

**YOU MAY NEED OUR
HELP IF:**

- You are not getting the medical treatment you feel you need to get better
- You can't do your job because of your injury and are not getting workers' compensation benefits
- Your claim was denied
- Your employer fired you or retaliated against you after an injury
- Your doctor released you to return to work but you can't go back because of your doctor's restrictions
- The insurance company has offered you a settlement or asked you to sign a form in order to get a payment

**Call the Workers'
Comp Specialists at
Copeley Johnson &
Groninger PLLC**

888.407.5921

**Valerie Johnson
Leto Copeley**

**DURHAM
OFFICE**

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919.240.4054

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Charlotte, NC 28203
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This brochure contains general information and observations about workers' compensation in North Carolina. No brochure can substitute for legal advice from an attorney tailored to your claim. Please do not rely on these lessons as a reason not to have an attorney represent you.

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for
workers'
comp
success



What is Workers' Compensation?

- The law that protects your right to medical treatment and benefits
- You are eligible if you are hurt on the job or have a disease or condition caused by your job
- Almost all employers with 3 or more employees are covered by workers' comp laws
- The NC Industrial Commission oversees claims and decides disputes

What to do if you are hurt on the job

- Immediately report your injury to a supervisor
- Make sure the supervisor writes it up
- Keep a record of who you talked to and when
- Talk to witnesses if you can
- Go to the doctor recommended to you by the employer
- Tell all of your healthcare providers the injury is work-related
- You must give written notice to your employer within 30 days after the injury or diagnosis occurs
- This notice should include the date you were injured and what happened

The next step: file a claim and protect your right to benefits

- In addition to the written notice to the employer, you must also notify the **NC Industrial Commission** (NCIC) that you have a claim
- To do this, you will need to fill out a Form 18 and send it to the NCIC
- You can get this form at www.ic.nc.gov/claimants.html
- Keep a copy for your records and send one to the NCIC
- Once received, the NCIC will send you a letter with information about your employer's insurance company
- Your claim should be filed within 2 years of the date of injury or diagnosis
- File your claim within 1 year if the only payments from the employer were for medical treatment
- No matter what forms your employer gives you, you still need to file your own claim

Medical treatment

- Most often your employer can send you to the doctors it chooses unless you get an order from the NCIC
- Your employer has the responsibility to pay for your treatment
- If you seek medical treatment without permission from the employer, you could be responsible for the bills
- If you believe you need another doctor, make a written request to your employer
- If your request is denied or not answered within 14 days, or if you and your employer cannot agree, you can ask the IC to order an evaluation

If your claim is denied by your employer

- If your employer denies the claim or does not pay you owed benefits, you can ask for a hearing
- Before the hearing, you must go to mediation with the employer to see if a settlement is possible
- If your claim is not resolved at mediation, it is scheduled for a hearing in front of a Deputy Commissioner of the NCIC

NC Industrial Commission

4340 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4340
919.807.2501 or 800.688.8349
www.ic.nc.gov

