

## OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The Workers' Compensation Program processes claims and monitors the payment of benefits to injured private-sector employees in the District of Columbia. Disputes between claimants and employers (or their insurance carriers) are mediated and employers are monitored to ensure compliance with insurance coverage requirements. The program administers the Special/Second Injury Fund, which provides benefits in cases of uninsured employers or in instances where an injury combines with a pre-existing disability to cause a substantially greater disability. Also, the program approves lump-sum settlements, assesses penalties and fines for non-compliance with the law and monitors vocational rehabilitation.

### 1. How do I file a claim?

You are required by law to promptly report your injury by filing [DCWC Form 7, Employee's Notice of Accidental Injury or Occupational Disease](#), with your employer and the Office of Workers' Compensation (OWC) within thirty (30) days of the date of injury or the date you have knowledge that the injury is related to your job. In order to preserve your right to workers' compensation benefits under the law, you must file a written claim on [DCWC Form 7a, Employee's Claim Application](#), within one (1) year after your injury, or within one (1) year after the last payment of benefits.

If you are a District of Columbia government employee who has sustained a work-related injury, contact the public-sector workers' compensation program at the DC Office of Risk Management. The phone number is (202) 727-8600.

### 2. Can I choose my own doctor?

Yes. You may choose your own physician. If you are unconscious or badly injured and your employer sends you to a doctor or emergency room, you may still choose your own doctor after you are released. Once you choose a treating physician you may not change the physician unless you get approval from your employer's insurance company or the Office of Workers' Compensation.

### 3. How much compensation is paid to an injured worker?

66 2/3 percent of his/her average weekly wage and medical expenses based on 113% of Medicare's reimbursement amounts are paid.

### 4. What is the maximum and minimum compensation rate?

Please visit the DOES website ([www.does.dc.gov](http://www.does.dc.gov)), Office of Workers' Compensation, Maximum-Minimum Compensation Rate/Supplemental Allowance, for current and historical maximum and minimum rates.

### 5. If my claim is denied by the employer or my employer stops paying me benefits and subsequently denies my claim, what do I do?

You can request an informal conference with a claims examiner who will issue an informal conference recommendation within thirty (30) days of the conference date or you can go directly to a formal hearing by filing an [Application for Formal Hearing](#) with the following:

#### Administrative Hearings Division (AHD)

4058 Minnesota Avenue, N.E., Fourth Floor  
Washington, DC 20019  
Phone: (202) 671-2233

**6. Are employers required to have workers' compensation insurance in DC?**

Yes, if an employer has one (1) or more employees, the employer is required to have workers' compensation insurance coverage. An employer is also entitled to apply for self-insurance, but must be approved by this office.

**7. Are homeowners in DC required to have workers' compensation insurance for domestic workers?**

Yes, if one or more domestic workers are employed for 240 hours or more during any calendar quarter in the same or previous year.

**8. Upon receiving knowledge of a job-related injury, what must the employer do?**

An employer must file a [DCWC Form 8 , Employer's First Report of Injury or Occupational Disease](#), as soon as possible after knowledge of an occupational injury or disease to one of his/her employees, but no later than ten (10) days thereafter. Failure to file this form shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00.

**9. If I go to the doctor - Who pays the bill?**

The self-insured employer or insurance carrier will be responsible for paying medical bills on a compensable claim.

**10. Where do I mail the forms - What is the office address?**

The Office of Workers' Compensation is located at 4058 Minnesota Avenue, N.E., Third Floor, Washington, DC 20019. The mailing address can also be found on the OWC forms.

**DC DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES****Labor Standards Bureau****Office of Workers' Compensation**

4058 Minnesota Avenue N.E., Third Floor

Washington, DC 20019

Phone: (202) 671-1000

**Hours of Operation:**

Monday to Thursday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm | Friday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm



GOVERNMENT OF THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR