



South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission

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August 12, 2013

Frequently Asked Questions About Informal Conferences

When you have been injured at work, it is your employer's responsibility to pay for your authorized medical care and treatment, mileage to the doctor; as well as lost wages when the doctor writes you out of work. When the doctor releases you, an Informal Conference may be scheduled to determine if you have been released by your treating physician, have any permanent disability or disfigurement; and to make sure you have received all the proper benefits due you.

What is an Informal Conference?

An Informal Conference is a meeting to discuss the settlement of your claim and to make sure all proper benefits have been paid. A representative from the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission will meet with you and a representative of your employer. The Commission's representative will ensure the settlement is fair to all parties.

The purpose is to reach an agreement that is fair to both parties on the amount you should be paid if you have any permanent disability and whether or not further medical care and treatment should be provided.

It is also a time you may ask any questions you may have about your claim.

The conference usually lasts about 15 minutes. We ask you to arrive early so you will be ready when your name is called.

What should I expect?

The Commissioner or a representative from the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Commission will review your benefits as well as review all your medical reports concerning your injury. You will be able to talk with the Commission's representative and your employer's insurance representative about your claim to try to reach a settlement. If all agree on the proper benefits to be paid, you will be asked to sign a settlement agreement. **You do not have to bring anything with you to the conference.** The insurance carrier is required to provide all necessary information to the Commission.

What are my benefits?

Workers' Compensation benefits include three things: payment for lost wages, authorized medical care and mileage; as well as payment for permanent disability. The law does not allow an award for pain and suffering or loss of companionship. This will all be explained to you by the Commission's representative at the Conference.

What if we cannot agree?

If an agreement is not reached or the Commission's representative does not think it is fair to all parties, the case will be set for a hearing before the Jurisdictional Commissioner. . You will receive a hearing notice thirty days before the scheduled hearing with the date, time, and place of the hearing. The employer's insurance carrier is required to be represented by an attorney. You are not required to have an attorney, but may have one if you choose. If you choose to get an attorney, you are responsible for paying their fee.

What if I am unable to attend?

If you are unable to attend, immediately contact the Informal Conference Scheduling Office at conferences@wcc.sc.gov or 803.737.5734 or 803.737.5740. If necessary, the Commission may reschedule the conference. Failure to attend your scheduled conference without prior notice to the Commission could cause your case to be dismissed.

For more information, visit
www.wcc.sc.gov