

Work Comp Connection



August 2014 Newsletter

Division of Workers Compensation:
Serving Kansas for more than 100 years

Changes in Unusual Exertion requirement for recovery of WC benefits

Effective July 1, 2014, Senate Sub. for HB 2023, as signed by Governor Sam Brownback, became law. The bill removes the requirement of unusual exertion for the recovery of workers compensation benefits in cases involving coronary disease, coronary artery disease or cerebrovascular injury by firefighters or law enforcement officers. In order to prove a claim, a covered, injured public safety employee needs to show: the injury was caused by a specific event that occurred in the course and scope of employment; the coronary or cerebrovascular injury occurred within 24 hours of the specific event; and the specific event was the prevailing factor in causing the disease or injury.



Get the Latest News

What's Happening at KDOL Workers Comp?

Find the [Latest News](#) about legislative updates, Division web launches, notices to insurance providers, injured workers, employers and other information at the top of the Workers Compensation website. Monitor this site to find out what's new.

New Benefit Rates

Our [Current and Historic Benefit Levels](#) page has been updated with the new maximum weekly benefit rate effective for accidents occurring July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Updates also include the new minimum weekly survivors benefit and the calendar year 2013 statewide average weekly wage. The [K-WC 107 Benefit Card](#) and the [K-WC 1070-A Tabla De Beneficios Maximos](#) (both revised June 2014) are also available on the [Forms and Publications](#) page under the heading Accident Reports and Benefits.

Seminar Registration Using KanPay to Process Credit Card Payment

The Kansas Department of Labor is now using KanPay to process credit card payments for security purposes. You will receive a KanPay receipt of payment and a Seminar Registration Confirmation (if paying by credit card online) or a Notification of Registration (if paying by credit card and mailing registration). Seminar Registration Confirmation and Notification of Registration will contain your Group ID needed to download handouts.



Meet the 2014 Seminar Sponsors



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Who's Working for You?

Jose Castillo received his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from West Texas State University and his Juris Doctorate from the Washburn University School of Law. Jose began working as an Ombudsman in the Public Resource section prior to spearheading the Mediation Program at the Division in 1996.



Jose supervises the Legal/Judicial section and is the Division's Records Custodian. He oversees claims administered by the Division as a result of bankrupt self-insureds, serves as a legal advisor to all other units and assists the Director by special request.

KDOL Secretary Lana Gordon appointed Wichita attorney Ali N. Marchant to a four-year term as a Workers Compensation Administrative Law Judge in Wichita, starting July 28. The vacancy was created by the retirement of Judge John Clark who is stepping down after serving in that capacity since 1988.



Marchant has been an attorney with Fleeson, Goings, Coulson, & Kitch, L.L.C. in Wichita since March 2007 where she focused primarily on workers compensation cases, representing both claimants and respondents. She has also been an instructor at Hutchinson Community College the past two years. Marchant received her Juris Doctor degree from the Washburn University School of Law, her bachelor's degree from the University of Kansas, and was admitted to the Kansas Bar in 2007.

KDOL's Workers Compensation division has 10 administrative law judges throughout the state whose primary function is to conduct timely hearings in contested workers compensation claims and issue decisions as they apply to the Workers Compensation Act.

Fast Facts

- The Workers Compensation Fraud and Abuse section does not investigate misconduct by insurance carriers or agents. Contact www.ksinsurance.org/consumers/complaint.htm for more information.
- Registered attendees can begin downloading handouts from the seminar's website at www.dol.ks.gov/WorkComp/seminar.aspx at 8 a.m. September 18. You must use your Group ID to access handouts.

DOL News