

# Workers' Compensation Law

## Roles and Responsibilities for Employers and Employees

### EMPLOYER INFORMATION

With some exceptions, all employers with five or more employees, and construction industry employers with one or more employees, are required to insure their workers' compensation liability, either by purchasing a policy or obtaining self-insurance authority. Workers' compensation insurance provides benefits to workers injured on the job. Employers also are required to post this notice in the workplace for employees to view. This poster is required by section 287.127, RSMo, and is available to employers and insurers free of charge by contacting the Division at 800-775-Comp.

#### Steps to Take When an Injury Occurs

1. Be sure first aid is administered and the employee is taken to a physician or hospital for further medical care, if necessary.
2. Report the injury to the insurance company or Third Party Administrator (TPA) within five days of the date of injury or within five days of the date on which the injury was reported to the employer by the employee, whichever is later. The insurer, TPA, or Division approved self-insurer is responsible for filing a First Report of Injury with the Division of Workers' Compensation **within 30 days** of knowledge of the injury.
3. Pay medical bills related to the work injury for treatment reasonably required to cure and relieve the employee of the effects of the injury. This includes all costs for authorized medical treatment, prescriptions, and medical devices. The employer has the right to choose the healthcare provider or treating physician. (The employee may select a different healthcare provider or treating physician, but if the employee does so, it may be at his/her own expense.)
4. For more liability and insurance information relating to the Workers' Compensation Program, visit [www.labor.mo.gov/DWC](http://www.labor.mo.gov/DWC) or call 800-775-COMP.

### Workers' Safety

Developing and implementing a comprehensive safety and health program can reduce occupational injuries and help lower workers' compensation costs. Insurance carriers in the state of Missouri must provide safety assistance at the request of the insured employer. The Missouri Department of Labor evaluates these services and provides additional assistance through its Missouri Workers' Safety Program.

Visit [www.labor.mo.gov/MWSP](http://www.labor.mo.gov/MWSP) or call 573-751-4231 for more information about these programs or for a registry of independent consultants who are certified in the state of Missouri to provide safety assistance.

### Fraud/Noncompliance

**Employee Fraud** – knowingly making a claim for workers' compensation benefits to which an employee knows he/she is not entitled or knowingly presenting multiple claims for the same occurrence with intent to defraud is a class E felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000, or double the value of the fraud, whichever is greater. A subsequent violation is a class D felony.

**Employer Fraud** – knowingly misrepresenting an employee's job classification or any other fact to obtain insurance at less than the proper rate is a class A misdemeanor. A subsequent violation is a class E felony. An employer who knowingly makes a false or fraudulent statement regarding an employee's entitlement to benefits to discourage the worker from making a legitimate claim or who knowingly makes a false or fraudulent material statement or material representation to deny benefits to a worker is guilty of a class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000. A subsequent violation is a class D felony.

**Insurer Fraud** – knowingly and intentionally refusing to comply with workers' compensation obligations to which an insurance company or self-insurer knows an employee is entitled is a class E felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$10,000 or double the value of the fraud, whichever is greater. A subsequent violation is a class D felony.

**Employer Noncompliance** – knowingly failing to insure workers' compensation liability under the law is a class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to three times the annual premium the employer would have paid had it been insured or up to \$50,000, whichever is greater. A subsequent violation is a class E felony. An employer who willfully fails to post the notice of workers' compensation at the workplace is guilty of a class A misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$50 to \$1,000 or by imprisonment or both fine and imprisonment.