

Workers' Compensation Injuries

The Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) administers the workers' compensation laws of the State of Connecticut with the ultimate goal of ensuring that workers injured on the job receive prompt payment of lost work time benefits and attendant medical expenses. The Commission facilitates voluntary agreements, adjudicates disputes, makes findings and awards, hears and rules on appeals, and closes out cases through full and final stipulated settlements.

Groups Involved in Workman's Comp:

The ***State of Connecticut*** is self-insured. However it has a company who serves as its administrator for state employee claims. This administrative organization is called ***G.A.B. Robins of North America***. Within our agency, The Department of Correction, we have a ***DOC Work Comp Unit***. That department works with GAB to coordinate payments, reimbursements and time accrual of our injured members. And last but not least, there is **our AFSCME Corrections Employees Local 1565**. Our Local has union stewards specially trained in workman's compensation law. These stewards represent union members by filing documents, advocating on the member's behalf with GAB and the state and presenting their cases at informal and formal workman compensation hearings.

The Process

The intent of the Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC) is to expedite the claims process. Most insurance companies do not like to pay out benefits. After all, they are businesses that seek to make profit, not pay out claims. At times, they make it difficult for the injured worker (the claimant) by denying claims, discontinuing benefits

and refusing to pay bills. At times, the insurance adjusters may not return phone calls, act belligerent and otherwise just make life difficult for the worker who is already experiencing pain and suffering.

Union members have the option of representing themselves, hiring a lawyer and having a union workers' comp representative assist them in their case.

The FIRST STEP IS YOURS

Upon injury or occupational illness,

1. Notify your supervisor
2. Do an Incident Report
3. Fill out a 207 Workers' Comp Package
4. Have your supervisor sign off on #'s 1 & 2 and....
5. Have complete copy set made for yourself. Your union work comp rep will need a copy of it also. Don't leave the facility without this package copy in hand.
6. ***If you were assaulted by an inmate, make sure that your supervisor redacts (crosses out) all of your personal information such as date of birth, social security number, home address, employee number, on the First Report of Injury 207 supervisors form. This is essential so that the State Police does not have this information available to give to the inmate's attorney or to the inmate if requested under FOI.*
7. Once you have been given your GAB case number or the Worker's Comp file number, fill out a Form 30-C for the permanency claim. If you are going to use the Union, there is a section on it for who is representing you. Also included with the Form 30-C must be medical and facility documentation regarding the claim. I will assist you in these matters.

In Solidarity,

Herbert Furhman & James Singleton Local 1565 Workers'
Compensation Representatives

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