

Work Comp Connection

June 2017 Newsletter



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



Changes in the Maximum Weekly Benefits July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL), Labor Market Information Services, has reported that the state's average weekly wage for calendar year 2016, in accordance with Section 44-704 of the Kansas Employment Security Law, was \$841.19. Pursuant to K.S.A. 44-510c(a)(1), the maximum workers compensation weekly benefit for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 will be \$630.00. This maximum will apply to those accidents occurring between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. The minimum weekly benefit rate for fatalities for the same period, pursuant to K.S.A. 44-510b(a), will be \$420.00.

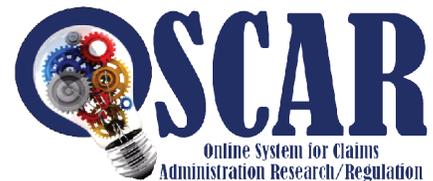
The 2017 Edition of Laws and Regulations

will be online in
Statutes and Regulations
by the end of June.



OSCAR Updates

Connor Gallagher from WorkComp Strategies, LLC (OSCAR's project consultants) was on site to work with the Lorax Project (backscanning dockets in preparation for the OSCAR debut in 2018) which coordinated with a scheduled crash week. A crash week is where additional staff and hours are dedicated to preparing dockets for scanning. The timeframe for Business Technology Career Opportunities (BTCO) to begin their scanning of the prepared dockets has been slightly delayed from July 1, 2017 to July 24, 2017.



Track 1 ([The Ombudsman/Claims Advisory Section](#)) has been pushed to a test environment. Tracks are a grouping of the user stories described by staff members titled Subject Matter Experts (SMEs), which are placed in systematic order to form a track. While in the test environment CapTech will be testing for system bugs and coding issues. As the errors are identified, the CapTech staff will make needed corrections and clean up data problems. The reviews and feedback on the requirements for track 2 (Fraud and Abuse) will be provided to CapTech this week. CapTech staff continues to identify the detailed requirements for track 3 (Elections). Wrapping up to date includes signoff on the overall scope requirements for all tracks and system design documents, as well as, the support and maintenance plan. Additionally, we are providing the feedback on some user interaction (UI) screens for internal and external users for track 1-4.

Discover more about OSCAR's [Updates](#), [Consultants](#), [Supervising Steering Committee](#) members and [CapTech Venture, Inc.](#) (OSCAR's builders) at www.dol.ks.gov/WorkComp/Oscar/Oscar.aspx.



43rd Annual WORKERS COMPENSATION SEMINAR

Thank You Gold Sponsors

Sept. 26 & 27, 2017 - Overland Park Convention Center

Look Who's Working For You

Kim Davis - Kim is a lifelong resident of the Rossville and Topeka area. She graduated from Washburn University with an Associate of Science in Legal Studies, and has worked in both private and public sectors of the legal field. She comes to the KDOL, Workers Compensation Division from the AG's Crime Victims Compensation office.

Kim joined the Workers Compensation staff as a legal assistant for Appeals Board Member Gary Terrill in April, 2017.



Alex McLellan - Alex is from the Baton Rouge area of Louisiana. He attended Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, before graduating from Kansas State University with a Master of Science in Statistics.

Alex joined the Technology and Statistics Unit in May, 2017 as a Research Analyst. He is responsible for analyzing and preparing reports on the claims data received by the Workers Compensation Division. In addition, Alex handles a number of special projects primarily in the areas of database cleanup, work process automation and the digitization of workers compensation claims.

Seminar Registration Opens in Mid-July

Registration for the 43rd Annual Workers Compensation Seminar scheduled on Sept. 26 and 27 at the Overland Park Convention Center will open on our Website at www.dol.ks.gov/WorkComp/seminar.aspx in mid-July.

KDOL will continue to use [KanPay](#) to process registration payments for security purposes. The choices of payment will include, Automatic Check Handling (ACH), American Express, Discover, MasterCard or Visa. The cost of ACH service is charge is \$1.50. Credit card service charges will remain at 2.5%. We encourage you to register online and to use the ACH for overall savings.



Continuing education credits have been pre-arranged for Kansas and Missouri attorneys, Certified Case Managers, Kansas Advanced Practiced Registered Nurses (APRN), Kansas Registered Nurses (RN) and Kansas Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) and Kansas Occupational Therapists/Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants. An application is pending for Kansas Licensed Physical Therapists and Kansas Certified Physical Therapist Assistants.

If you are licensed or certified in an occupation that is not pre-approved and need proof of attendance to file for credits on your own, you must sign in at the continuing education table before you attend sessions. Directions for documentation are provided at sign-in. There are 660 minutes of education available.

Depending on your occupation, it could be several years before you need to submit credit documentation. Reissuing documentation can be done for up to five years from the date you attended.

If you have questions about continuing education or need past documentation, send a request to wcseminar@dol.ks.gov.