
Appendix A. Important Laws & Regulations

Laws and regulations that govern your rights and obligations in the California workers' compensation system are listed below.

To access the laws, go to <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>.

To access the regulations, go to <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/>. You can then access a specific regulatory section by using the search function at the top right-hand corner, which is indicated by a magnifying glass icon. Click on the icon and enter Title 8 and the section number you are searching for.

Caution: Some rules are based on legal interpretations found in case law and are not spelled out in statutes and regulations. Case law includes past decisions of workers' compensation judges, the Appeals Board, and state courts. If you have questions, use the resources in Chapter 11.

Introduction

Labor-management carve-out agreements: Labor Code Sections 3201.5 to 3201.9; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 10200 to 10204

Chapter 1

Definitions of "injury": Labor Code Sections 3208, 3208.5, and 3208.1

Limitations on coverage for psychiatric injuries: Labor Code Section 3208.3

Limitations on coverage for injuries reported after notice of termination or layoff: Labor Code Section 3600(a) (10)

Medical care benefits: Labor Code Section 4600

Temporary disability (TD) and permanent disability (PD) benefits: Labor Code Sections 4453 to 4459, 4650, 4658.1, and 4659 to 4664

Supplemental job displacement benefits: Labor Code Sections 4658.5, 4658.6, and 4658.7

Death benefits: Labor Code Sections 4700 to 4728

Predesignating your personal physician or a medical group: Labor Code Sections 3551(b)(3) and 4600(d); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9780(f), 9780.1, and 9783

Predesignating your personal physician if employer or insurer has a contract with an HCO: Labor Code Sections 3551(b)(3) and 4600.3(a); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9779.3 to 9779.4

Reporting your injury or illness to your employer: Labor Code Sections 5400, 5402(a)

Illegal to discriminate against (punish or fire) an injured worker because of the injury: Labor Code Section 132a

Employer must ensure access to emergency medical services: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 3400

Injury and Illness Prevention Program: Labor Code Section 6401.7; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 3203

Medical care as a workers' compensation benefit regardless of time lost: Labor Code Section 4600(a)

Limitations on coverage for residential employees who are temporary or part-time: Labor Code Sections 3352(h) and 3715(b)

Definition of "independent contractor": Labor Code Section 3353



To access the laws, go to <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov> and link to California Law.

To access the regulations, go to <https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/> and link to the California Code of Regulations.

Coverage for aliens (immigrants): Labor Code Section 3351(a)

Workers' compensation benefits regardless of who was at fault for your injury: Labor Code Section 3600(a)

Cannot sue your employer for a job injury; exceptions: Labor Code Sections 3602, 3706, and 4558

Chapter 2

Employer must give or mail claim form within one working day after learning about injury: Labor Code Section 5401(a); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 10136 to 10139

Role of the primary treating physician: Labor Code Section 4061.5; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9785 to 9785.4, and 10133.36

Employer must forward completed claim form to claims administrator and give injured worker a copy: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 10140(a)

Claims administrator must accept or deny new claim within a reasonable time: Labor Code Sections 5814 and 5814.6; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 10109

Notices denying or delaying a claim: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 9812(i) and (j)

Workers' compensation fraud: Labor Code Sections 3820 to 3823; Insurance Code Sections 1871 and 1871.4

New claim presumed to be covered by workers' compensation if not denied within 90 days: Labor Code Section 5402(b)

Illegal to discriminate against (punish or fire) an injured worker because of the injury: Labor Code Section 132a

California Family Rights Act: Government Code Section 12945.2

California Fair Employment and Housing Act: Government Code Sections 12900 to 12996

Information & Assistance (I&A) officers and I&A services: Labor Code Sections 139.6, and 5450 to 5454; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9921 to 9929

Workers' compensation judges: Labor Code Sections 123.5 and 123.6; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 10330.

Chapter 3

Employer must pay for workers' compensation and must have insurance or be self-insured: Labor Code Sections 3600 and 3700

Illegal for medical provider to bill injured worker while claim is pending: Labor Code Section 3751(b)

Medical care based on treatment guidelines and other scientifically based guidelines: Labor Code Sections 4600(b), 4604.5, and 5307.27; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9792.8 and 9792.20 to 9792.26

Limits on chiropractic, physical therapy, and occupational therapy visits: Labor Code Section 4604.5(c)

Employer must ensure access to emergency medical services: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 3400

Claims administrator must authorize medical treatment within one working day after claim form is filed, up to \$10,000: Labor Code Section 5402(c)

Pre-designating your personal physician or a medical group: Labor Code Sections 3551(b)(3) and 4600(d); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9780(f), 9780.1, and 9783

Pre-designating your personal physician or a medical group if employer or insurer has a contract with an HCO: Labor Code Sections 3551(b)(3) and 4600.3(a); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9779.3 to 9779.4

Medical provider networks (MPNs): Labor Code Sections 4616 to 4616.7; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9767.1 to 9767.17

Health care organizations (HCOs): Labor Code Section 4600.3 to 4600.7; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9770 to 9779.8

Right to be treated by your personal physician if employer did not post information about your workers' compensation rights: Labor Code Sections 3550(e) and 4616.3(b); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9881 and 9881.1

Right to be treated by a physician of your choice if employer or claims administrator fails to provide necessary care or sends you to treatment that is completely inadequate: Labor Code Section 4600(a)

Employer's duty to post information about workers' compensation: Labor Code Section 3550; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9881 and 9881.1

Switching to a different doctor if you are being treated in an MPN: Labor Code Section 4616.3; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 9767.6

Switching to a different doctor if you are being treated in an HCO: Labor Code Sections 3209.3, and 4600.3(c), (e), and (g); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 9773(b)(6)

Chiropractor may not be treating physician after 24 chiropractic visits: Labor Code Section 4600(c)

Duty to inform claims administrator of new treating physician's name and address: Labor Code Section 4603.2(a)(1)

Switching to a different doctor if you are not being treated in an MPN or HCO: Labor Code Sections 3209.3, 4600(c), and 4601(a); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 9781

Switching to your personal chiropractor or acupuncturist: Labor Code Section 4601(b) and (c); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9781(b) and 9783.1

Switching to a different doctor if you are being treated by a predesignated personal physician: Labor Code Sections 3209.3, 4600(c), 4600.3(a), (c), (e), and (g), and 4616.3(b); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9767.6(d), (e), and (f), 9773(b)(6), 9780.1(d), and 9781.

Treating physician's reports: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9785 and 9785.4

Claims administrator must provide copies of medical reports upon request: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 9810(e)

Physician must provide copies of medical reports upon request: California Health and Safety Code Sections 123100 to 123149.5

Chapter 4

Challenging diagnosis or treatment decisions of a treating physician in an MPN: Labor Code Sections 4616.3(c), 4616.4, and 4616.6; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9767.7, and 9768.1 to 9768.17

Challenging diagnosis or treatment decisions of a treating physician in an HCO: Labor Code Sections 4600.3(e) and 4600.5(d)(6); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9773(b)(7) and 9775

Challenging diagnosis or treatment decisions of a treating physician not in an MPN or HCO: Labor Code Sections 4062 to 4068

Qualified medical evaluators (QMEs): Labor Code Section 139.2; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 10 to 119

Utilization review (UR): Labor Code Section 4610; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9785, 9785.5, 9792.6 to 9792.10, and 9792.12

Challenging a decision to deny treatment: Labor Code Sections 4062(b) and (c), 4610.5, and 4610.6; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9792.10 to 9792.10.9 and 9792.12

Penalties for unreasonable delay or denial: Labor Code Sections 4610.1, 5814, and 5814.5

Complaints and Audit Unit investigations for failure to meet UR deadlines: Labor Code Section 4610(i)

Complaints and Audit Unit investigations of unreasonable delays and denials: Labor Code Section 5814.6

Injured worker or claims administrator challenging other types of opinions in a medical report: Labor Code Sections 4060 to 4062.5; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 9812(g)

Chapter 5

Eligibility for temporary disability (TD) benefits: Labor Code Section 4652

TD benefit amounts: Labor Code Sections 4453, 4653 to 4657, and 4661.5

Job-protected leave under the California Family Rights Act (CFRA): Government Code Section 12945.2

Notices about TD payments: Labor Code Section 138.4(c); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 9812(a), (b), (c), and (d)

When TD payments begin: Labor Code Section 4650(a)

TD benefits paid every two weeks: Labor Code Section 4650(c)

Delay letter regarding TD benefits: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 9812(a)(2)

New claim presumed to be covered by workers' compensation if not denied within 90 days: Labor Code Section 5402(b)

Penalties for delay in TD payments: Labor Code Sections 4650(d) and 5814

When TD payments end: Labor Code Section 4656

Notice about ending of TD benefits: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 9812(d)

Chapter 6

Medical reports and work restrictions while recovering: Labor Code Section 4061.5; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9785 and 9785.2

Illegal to discriminate against (punish or fire) an injured worker because of the injury: Labor Code Section 132a

"Description of Employee's Job Duties" form: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 10133.33

Offers of work and supplemental job displacement benefits: Labor Code Sections 4658.5, 4658.6, and 4658.7; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9813.1, 10116.9, and 10133.31 to 10133.60

Illegal to discriminate against (punish or fire) an injured worker because of the injury: Labor Code Section 132a

California Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA): Government Code Sections 12900 to 12996

Chapter 7

Definitions of "permanent disability": Labor Code Sections 4660, 4660.1, and 4662; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 10152

Permanent and stationary (P&S) report: Labor Code Section 4663; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9785(g), 9785.3, 9785.4, and 10152

Ratings: Labor Code Sections 4452.5, 4660, 4660.1, 4662, 4663, and 4664; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 10150 to 10167

Rating schedules: Labor Code Sections 4658(d)(4) and 4660; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9725 to 9727, 9805, and 9805.1

Ratings by a disability rater: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 10150 to 10167

Reconsideration of a rating by a disability rater: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 10164

Permanent disability (PD) benefit amounts: Labor Code Sections 4658, 4658.1, 4659, 4660, 4660.1, 4661, 4662, 4663, and 4664

Decrease or increase in PD benefits by 15% depending on whether or not employer offers work: Labor Code Section 4658(d)(2) and (3); Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 10117

“Notice of Offer of Regular Work” (form DWC-AD 10118): Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 10118

“Notice of Offer of Modified or Alternative Work” (form DWC-AD 10133.53): Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 10133.53

When PD payments begin: Labor Code Section 4650(b)

PD benefits paid every two weeks: Labor Code Section 4650(c)

When PD benefits are decreased or increased by 15%: Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 10117 Notices about PD benefits: Labor Code Sections 138.4(c) and 4061; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Section 9812(g) Penalties for delay in PD benefits: Labor Code Sections 4650(d) and 5814

Stipulations with Request for Award: Labor Code Section 5702; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 10700, 10702, and 10705

Compromise and Release: Labor Code Sections 5000 to 5106; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 10700, 10702, and 10705

Changes in benefits and reopening a case: Labor Code Section 5410

Findings and Award: Labor Code Sections 5800 to 5816

Chapter 8

Burial expenses: Labor Code Section 4701

Death benefit entitlement and calculations: Labor Code Sections 4702-4706

Death benefit paid to DIR, if no dependents: Labor Code Section 4706.5 (a)

Chapter 9

Offers of work and supplemental job displacement benefits: Labor Code Sections 4658.5, 4658.6, and 4658.7; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 9813.1, 10116.9, and 10133.31 to 10133.60

Dollar amounts of vouchers: Labor Code Sections 4658.5(b) and 4658.7(d)

Chapter 10

Return to Work Supplemental Program: Labor Code Section 139.48, 4658.7; Title 8, CA Code of Regulations Sections 17300 to 17310