

Missouri Workers' Compensation At-A-Glance

Missouri Division of Workers' Compensation www.labor.mo.gov/dwc/

Jurisdiction (287.110)

- 1. Injuries and O.D. contracted in State
- 2. Contract of employment in State, or
- 3. Employment principally localized in State

Limitations (287.430)

1. File Claim within 2 years of injury or death or last payment on account of injury (additional year if Report of Injury not filed unless lack of filing due to failure of notice)

Report of Injury (287.380)

1. Must notify Division within 30 days of knowledge of accident and, within one month, file complete report of injury - if furnish medical aid or compensation. Failure to do so can result in criminal and monetary charges.

Burden of Proof

- 1. Accident/exposure must be the prevailing factor in causing the injury and resulting medical condition. (287.020(3)(2)(a)) and must be due to a work-related hazard
- 2. Repetitive Trauma work must be the prevailing factor causing both resulting medical condition and disability treated as occupational disease if exposure is less than 3 months and repetitive motion with prior employer the prevailing factor, then prior employer liable (287.067)

Reduction of Benefits

- 1. Safety Rule or Device failure to use or follow may result in 25-50% reduction in compensation (287.120(5))
- 2. Drugs & Alcohol fail to obey rule or policy then 50% reduction in compensation if injury sustained in conjunction with use (287.120(6)(1) (a)) Total defense if non-prescribed drugs or alcohol was proximate cause (287.120(6)(2))
- 3. Penalties apply to all benefits medical, TTD, PPD, PTD, and death

Notice of Injury (287.127(2))

1. Must be reported within 30 days or for O.D. reported within 30 days employee is reasonably aware of work relatedness

AWW/Rate (287.250)

- 1. AWW 13 weeks preceding injury (most cases)
- 2. Rate 2/3 of AWW subject to max & min.

Benefits

- 1. Medical reasonably required to cure and relieve the effects of the injury (287.140)
 - a. Treaters Employer controls/directs medical care, but can forfeit same (287.140(10))
 - b. Mileage if treatment outside local or metropolitan area from employee's principal place of employment

2. TTD

- a. Up to 400 weeks (287.170)
- b. Waiting period 3 days during which employer is open for purpose of operating business if disability lasts more than 14 days first 3 days retroactive (287/160(1))
- c. Basis for termination
 - 1. Return to work
 - 2. Reaches MMI
 - 3. Received unemployment comp (287.170 (2)(3))
 - 4. If terminated from employment due to post-injury misconduct (287.170 (2)(4))
 - *Must notify employee on termination of benefits (287.203)

3. TPD (297.180)

- a. Up to 100 weeks, 2/3 difference between average earnings prior to accident and amount able to earn during disability (287.180)
- b. Must notify employee on termination of benefits (287.203)
- 4. PPD (287.190)
 - a. Per scheduled injuries under 287.190 (1-4)

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- 5. PTD (287.200)
- a. For lifetime of employee if unemployable in open labor market due to work injury
 - May owe benefits to dependents on death of employee "Schoemehl cases" (Schoemehl cases abrogated by statutory change in 2008)
 - Second Injury Fund may be liable for PTD if disability due to combination of prior and current disabilities
- 6. Death (287.240) as amended effective 08/28/2017
 - a. Burial expense not to exceed \$5000.00
 - b. Death benefits to dependents
 - c. Dependents
 - i. Spouse who is actually dependent for support on employee's wages at time of injury – life or two year lump sum payment on remarriage
 - ii. Child natural, posthumous, adopted, or claimable on Fed. Tax Return
 - iii. Paid until 18, or 22 in college or Service, unless physically or mentally incapable of wage earning
- 7. Enhanced benefits where injury is one of nine designated "ODs due to toxic exposure"

Subrogation (287.150)

1. Employer/carrier entitled to subrogation from 3rd party recovery minus proportionate share of expenses of recovery, including reasonable attorney fee "Ruediger" Formula - W.C. paid/gross 3rd party recovery x net 3rd party recovery = subrogation amount due employer/insurer. As of 01/01/2014 no subrogation where the injury is one of the nine "ODs due to toxic exposure"

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