

# Injuries at Work

## Guide to Benefits



### Medical Benefits

If an employee is injured on the job, they are entitled to reasonable and necessary medical treatment from a physician selected by their employer. To request a physician change, contact the Division of Workers Compensation. If the injured worker chooses to seek treatment from a physician, other than the one approved by their employer, only up to \$800 in medical expenses will be covered. Injured workers may claim mileage reimbursement for trips over five miles related to medical treatment.

Per [K.S.A. 44-515](#) the mileage reimbursement rate should be paid as prescribed for compensation of state officers & employees under [K.S.A. 75-3203a](#) by the Secretary of Administration. The mileage reimbursement rate for state officers and employees is \$0.67 cents per mile effective July 1, 2024.

### Wage Loss/Financial

No compensation is provided for the first week of missed work. If the temporary disability lasts for three consecutive weeks, it will be paid retroactively. After the waiting period, workers compensation pays two-thirds of the employee's average weekly wage, up to the maximum benefit.

### Current Benefit Levels (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

Benefit	Amount
Maximum Weekly	\$869
Minimum Weekly	\$50
Minimum Weekly Survivors Benefit	\$580
Mileage Reimbursement (effective July 1, 2024 to present)	\$0.67

You will receive the lesser of two-thirds of your average weekly wage or the maximum benefit at the time of your injury. This maximum does not change during your claim, even though it may increase annually. Weekly compensation continues until your doctor clears you to return to work or until you reach Maximum Medical Improvement (MMI). Total maximum payment amounts are \$400,000 for permanent total disability, \$225,000 for permanent partial or temporary disability and \$100,000 for Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) based on functional impairment.

### Travel Expense Benefits

When travel is necessary to obtain medical care related to your work injury, you may be entitled to benefits to help with those expenses per [K.S.A. 44-515](#) and K.A.R. 51-9-11 including:

- Mileage – Travel that exceeds five miles roundtrip in a personal vehicle to obtain medical services, medical supplies, or medications is reimbursed per mile. For current and past mileage rates, see our [Historic Benefit Levels](#).
- Transportation – The employer shall reimburse the worker for the reasonable cost of transportation if:
  1. An injured worker does not have a vehicle or reasonable access to a vehicle of a family member living in the worker's home.



2. Because of the worker's impairment, is unable to drive and must hire transportation. These costs may include, among other things, taxi services, public transportation, hiring another person to drive or ambulance service if required by a physician.
- Fees – Turnpike or other tolls and parking fees actually and necessarily incurred.
  - Lodging – The employer shall reimburse reasonable expenses for overnight accommodations as needed to avoid undue hardship on the worker.
  - Meals – Sometimes referred to as a per diem, the employer shall pay the worker \$30 per day for each full day the worker was required to be away from home to defray the cost of meal expenses.

## Categories of Disability Compensation Benefits

### Temporary Total Disability (TTD)

Paid when the employee, due to injury, is earning less in wages than prior to the injury. Benefits are paid at 66.67% of the difference between the Average Weekly Wage earned prior to the injury and the amount the employee is actually earning after the injury. Temporary Partial Disability (TPD) shall not exceed the maximum weekly benefit.

*DISCLAIMER: Taking a job with duties you claimed you cannot perform due to your injury may be considered fraud, leading to the loss of future benefits and repayment of prior workers compensation.*

### Permanent Total Disability

Permanent total disability exists when the employee, on account of the injury, has been rendered completely and permanently incapable of engaging in any type of substantial and gainful employment. To be considered permanently totally disabled you must have a functional impairment rating of at least 10% body as a whole caused solely by the injury or 15% body as a whole where preexisting impairment existed. Expert testimony shall be required to prove permanent total disability.

### Permanent Partial Scheduled Disability

Paid when the employee sustains complete or partial loss of or loss of use of a body part, such as an arm, due to a job-related injury. Compensation is limited to a percentage of the scheduled number of weeks, after the number of weeks of TTD already paid is subtracted.

### Permanent Partial General Disability

Paid when the employee sustains permanent partial disability not specifically covered by the schedule. Permanent partial general disability may also be payable where an injury results in the loss of or loss of use of both shoulders, arms, legs, feet or eyes. Permanent partial general disability may be payable as a percentage of functional impairment, or as a work disability if the functional impairment is equal to or exceeds 7.5% of the body as a whole (or 10% where there is preexisting functional impairment) and the employee suffers at least a 10% post-injury wage loss directly attributable to the work injury.

### Survivors' Benefits

Compensation is payable to whole or partial dependents or heirs if the employee's death resulted from the work-related injury. Burial expenses up to \$10,000 are covered, as well as \$2,500 for the costs of a court-appointed conservator, if necessary.