensation (Division). You have the right to hire an attorney to assist you. You should confirm with your attorney what fees they may charge you for their services.

You have the right to contest any portion of your workers' compensation claim by filing an *Application for Hearing* with the Office of Administrative Courts (OAC), which is available at oac.colorado.gov. At the hearing, you have the right to present evidence, witnesses, and testify. You may also request penalties for any violation of the workers' compensation statute or rules, including late payment of benefits or improper refusal to pay benefits.

Both you and the insurance carrier have a right to request a prehearing conference with a judge. A judge in a prehearing conference can only address procedural issues and cannot award you any benefits.

### **Reporting Your Injury**

After reporting your injury to your employer in writing, your employer will report the injury to its insurance carrier. You should also report your injury directly to the Division by filing a *Worker's Claim for Compensation (WC 15)*, which is available at cdle.colorado.gov/dwc. This form must be filed within 2 years of your injury.

#### Medical Treatment

Your employer must provide you with a list of at least 4 doctors who can provide you treatment. This is referred to as the designated provider list. The doctor you choose from the designated provider list will be your doctor for your claim. You have the right to make a one-time change to any doctor on that list within 90 days of your injury. You may also complete a *Request for Change of Physician (WC 197)* to change to another doctor at any time. The insurance carrier may deny your request to change your doctor. If the insurance carrier denies your request, you may file an *Application for Hearing* with the OAC. Your doctor may also refer you to other doctors or specialists.

#### **Admissions and Denials**

The insurance carrier will either admit or deny your claim. If your claim is admitted, or accepted, the insurance carrier will send you an Admission of Liability and pay for reasonable and necessary medical treatment. You may also be eligible for benefits for lost wages and permanent disability. If your claim is denied, the insurance carrier will send you a Notice of Contest. You can dispute the denial of your claim by filing an Application for Hearing with the OAC. The insurance carrier may continue to pay for treatment while they investigate your claim, but that does not mean they are admitting liability for your claim.

## Benefit Payments and Reimbursements

An Admission of Liability is a form that explains what benefits the insurance carrier will be paying. The form will include an average weekly wage (AWW) which represents your typical weekly pay before your injury. Make sure that the amount listed in the AWW is correct. Notify your adjuster or employer if there are any mistakes in your AWW.

If you cannot work in any capacity, and you miss more than 3 days of work because of your injury, you may be eligible for **Temporary Total Disability (TTD) benefits**. TTD is equal to two-thirds of your AWW. You may be entitled to **Temporary Partial Disability (TPD)** if you are working fewer hours or earning less money. Tell your adjuster if you have more than one job at the time of your injury.

If your injury resulted in a permanent scar, limp, or other publicly visible change to your appearance, you may be entitled to a **disfigurement award**.

You can request reimbursement for **mileage** and parking related to medical visits and to pick up medications or supplies related to the injury. You must request reimbursement within 120 days of travel. The insurance carrier must pay you within 30 days, or they must provide written notice stating why the reimbursement was denied.

| Insurance Carrier<br>Contact Information |
|--|
|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

#### **Medical Bills**

When the insurance carrier admits liability for your claim, you are entitled to any reasonable and necessary medical treatment related to your injury. Your doctor cannot bill you for authorized medical treatment. If you receive a bill for authorized medical treatment, including prescriptions, notify your claims adjuster immediately.

You have a right to copies of all of your medical records. You may also opt out of receiving these records. You also have the right to decide who attends medical appointments with you and whether you would like to have a Nurse Case Manager attend your appointments.

The insurance carrier can object to or deny some treatment. If this happens, you may file an *Application for Hearing* with the OAC to resolve the dispute. You may seek treatment or opinions outside of the workers' compensation system; however, you will have to pay for those treatments and opinions yourself.

#### Conclusion of Your Claim

When there is no longer medical treatment that will improve your condition, your doctor will place you at Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI). The doctor may recommend maintenance treatment to keep you at your current condition. If your doctor believes that the injury has resulted in long-lasting (permanent) impairment, your doctor will provide a rating of the impairment or refer you to another doctor who will. An impairment is a loss of function of any body part or body system.

#### (Conclusion of Your Claim, continued)

When this happens, the insurance carrier must accept the doctor's opinion by filing a *Final Admission of Liability* <u>or</u> dispute it by requesting a Division Independent Medical Examination (DIME).

The Final Admission of Liability will detail all benefits that have and remain to be paid on your claim. If the doctor determines you have sustained a permanent disability, you may receive a Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) award. The amount you will receive depends on the extent of the disability and the body part that was injured. The Final Admission of Liability will also indicate if the insurance carrier will provide medical maintenance treatment to maintain MMI. If you cannot work at all, you may also be entitled to Permanent Total Disability (PTD) benefits.

If you disagree with any portion of the Final Admission, you must object AND either complete a Notice and Proposal and Application for a DIME or file an Application for Hearing with the OAC within 30 days of the date it was mailed. If you disagree with the doctor's findings of MMI or the whole person permanent impairment rating you received, you must request a DIME. If you request a DIME, you will have to pay a fee to the doctor. In some cases, you may qualify to have your fee delayed until your claim is resolved.

You have 6 years from the date of injury or 2 years from the date of last payment of any benefits to request a reopening. If the insurance carrier fails to voluntarily reopen your claim, you may file an *Application for Hearing with the OAC*.

### **Important Resources**

Colorado Division of Workers'
Compensation website:
cdle.colorado.gov/dwc

Division phone number: 303-318-8700

**Division email address:** cdle\_wccustomer\_service@state.co.us

Injured Worker Guide: codwc.box.com/v/InjuredWorkerGuide

Guía del Trabajador Lesionado: codwc.box.com/v/InjuredWorkerGuide-Espanol

Workers' Compensation Benefits Calculator: dowc.cdle.state.co.us/benefits Office of Administrative Courts (OAC) website: oac.colorado.gov

**OAC phone number:** 303-866-2000

OAC email address: oac-dvr@state.co.us

#### Sample Mileage Reimbursement Tracking Sheet Injured worker's name Claim number Date Traveled from (include address) Traveled to (include name and address of doctor. Round trip Parking, public therapist, pharmacy, etc.) mileage transportation Sample: Sample: Sample: Dr. Smith Sample: Sample: 4653 Oak St., Littleton 1/1/21 755 Sherman St. Denver \$2.50 \$ Total mileage reimbursement requested \$ Total parking/public transportation requested \$ Total reimbursement requested