

Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation

270 Peachtree Street, NW

Atlanta, GA 30303-1299

Judge Carolyn Hall, Chairman



Established in 1920 by the Georgia legislature, the State Board of Workers' Compensation serves over a quarter of a million employers in Georgia and over 3.8 million workers. The State Board is funded by assessments from insurance companies and self-insured employers. An employee that is injured on the job and is covered by the law may be eligible for replacement of a portion of lost wages, medical payments, vocational rehabilitation services and other benefits.

Prior to the passage of the Workers' Compensation Act, an employee who was injured on the job could not expect benefits from the employer. Men, women, and children were often subjected to harsh and oppressive working conditions with little or no recourse for work-related injuries. Courts often denied recovery to employees by holding that employees assumed risks in taking the job, were negligent, or were barred from recovery by the negligence of a fellow employee. Filing a suit in court was also unsatisfactory because trials were expensive and often lengthy. This posed a problem to an employee who needed money immediately to pay for medical expenses and replace lost wages. A successful suit could also force a small company out of business.

Today, the workers' compensation law provides for specific benefits to be paid to employees for injuries arising out of and in the course of employment, without regard to negligence or fault, and at the same time, provides the employer with limited liability. In Georgia, employers obtain worker's compensation coverage through private insurers or programs of self-insurance. The rights granted an employee under the law preclude any other legal remedies against an employer by an employee due to a work-related injury.

The law is applicable to all employers, including public corporations and nonprofit organizations that have at least three full-time or part-time employees.

There are several categories of workers who are specifically exempted from the workers' compensation law: federal government employees, railroad employees, farmers and farm laborers, and domestic servants, to name a few.

If facts concerning a claim are contested or liability is questioned, either the employee or the employer/insurer may request a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge to resolve the issues. If either party is dissatisfied with the decision, a party may request a review by the Appellate Division. Further appeals may be taken through the court system; however, the courts can review only disputed questions of law, while Administrative Law Judges and the Appellate Division determine both factual and legal issues.

General Telephone List

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - Stan Carter

404/656-2048

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER Thomas Risko	404/656-2314
ADR/MEDIATION & CHANGE IN PHYSICIAN Judge David Imahara	404/656-2939
APPEALS DIVISION Lamar Samples	404/656-9688
APPEALS DIVISION DIRECTOR Delece Brooks	404/656-9688
ATTORNEY FEES Judge Janice Askin	404/656-3327
CASE STATUS/CLAIMS ASSISTANCE Cathy Gillespie and Tamara Underwood-Sellers	404/656-3818
CLAIMS PROCESSING-QUALITY ASSURANCE Dana Prather	404/651-2017
COPY UNIT	404/656-2924
COVERAGE David Shirley	404/656-3692
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES Pam Carter	404/656-3815
DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE Martine Schweitzer	404/656-2048
FORMS (TO ORDER) Mailroom	404/656-3870
ENFORCEMENT Stan Bexley	404/657-7285
LISCENSE/INSURANCE/SELF-INSURERS Kathy Oliver	404/656-4893
LUMP SUM & ADVANCE PAYMENTS Craig Henderson	404/651-5078
MANAGED CARE & CATASTROPHIC DISABILITY	404/651-7831

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SAFETY LIBRARY Hilary Williams	404/656-5656
STIPULATED SETTLEMENTS Craig Henderson	404/651-5078
SUBSEQUENT INJURY TRUST FUND David Taylor	404/206-6355
SUPERIOR COURT APPEALS	404/656-2938
SWITCHBOARD	404/656-3875
Toll Free Number	800-533-0682
TRAINING Hilary Williams	404/656-5656

Board Members

Judge Carolyn Hall, Chairman



Judge Viola Drew, Director



Judge Warren Massey, Director



The three-member Board constitutes the Appellate Division and is responsible for the administration of the Workers' Compensation Act. They are appointed by the Governor for a term of four years. The Board members are Chairman Carolyn Hall, Director Viola S. Drew and Director Warren Massey.

The responsibilities of the Board are divided into judicial, administrative, and regulatory functions.

In their judicial capacity, the three members of the Board function as a three-judge appellate review panel called the Appellate Division. The Appellate Division hears and reviews cases when a party to a claim files an appeal from an award of an Administrative Law Judge of the Trial Division. The Appellate Division issues a written decision either adopting, amending, or reversing the decision issued by the Administrative Law Judge. The decision of the Appellate Division may then be appealed as a matter of right to the Superior Court having jurisdiction in the county of injury. A party dissatisfied with the order of the Superior Court may then file an application for appeal to the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court of Georgia; however, the right to file an appeal is discretionary with these courts.

The Appellate Division issues orders approving settlements which have been agreed upon and submitted by the parties in a claim. The judicial function also includes the

responsibility of reviewing and issuing orders in claims where the employee is requesting an advance or lump sum payment of future benefits.

The administration and regulatory functions include responsibility for maintaining the efficient monitoring of all claims and benefit payments to injured workers, ensuring that employers maintain required insurance coverage, approving applications of insurance companies to write workers' compensation insurance and applications of employers to act as self-insurers, and participating in programs to explain the functions of the Board to the general public.

The members of the Board work with an advisory council to develop policies and laws affecting workers' compensation and each year, with the advice of the council, promulgates and adopts rules and regulations affecting workers' compensation processes.

You can access the Georgia Statutes, Rules & Regulations on our website at www.sbwc.georgia.gov