GEORGIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE PROGRAM

IMPORTANT NOTICE

POLICYHOLDERS NOTICE OF LOSS CONTROL SERVICES

In compliance with the Georgia Workers' Compensation Insurance plan, we provide for our policyholders a broad range of Loss Control Services. When requested, our Loss Control Department is prepared to provide, at no additional charge, the following services:

1. Consultative services pertaining to the safety performance of your business and operations.

2. An appraisal of the various mechanical hazards, material handling methods, chemical and ergonomic exposures that may exist at your business.

3. Advice and assistance in the recognition, evaluation and control of occupational safety and health hazards.

4. Advice and assistance in coordinating and implementing employee safety and health programs.

5. Recommendations for corrective actions to address workplace hazards identified in conjunction with other services provided.

6. Assistance in developing a comprehensive safety and health program for your business, including the following elements:

- Safety Policy
- Safety Rules
- Safety Inspections, both Regular and Periodic
- Preventative Maintenance Programs
- Safety and Health Training Programs
- First Aid Programs
- Accident Investigation Programs
- Recordkeeping

(Note: Our representatives are ethically and legally required to submit recommendations for discrepancies and deficiencies discovered in the course of their consultations with you. Mandatory compliance may be required.)

Contact Us

If you wish to have the Loss Control Department provide any of these services for your business:

Telephone: (678)258-8151

Toll-Free: 1-888-239-3909 (please ask for the Loss Control Department)

e-mail: <u>ARlosscontrol@amtrustgroup.com</u>

Or detach the coupon below and mail to: AmTrust North America, Attn: Gina Forstman P.O. Box 94405 Cleveland, OH 44101-4405

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□ Yes, we are interested in Lo	oss Control Assistance.	
Company Name:	Policy Number:	
Address:		
Telephone Number:		
Person to Contact:	Position/Title:	

ARNotice-03; V 2.0; 6-03

Workers' Compensation Quick Reference Guide

Carrier: Technology Insurance Company

Claim Administrator:	AmTrust North America									
	P.O. Box 94405									
	Cleveland, OH 44101-4405									
	678-258-8000 Fax - 678-258-8399									
	Toll Free: 888-239-3909									

CONTACTS

Claims Analyst:	John Walters	770-369-9898
Policy Svcs/Loss Control:	Gina Forstman	678-258-8105
Customer Service:		877-882-1305

YOUR DUTIES UNDER THE WCIP

- 1. Pay all premiums promptly and timely
- 2. Advise us or your agent of any material change in your corporate entity, location of business or a change in the nature of your business.
- 3. All claims must be reported timely.
- 4. Payroll and overtime records must be available at all times.
- 5. Allow reasonable access to your workplace for safety inspections during business hours.
- 6. Loss Control recommendations must be complied within specified time frames.

Lack of cooperation in any of these areas could result in cancellation.

YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE & AFTER AN INJURY

- 1. Posted Panel of Physicians and Employee Bill of Rights
 - Post both of these in a place where it is visible by all employees.
 - Have all current employees and future employees sign a memo to acknowledge that they have seen and understand the purpose of the Posted Panel.
- 2. Emergency Situations
 - In case of emergency send the injured employee to the closest emergency facility. You should explain to the employee that <u>all follow up care must be with a doctor off the</u> Posted Panel.

3. Report all injuries immediately on the proper State Board forms.

4. Assist injured employees in getting appropriate medical care by referring them to an authorized doctor from the Posted Panel

Technology Insurance Company

For Worker's Compensation Claims

24/7 Toll Free Claim Reporting for All States





(888)239-3909

WorkersCompClaimReport@AmTrustgroup.com

www.amtrustfinancial.com

When a work injury is reported to you, simply email the claim report to the email address stated above. The state law requires the employer to timely and fully complete the State specific First Report of Injury form. You must have the following information available when you complete the claim form:

Information Required for All Claims Reported

 √ -	
 ∕ –	

- 1. Name of employer (name as it appears on the policy is preferred).
- 2. 3. Policy Number, if known.
 - Injured employees': Name, Address, Phone, Social Security Number, Date of Hire and Date of Birth.
- Date, Time & Place of Incident
- Description of accident or incident 5.
- 6.
- Nature of Injury Name & phone for initial medical provider, if known. 7.
- 8. Wage Information





Optum PO Box 152539 Tampa, FL 33684-2539

MAKINGITEASY...

TO GET WORKERS' COMPENSATION PRESCRIPTIONS FILLED.

Optum has been chosen to manage your workers' compensation pharmacy benefits for your employer or their insurer. Below is your First Fill card that will allow you to receive your injury-related prescriptions at your local pharmacy. Please fill out the card based on the instructions below.

Injured Employee:



If you need a prescription filled for a work-related injury or illness, go to an Optum Tmesys[®] network pharmacy. Give this temporary card to the pharmacist. The pharmacist will fill your prescription at low or no cost to you.



If your workers' compensation claim is accepted, you will receive a more permanent pharmacy card in the mail. Please use that card for other work-related injury or illness prescriptions.

Most pharmacies, including Walgreens, our preferred provider, and all major chains, are included in the network. To find a network pharmacy call 1-866-599-5426 or visit



WORKERS' COMPENSATION PRES	CRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM
AmTrust North America	
CARRIER/TPA	EMPLOYER
INJURED WORKER NAME	
Please provide directly to Pharmacist	
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	DATEOFINJURY (YYMMDD)
Notice to Cardholder: Present this card to th	e pharmacy to receive medication for
your work-related injury. To locate a pharmacy	: tmesys.com.

the date of injury and SSN combined as follows: YYMMDD123456789. Tmesys is the designated PBM for this patient. **Tmesys Pharmacy Help Desk** 1-800-964-2531 NDC Envoy 004261 002538 **RxBIN** or **RxPCN** CAL or Envoy Acct. # GROUP FF

Attention Pharmacists: Enter RxBIN, RxPCN and GROUP. Member ID # format is

NOTE: This First Fill card is only valid for your workers' compensation injury or illness.



Employer:

tmesys.com.

Immediately upon receiving notice of injury, fill in the information above and give this form to the employee.

The following entities comprise the Optum Workers Compensation and Auto No Fault division: PMSI, LLC, dba Optum Workers Compensation Services of Florida; Progressive Medical, LLC, dba Optum Workers Compensation Services of Ohio; Cypress Care, Inc. dba Optum Workers Compensation Services of Georgia; Healthcare Solutions, Inc., dba Optum Healthcare Solutions of Georgia; Settlement Solutions, LLC, dba Optum Settlement Solutions; Procura Management, Inc., dba Optum Managed Care Services; Modern Medical, dba Optum Workers Compensation Medical Services, collectively and individually referred as "Optum."





HACEMOS MÁS SENCILLO...

EL ABASTECIMIENTO DE LAS RECETAS MÉDICAS DEL PROGRAMA DE COMPENSACIÓN POR ACCIDENTES LABORALES.

Optum ha sido elegido para administrar los beneficios farmacéuticos de su programa de compensación por accidentes laborales para su empleador o su asegurador. Más adelante incluimos su tarjeta First Fill que le permitirá recibir las recetas médicas relacionadas con su lesión en su farmacia local. Llene esta tarjeta siguiendo las instrucciones que se indican a continuación.

Empleado lesionado:

Si necesita que se le abastezca su receta médica para una lesión o enfermedad relacionada con su trabajo, visite una farmacia de la red Optum Tmesys[®]. Entregue esta tarjeta temporal al farmacéutico. El farmacéutico abastecerá su receta médica bajo costo o sin costo alguno.

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Si se acepta su reclamación del programa de compensación por accidentes laborales, recibirá una tarjeta permanente por correo. Use esa tarjeta para otras recetas médicas de lesiones o enfermedades relacionadas con su trabajo.

La mayoría de farmacias, incluyendo Walgreens, nuestro proveedor preferido, y todas las grandes cadenas de farmacias, forman parte de la red. Para encontrar una farmacia de la red, llame al 1-866-599-5426 o visite tmesys.com.

¿Tiene alguna pregunta? ¿Necesita ayuda?



WORKERS' COMPENSATION PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM											
AmTrust North America											
PORTADORA	EMPLEADOR										
NOMBRE DEL TRABAJADOR LESIONADO											
Please provide directly to Pharmacist											
NUMERO DE SEGURO SOCIAL	FECHADEALA LESION (AAMMDD)										
Aviso para el titular de la tarjeta: Presente es medicamentos para la lesión relacionada con visite tmesys.com.											

Attention Pharmacists: Enter RxBIN, RxPCN and GROUP. Member ID # format is the date of injury and SSN combined as follows: YYMMDD123456789.

Tmesys is the designated PBM for this patient.

Tmesys Pharmacy Help Desk 1-800-964-2531

R×BIN R×PCN GROUP	<u>NDC</u> 004261 CAL _FF	or or	<u>Envoy</u> 002538 Envoy Acct. #	

NOTA: Esta tarjeta First Fill solo es válida para una lesión o enfermedad cubierta por su programa de compensación por accidentes laborales.



Empleador:

Inmediatamente después de recibir un aviso sobre una lesión, llene la información antes indicada y entregue este formulario al empleado.

The following entities comprise the Optum Workers Compensation and Auto No Fault division: PMSI, LLC, dba Optum Workers Compensation Services of Florida; Progressive Medical, LLC, dba Optum Workers Compensation Services of Ohio; Cypress Care, Inc. dba Optum Workers Compensation Services of Georgia; Healthcare Solutions, Inc., dba Optum Healthcare Solutions of Georgia; Settlement Solutions, LLC, dba Optum Settlement Solutions; Procura Management, Inc., dba Optum Managed Care Services; Modern Medical, dba Optum Workers Compensation Medical Services, collectively and individually referred as "Optum."



RETURN-TO-WORK; A GREAT IDEA

We at the AmTrust Group, are convinced that an employer who provides light, or restricted work for injured employees, enjoys numerous benefits. This is not just an opinion, it's something we see day in and day out. Consider:

- Unless an injured worker returns to the workplace within 60 days, chances of him/her ever returning drop dramatically. (resulting in a very expensive permanent disability situation.)
- After 6 months away from the workplace, only 50% chance of return.
- After 12 months, only a 10% chance of return.

Some Return-to Work Benefits Include:

- "Test" of malingering potential. Injured employees who refuse light duty are more prone to being malingerers.
- Opportunity for employer to demonstrate true concern for workers' well-being.
- Promotion of rehabilitation and recovery.
- Lower medical and rehabilitation costs.
- Productivity.
- Morale improvement for the injured worker.
- Ability for the employer to monitor the injured employee's recovery progress.
- Decrease of WC claims costs, with resultant downstream WC premium savings.

(Notice we're not just talking about 'feel-good' issues, but also hard dollars !)

Some common misconceptions (and truths) about Return-to-Work / Light Duty:

Misconception: We've already got too many "programs" around here, and don't need any more paper.

Truth: While it is true a written, planned program works best, in many cases a Light Duty "program" can be nothing more than a management understanding of the benefits and principles of Return-to-Work, how it works, and the commitment to 'just do it', when light-duty recommendations are made by WC physicians.

Misconception: It will get me into an Americans With Disabilities (ADA) "situation".

Truth: Light-duty and ADA "reasonable accommodation" are two entirely separate issues. Generally, light duty is a temporary assignment, for a relatively short period. ADA accommodations are made for serious, permanent disabilities that impair major life activities.

Misconception: I'll have to devise a whole new job each time an employee needs light duty.

Truth: The vast majority of light-duty restrictions require accommodating only one or two factors, such as "no lifting over 10 pounds", or the like. In many cases, if you break the jobs down into individual **tasks**, you'll see that only one or two tasks within the employee's normal job are affected, and can be handled in some other way.

Misconception: Once an employee gets into a "cushy" light-duty job, s/he'll never leave it, and I'll be stuck with it.

Truth: Light duty is always defined by, and monitored by the attending physician. An employee on light duty is periodically monitored by the physician for improvement, and is released for full-duty as soon as medically indicated.

Misconception: We're a union company. Our union won't allow us to pay lower rates, or move employees between classifications, or between bargaining groups.

Truth: Any Local that objects to a Return-to-Work program should be referred to its national body for guidance. Return to Work is universally recognized as a very positive influence on an injured worker (as well as benefiting the employer). Labor unions, whose major purpose for existence is the benefit of the workers they represent, should not only "tolerate" Return-to-Work programs, but enthusiastically promote, and assist in such programs' implementation and operation. It is strongly suggested that management approach labor representatives to solicit their input, and assistance in making Return to Work a positive force in your workplace.

Misconception: I might be willing to place a worker in a light-duty position, but I can't afford pay them their full pay, for the decreased productivity.

Truth: Talk to your WC insuror's claims professional. In many cases, states' WC plans provide for "make-up" pay to replace some, or all of the injured employees' decreased earnings. The goal of getting them back to the workplace, and doing some productive work is that important!

YOUR BUSINESS AND UNINSURED SUBCONTRACTORS

Many otherwise knowledgeable business owners utilize uninsured subcontractors for various services; unaware of the risks they are incurring for their businesses. An uninsured subcontractor is typically a business that does not provide workers compensation insurance for its employees. This may be because the business is a "one-man shop", and believes he wants to personally assume the risk of financial loss in the event of injury; in other cases it may be ignorance of the law; or an effort to avoid the cost of workers' compensation insurance. Uninsured subcontractors often appear as construction tradespeople, service firms (especially small operators), and others.

In truth, there are no uninsured subcontractors. When an "uninsured subcontractor" employee, (including a one-man business) is injured while working on your behalf, the courts have repeatedly held that it is in the public interest that you, the beneficiary of the sub's work, provide workers' compensation coverage for these "uninsured employees." You cannot opt out of this duty. No one can sign a document of any kind and relieve you of this responsibility. You are carrying these employees on your workers' compensation policy whether you want to or not, whether you even realize it or not. Because of this "involuntary coverage", when an insurance company auditor finds payment to uninsured subcontractors, he will treat this payment as your payroll, and you will receive a bill for additional premium. With high-hazard occupations, such as steel erectors, roofers, and others, you may be shocked to find that one or two uninsured subs have more than doubled your workers compensation premium! Some businesses, aware of this problem, use "hold-backs", "retainages" or "backcharges" of a set percentage of job cost, often 10% or 15% to try and offset the additional premiums they know they'll have to pay for using uninsured subcontractors. The problem with this is that each of the trades carries different rates, according to the relative hazard of the trade. Rates are expressed in dollars per hundred dollars of payroll, so there's an easy-to-see correlation in percentages. Rates not only vary by trade, but they can fluctuate from statetostate.

they can vary according to the rate filings of different companies, and they go up and down according to actuarial loss experience. Trying to obtain and keep up with this many rates is a time-consuming and unproductive task, well beyond the capabilities of most businesses.

You're probably aware that safety pays, and you make certain efforts to be sure your direct employees do not take unnecessary risks, do not work with unnecessarily dangerous or broken tools and equipment, and are protected from toxic materials. But a subcontractor might not take these precautions. And if his carelessness leads to employee injury, your claim history will be damaged.

RECOMMENDATIONS—

1.) Avoid using any uninsured subs, but especially high-hazard occupations such as roofing, carpenters, and painters. It is false economy to use uninsured businessmen who seem to offer lower costs. They may be operating outside the law, and in fact, are transferring the costs of their risk, and potential economic devastation, to you.

2.) Obtain current certificates of workers compensation (and other applicable coverage) from the sub's insurance agent or insurance carrier. Implement a hard and fast rule—"No insurance certificate—no check on Friday".

3.) You can easily keep copies of all certificates in a notebook, and check the expiration dates before giving work to a particular subcontractor. Copies of all certificates should be retained.

YOUR INSURANCE AUDIT -

At the end of your policy period, we will conduct an audit. In addition to tax documents, the auditor will ask for documentation of all wages paid to both employees and subcontractors. The auditor will also ask to see the certificates of insurance for each insured subcontractor. If you have a valid certificate that covers the time period that your sub was paid, this payment will not be charged to your work comp policy.

The auditor will ask for the first and last date that each sub was paid during your policy period. We are looking for the time range that each subcontractor was paid, so that we can ensure that this subcontractor had his own coverage during the time he worked for you.

If you take time throughout the year to request certificates and organize them, you will find it very beneficial at the time of audit.

ATTENTION EMPLOYER

POSTED PANEL OF PHYSICIANS:

Georgia law **REQUIRES** you to post a list of physicians in prominent places where all Employees will see the list. We have attached the panel for you to post.

If you will take the time to have all current and new employees initial and date a copy of The posted panel, you will prevent an employee and/or their attorney from later alleging They didn't know about the panel and that you were not in compliance with Georgia law. An attorney will use this argument to get your employee switched to a physician of "*their*" choice who may not have the same "*return to work*:" philosophy as the panel physicians you trust.

Should you have any questions concerning the enclosed material, or if we can be of Assistance, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Thank you again for your Business. We look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely yours,

THE CLAIMS DEPARTMENT

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK



Please be aware that the Workers' Compensation Law, Rules and Regulations are subject to change on July 1st of each year. If you have any questions about the information contained in this handbook, please contact your employer, adjuster, or the State Board of Workers' Compensation.

July 2019

Our Pledge to Employees

If you are injured on the job, you have certain rights, benefits and responsibilities. Your employer also has obligations and responsibilities regarding all employees. The main focus of <u>Technology Insurance Company</u> is to assist job-related injured workers in receiving immediate and quality medical care, to administer workers' compensation claims from the initial injury until the closing of the claim, and to safely return lost-time employees to productive employment. We believe that a healthy, safety conscious and productive company is the result of healthy, safety conscious and cooperative employees.

The staff of <u>Technology Insurance Company</u> understands an employee's and a family's concern when a wage earner is injured on the job and cannot work. We are here to help you through this difficult time.

- We pledge to give each injured employee individual attention.
- We pledge to handle your claim in a prompt and courteous manner.
- We pledge to fully inform you of all workers' compensation income benefits you are entitled to receive and to pay these benefits to you in a timely manner.
- We pledge to pay all authorized medical expenses in a prompt and accurate manner.
- We pledge to make every effort to work with you in returning you to your regular job should your injury require you to lose time from work.

Company Name

State Board of Workers' Compensation Bill of Rights for the Injured Worker

As required by law, O.C.G.A. (34-9-81.1), this is a summary of your rights and responsibilities. The Workers' Compensation Law provides you, as a worker in the State of Georgia, with certain rights and responsibilities should you be injured on the job. The Workers' Compensation Law provides you coverage for a work-related injury even if an injury occurs on the first day on the job. In addition to rights, you also have certain responsibilities. Your rights and responsibilities are described below.

EMPLOYEE'S RIGHTS

- 1. If you are injured on the job, you may receive medical, rehabilitation and income benefits. These benefits are provided to help you return to work. Your dependents may also receive benefits if you die as a result of a job-related injury.
- 2. Your employer is required to post a list of at least six doctors or the name of the certified WC/MCO which provides medical care. You may choose a doctor from the list and make one change to another doctor on the list without the permission of your employer. However, in an emergency, you may get temporary medical care from any doctor until the emergency is over; then you must get treatment from a doctor on the posted list.
- **3.** Your authorized doctor bills, hospital bills, rehabilitation in some cases, physical therapy, prescriptions and necessary travel expenses will be paid if injury was caused by an accident on the job.
- 4. You are entitled to weekly income benefits if you have more than seven days of lost time due to an injury. Your first check should be mailed to you within 21 days after the first day you missed work. If you are out more than 21 consecutive days due to your injury, you will be paid for the first week.
- 5. Accidents are classified as being either catastrophic or non-catastrophic. Catastrophic injuries are those involving amputations, severe paralysis, severe head injuries, severe burns, blindness, or of a nature and severity that prevents the employee from being able to perform his or her prior work and any work available in substantial numbers within the national economy. In catastrophic cases, you are entitled to receive two-thirds of your average weekly wage up to the maximum allowed under the law for a job-related injury for as long as you are unable to return to work. You are also entitled to receive medical and vocational rehabilitation benefits to help in recovering from your injury. If you need help in this area, call the State Board of Workers' Compensation at (404) 656-3818 or toll-free number (800) 533-0682. Your employer will advise you of the amount of your weekly benefit.
- 6. In all other cases (non-catastrophic), you are entitled to receive two-thirds of your average weekly wage, but not more than the maximum allowed under the law for a job-related injury. You will receive these weekly benefits as long as you are totally disabled, but no longer than 400 weeks. If you are not working and it is determined that you have been capable of performing work with restrictions for 52 consecutive weeks or 78 aggregate weeks, your weekly income benefits will be reduced to two-thirds of your average weekly wage, but no more than the maximum allowed under the law, not to exceed 350 weeks.
- 7. When you are able to return to work but can only get a lower paying job as a result of your injury, you are entitled to a weekly benefit of not more than the maximum allowed under the law for no longer than 350 weeks.
- 8. Your dependent(s), in the event you die as a result of an on-the-job accident, will receive burial expenses up to the maximum allowed under the law and two-thirds of your average weekly wage, but not more than the maximum allowed under the law. A widowed spouse with no children will be paid a maximum allowed by law at the time of injury. Benefits continue until he/she remarries or openly cohabits with a person of the opposite sex.

9. If you do not receive benefits when due, the insurance carrier/employer must pay a penalty which will be added to your payments.

EMPLOYEE'S RESPONSIBLITIES

- 1. You should follow written rules of safety and other reasonable policies and procedures of the employer.
- 2. You must report any accident immediately, but not later than 30 days after the accident, to your employer, your employer's representative, your foreman or immediate supervisor. Failure to do so may result in the loss of the benefits.
- **3.** You must accept reasonable medical treatment and rehabilitation services when ordered by the State Board of Workers' Compensation or the Board may suspend your benefits.
- 4. No compensation shall be allowed for an injury or death due to the employee's willful misconduct.
- 5. You must notify the insurance carrier/employer of your address when you move to a new location. You should notify the insurance carrier/employer when you are able to return to full-time or parttime work and report the amount of your weekly earnings because you may be entitled to some income benefits even though you have returned to work.
- 6. A dependent spouse of a deceased employee shall notify the insurance carrier/employer upon change of address or remarriage.
- 7. You must attempt a job approved by the authorized treating physician even if the pay is lower than the job you had when you were injured. If you do not attempt the job, your benefits may be suspended.
- 8. If you believe you are entitled to income benefits and your insurance carrier/employer denies these benefits, you must file a claim within one year after the date of last authorized medical treatment or within two years of your last payment of weekly benefits or you will lose your right to these benefits.
- **9.** If your dependent(s) do not receive allowable benefit payments, the dependent(s) must file a claim with the State Board of Workers' Compensation within one year after your death or lose the right to these benefits.
- **10.** Any request for reimbursement to you for mileage or other expenses related to medical care must be submitted to the insurance carrier/employer within one year of the date the expense was incurred.
- **11.** If an employee unjustifiably refuses to submit to a drug test following an on-the-job injury, there shall be a presumption that the accident and injury were caused by alcohol or drugs. If the presumption is not overcome by other evidence, any claim for workers' compensation benefits would be denied.
- 12. You shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment up to 12 months, or both for making false or misleading statements when claiming benefits. Also, any false statements or false evidence given under oath during the course of any administrative or appellate division hearing is perjury.

The State Board of Workers' Compensation will provide you with information regarding how to file a claim and will answer any other questions regarding your rights under the law. If you are calling in the Atlanta area, the telephone number is (404) 656-3818. Outside the metro Atlanta area, call 1-800-533-0682 or write the State Board of Workers' Compensation at: 270 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1299. A lawyer is not needed to file a claim with the Board; however, if you think you need a lawyer and do not have your own personal lawyer, you may contact the Lawyer Referral Service at (404) 521-0777.

Willfully making a false statement for the purpose of obtaining or denying benefits is a crime subject to penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation (O.C.G.A. 34-9-18 and 34-9-19).

Workers' Compensation Questions and Answers

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q. What is Workers' Compensation?

Workers' compensation is a benefits program created by state law that provides medical, rehabilitation, income, death and other benefits to employees and dependents due to injury, illness and death resulting from a compensable work-related claim covered by the law.

Q. When am I covered?

Workers' compensation coverage begins the first day of employment. Employers with three or more employees are required by law to provide coverage.

Q. What is considered an on-the-job injury, illness and death claim?

Any injury, illness or death arising out of and in the course of employment is by definition a compensable work-related claim. This means if employees are injured while performing assigned job duties during assigned work hours, they are covered under the workers' compensation program. Injuries sustained while engaging in unassigned duties, during lunch and breaks, are not covered. In addition, injuries that occur during an employee's normal commute to and from work are not covered.

Q. If I am injured on the job, what should I do?

You should **IMMEDIATELY** report your injury to your employer. Obtain and fill out the paperwork required by your company and forward to the appropriate organization for processing. Be as specific as possible when reporting your injury. If anyone witnessed your accident, inform your employer of such a witness. Prompt notification will enable your company to begin your benefits in a timely manner.

Q. What happens if I cannot make a report of my injury?

If your injury is such that you are unable to make a report, you will be provided immediate medical assistance and a report will be made for you. Others reporting the injury should also be as specific as possible when reporting the accident, and the report should be turned over to the employer as soon as possible.

Q. Are on-the-job accidents or injuries investigated?

Yes. Your employer and/or the company responsible for handling workers' compensation claims generally investigate on-the-job accidents and injuries. Investigations are necessary to determine why and how the injury occurred, and to implement policies and procedures to make the workplace safer.

Q. Are employee misconduct claims resulting from on-the-job injuries covered?

No. Workers' compensation does not provide benefits for an injury or accident resulting from an employee's willful misconduct (i.e. fighting, horseplay, willful act of third party for personal reasons, injuries related to alcohol or drug abuse).

Q. Are injuries resulting from haste and inattentiveness covered?

Yes. These types of injuries would be covered under the workers' compensation program. However, employees are encouraged to follow company policies and safety rules and may subject themselves to company discipline if these rules are not adhered to.

Q. What if I am concerned about my safety record?

Many companies have established safety programs to encourage employees to be safety conscious when performing their job duties. These programs usually offer certain awards to employees. Employees do not like to be responsible for causing their work group to miss safety goals. However, failure to report injuries because of safety programs could result in long-term consequences for the employee, as well as out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Q. Can I receive from my employer money damages in addition to workers' compensation benefits if I am injured on the job?

No. Workers' compensation is the "exclusive remedy" a worker has against his/her employer for damages resulting from an on-the-job injury.

Q. Can I sue anyone for a work-related injury?

If your injury was caused by the negligence of a third party other than another person who is also an employee of the company for which you work, you may have a right to sue that party. If you sue and receive a dollar award, your employer may have a right to recover some or all of the cost expended in your workers' compensation claim. This is known as a subrogation lien. The lien would only be recoverable after you had been fully compensated for your loss resulting from your on-the-job injury.

Q. How much will an attorney charge to handle a workers' compensation claim?

Most workers' compensation claims can be handled without having to hire an attorney. However, if you feel that an attorney is needed, the Workers' Compensation Statute limits the attorney's fee to a maximum of 25% of income benefits received, not to exceed 400 weeks of benefits. In addition, you would also be responsible for paying any expenses associated with the pursuit of your claim.

Q. How can I jeopardize my benefits?

- Failure to report injuries promptly.
- Failure to cooperate with employer and authorized treating physician regarding medical evaluations, treatment, rehabilitation services and claim investigation.
- Refusal to return to suitable employment.
- Working elsewhere while receiving Temporary Total Disability Benefits.

- Submittal of fraudulent information.
- Refusal to take a drug test.
- Refusal to submit to a medical examination by the authorized treating physician, at reasonable times.

Q. Are there circumstances where I would not receive workers' compensation benefits as a result of an on-the-job injury?

Yes. For instance, benefits are not payable if you are injured while engaged in willful misconduct or if your injury is due to the use of alcohol or drugs or the misuse of controlled substances.

Q. Does the State Board of Workers' Compensation investigate fraud?

Yes. The Board has an Enforcement Division that investigates allegations of fraud. The Board also has authority to assess civil penalties of up to \$10,000 for violations involving fraud.

MEDICAL BENEFIT QUESTIONS

Q. May I go to my personal physician for treatment for my on-the-job injury?

No. The law requires that you select from a list of physicians posted by your company in a prominent location. In addition, the law requires that you are informed of this list and understand its function. One of the following referral methods may be used.

Panel of Physicians – This must contain at least six qualified physicians. The makeup of the panel must include one orthopedic surgeon, a minority physician and four other properly qualified physicians.

Workers' Compensation Managed Care Organization (WC/MCO) – A WC/MCO offers a much larger choice of treating physicians from many disciplines. The WC/MCO must be approved by the State Board of Workers' Compensation.

If you are dissatisfied with your first selection, you may make one change to another physician from the posted list. Any further change of physician will require concurrence of your company and/or the workers' compensation administrator.

Should you choose to go to a doctor not on the approved list, this is considered unauthorized treatment, and your employer will not be responsible for the cost associated with this medical care. In addition, most health insurance policies will not pay for medical treatment associated with an on-the-job injury.

Q. How will I identify the List of Physicians?

The list of physicians will be printed on 8.5'x 14" paper titled "OFFICIAL NOTICE. This business operates under the Georgia Workers' Compensation Law." It will contain the name, specialty, address and phone number of the authorized physicians.

Q. What must I do if I need emergency treatment?

In a true emergency situation, you may get temporary medical care from the nearest emergency location available. Once the emergency is over, however, you must continue your care by selecting a doctor from the list of physicians provided by your employer.

Q. What happens if I need surgery?

Prior to scheduling any major surgical procedures for an on-the-job injury, except in the case of an emergency, your doctor will notify your employer or workers' compensation provider. Once your employer has been contacted, the appropriate workers' compensation professional will work with your physician and/or his/her medical staff to ensure that all the necessary arrangements are made.

Q. What if the doctor says that I need a MRI or CT scan?

Your authorized treating physician will arrange for these tests. Feel free to ask your physician what the test is for and why you need it.

Q. What if I need physical therapy?

Your authorized treating physician will refer you to a physical therapy provider.

Q. Am I required to pay a portion of the cost of the medical care I receive resulting from my on-the-job injury?

No. Your physician's bills and reasonable medical bills are covered if a physician authorized by your employer treats you. All medical charges are paid according to the Georgia Workers' Compensation Medical Fee Schedule. If your medical provider charges above the fee schedule, the charges will be reduced to the fee schedule, and that amount will be paid. YOU ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CHARGES ABOVE THE FEE SCHEDULE; however, if you are billed for those costs, contact your employer or workers' compensation provider to assist in getting the charges corrected.

Q. If the physician prescribes medicines for me, what do I do?

Prescription drugs are covered under workers' compensation. Check with your employer or workers' compensation administrator to see if they have any special procedures in place for obtaining prescription drugs. If no special arrangements have been made, you may have to pay for the prescription and submit the bill to your employer for reimbursement.

Q. Are there any expenses that I incur that will be reimbursed to me?

The Workers' Compensation Statute provides for reimbursement of certain reasonable personal expenses incurred to obtain medical treatment. This includes such things as mileage, meals, lodging and other expenses, in limited instances, which are deemed necessary and appropriate in order to ensure you receive quality medical care. You should check with your workers' compensation professionals before incurring expenses.

Q. How long do reimbursements take?

Approved expenses will be reimbursed within 15 days of submission as required by the Workers' Compensation Statute. However, most carriers process reimbursements in less time. If reimbursements are not paid within fifteen (15) days of receipt of documentation requesting reimbursement, penalties shall be added in addition to the reimbursement amount. It is important to submit your approved expenses within a year's time of the date of service otherwise you will have waived your right to collect such charges from the employer or workers' compensation insurer.

DISABILITY BENEFIT QUESTIONS

Q. What will happen if I am unable to work because of my on-the-job injury?

You are entitled to receive weekly **Temporary Total Disability** benefits if you miss **more than** seven days from work. Only if you are out more than 21 consecutive days due to your injury will you be paid for the first seven days. Your first check should be mailed to you within 21 days after the first day of disability. You will receive two-thirds of your average weekly wage, but not more than the maximum rate provided by the Workers' Compensation act at the time of your injury. Your authorized treating physician must verify your disability and absence from work.

Q. What if I cannot perform my regular job and another job is not available?

You would be eligible to receive Temporary Total Disability benefits if you are unable to work due to your on-the-job injury. You should also consult your employer regarding possible vocational rehabilitation opportunities.

Q. What happens if my disability becomes permanent?

If your authorized treating physician determines you have suffered a permanent disability, you would be entitled to receive Temporary Total Disability benefits for as long as you remain disabled. If you are able to work, you would begin receiving a weekly income benefit based on the permanent disability rating given you by your authorized treating physician. (See next question – **PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY).** The benefit would be paid to you regardless of your wage rate or total income.

Q. What income benefits are available under the Workers' Compensation Program?

The Workers' Compensation Statue provides four basic income benefits. The maximum amount of weekly workers' compensation benefits an employee can receive from an on-the-job injury, illness or death depends on the workers' compensation rate at the time of the injury and the employee's average weekly wage.

Temporary Total Disability Benefits – This benefit is payable to an employee who is injured on the job and unable to work as determined by the authorized treating physician. The amount is two-thirds of the employee's average weekly wage at the time of the injury, not to exceed the maximum amount allowed under the law. For non-catastrophic injuries, there is a limit of 400 weeks of benefits from date of injury if the injury occurred on or after July 1, 1992. For catastrophic injuries, benefits are unlimited.

Temporary Partial Disability Benefits – This benefit is payable to an employee when he/she returns to work in a job paying less as a result of an on-the-job accident. These benefits are payable for up to 350 weeks from the date of injury. This lost wage amount is two-thirds of the difference between the employee's average weekly wage before and after the injury. The maximum amount payable cannot exceed the maximum allowed under the law.

Permanent Partial Disability Benefits – This benefit is payable to the employee for a permanent disability resulting from an on-the-job injury. It is payable based upon a percentage given by your authorized treating physician in accordance with current AMA Guidelines. The percentage is calculated by a formula that contains number of weeks assigned by O.C.G.A 34-9-263(c) multiplied by the percentage rating multiplied by the Temporary Total Disability rate. Not all injuries result in ratings assigned by a physician.

Death Benefits – This benefit is payable to eligible dependents (i.e., dependent spouse, minor children) of an employee whose on-the-job injuries result in death. This benefit is payable at the rate of two-thirds of the deceased employee's average weekly wage at the time of the accident not to exceed the maximum

allowed under the law for all eligible dependents. **Funeral Expenses** are payable up to the maximum allowed under the law at the time of injury.

Benefits cannot be combined. Only one type of benefit is payable at a time.

Q. What happens to my workers' compensation benefits if I receive a light-duty release from my physician while I am out of work?

Your employer will try to place you in a job that meets the limitations placed on you by your physician. However, if a light-duty job is not available and you remain out of work in a light-duty status for 52 consecutive weeks or, if periods of disability are interrupted, a maximum of 78 total calendar weeks, your income benefits will be reduced automatically by law from the Temporary Total Disability benefit to the maximum eligible Temporary Partial Disability benefit.

If you are given a light-duty release and a light-duty job is available, your employer will expect you to return to work. The Workers' Compensation Statue provides for a 15-working-day "grace period." This allows an employee to attempt to perform a light-duty job without fear of losing benefits if they are unable to perform the job duties. An attempt is defined by eight cumulative hours or one scheduled workday, whichever is greater.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SPECIFIC INJURIES

Q. Can I be compensated for occupational related diseases?

Yes. If your disease meets certain tests imposed by law, you can be compensated. There must be a causal relationship between your employment and the disease. It cannot be a disease that is an ordinary disease of life to which others are exposed.

Q. What happens if I re-injure a pre-existing condition or injury?

The Workers' Compensation Act limits the extent to which an aggravation of a pre-existing condition or injury is compensable. An aggravation of an on-the-job injury is compensable while the aggravation is the cause of the disability. Once the aggravation resolves and you return to the pre-injury condition, the claim will no longer be compensable.

Q. Can I be compensated for a repetitive motion injury?

Yes. Repetitive motion injuries are compensable if they arise out of and in the course of employment.

Q. What is a catastrophic injury?

Catastrophic injuries are extremely severe injuries, i.e., loss of limbs, severe burns, etc. Your employer is required to appoint a rehabilitation supplier who has expertise in handling catastrophic cases. This person would assist you in managing your medical care as well as any other assistance you might need in the recovery period following the accident. You will be entitled to Temporary Total Disability benefits for as long as you remain unable to work. Once you have returned to work, the Temporary Total Disability benefits will cease. If you are placed in a lower paying job, you will begin receiving Temporary Partial Disability benefits. After those benefits have been paid, you will begin receiving Permanent Partial Disability benefits.

Q. Are heart attacks and strokes covered under workers' compensation?

Heart attacks and strokes are not considered injuries under workers' compensation unless it is shown by a preponderance of competent and credible evidence, which shall include medical evidence, that the condition was attributable to the performance of the usual work of employment.

QUESTIONS REGARDING TIME LIMITS/FILING CLAIMS

Q. What if my employer or workers' compensation administrator denies my claim?

If your claim is denied, you will be notified of the reason for the denial. You have the right to request a hearing from the State Board of Workers' Compensation if you disagree with the denial of your claim. A claim with the State Board must be filed within one year of the date of injury. The procedure for filing a claim with the State Board of Workers' Compensation is outlined on the back of the Workers' Compensation form titled "Employer's First Report of Injury" (WC-1).

Q. Is there a time limit or statute of limitation on filing a workers' compensation claim and if so, what is it?

After properly reporting an injury, you have one year from the date of the injury to file a claim. If you received remedial treatment from your employer for the injury, you have one year from the date of treatment to file a claim for workers' compensation benefits. If you received weekly income benefits as a result of the on-the-job injury, you have two years from the date of your last payment of weekly income benefits to file a claim.

In the case of an occupational disease claim, you have one year from the date you become aware of your disease or, in the exercise of reasonable diligence, should have known of the relationship between your disability and its relationship to your employment. No claim for an occupational disease may be filed after seven years from the last date you were exposed to the employment hazards related to your disease. However, for the diseases asbestosis or mesothelioma related to exposure to asbestos, you have one year from the date of first disablement after diagnosis to file a claim.

Q. Once I'm treated for my injury and have reached maximum medical improvement and begin having problems in the future due to my injury, may I receive additional treatment for this injury?

All injuries occurring on or before June 30, 2013 shall be entitled to lifetime medical benefits. If your accident occurred on or after July 1, 2013 medical treatment shall be limited to a maximum period of 400 weeks from the accident date. If your injury is catastrophic in nature, you may be entitled to lifetime medical benefits.

Q. When could my claim be closed?

When appropriate benefits have been paid, or once a settlement agreement is reached by all parties and approved by the State Board of Workers' Compensation and a monetary amount is paid to you or your dependents, your claim is closed. Note that not all claims are closed. Some claims, due to the nature of the injury, remain open until the statute of limitations runs, or until the injured worker's death, whichever occurs first.

WC-1 EMPLOYER'S FIRST REPORT OF INJURY OR OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

EMPLOYER'S FIRST REPORT OF INJURY OR OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE

NOTE: FAILURE	to su				IMMEDIAT	TELY MAY					PED OF		ED IN	
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REVISION 7/2021

WC-1 EMPLOYER'S FIRST REPORT OF INJURY OR OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION A. NOTICE TO EMPLOYER

- 1. Provide prompt medical attention; allow the employee to select a physician from your posted panel, and explain the panel to the employee.
- Complete Section A of this Form immediately upon your knowledge of an injury and send the WC-1 to your insurance company or self-insurer claims office. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN A PENALTY.
 Do not send this form to the State Board of Workers' Compensation. If you need additional help, call your insurance company or self-insurer claims office.
- 3. Report serious injuries immediately by telephone to your insurer's claims department, then file this form with your insurance company or self-insurer claims office.

B. NOTICE TO INSURER / SELF-INSURER

Upon receipt of this form, check to see that it is complete and accurate. Be sure to list the correct insurance company and their SBWC ID number.

Complete Section B, C, or D and file with the Board and send a copy of both sides of the Form to the employee and all counsel of record within 21 days of the employer's knowledge of disability, injury, or death.

Section B is completed when indemnity benefits are paid or due, including salary in lieu.

Section C is completed when claim is controverted in full or in part.

Section D is completed when no indemnity benefits are due and/or have NOT been controverted.

Form WC-6 must be filed if weekly benefits are less than the maximum.

C. NOTICE TO EMPLOYEE

This form is provided for your information only.

If Section B is completed, you will receive income benefits on a weekly basis and the employer will pay medical expenses from approved doctors. If you do not receive payment of benefits, or medical bills are not paid, call your employer or your employer's insurance company or self-insurer claims office.

If Section C is completed, your claim of injury has been denied by the employer/insurer. If you disagree with this denial, you must file a Form WC-14 Notice of Claim within one year of the accident with the **State Board of Workers' Compensation, 270 Peachtree Street N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1299.**

If Section D is completed, you will receive medical benefits only. At this time, indemnity benefits are not due. If your medical bills are not paid, call your employer or your employer's insurance company or self-insured claims office.

For information or assistance, contact:

STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Toll Free: 1-800-533-0682 Atlanta: (404) 656-3818

https://sbwc.georgia.gov

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION AT 404-656-3818 OR 1-800-533-0682 OR VISIT http://www.sbwc.georgia.gov WILLFULLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING OR DENYING BENEFITS IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO PENALTIES OF UP TO \$10,000.00 PER VIOLATION (O.C.G.A. § 34-9-18 AND § 34-9-19).



WC-6 WAGE STATEMENT

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

WAGE STATEMENT

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<u>ا</u>													
B. COMPUTATION OF AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE If the weekly benefit is less than the maximum, complete the schedule below for thirteen (13) weeks immediately preceding the accident. If the employee has not been in your													
If the weekly benefit is less than the maximum, complete the schedule below for thirteen (13) weeks immediately preceding the accident. If the employee has not been in your employ for the thirteen (13) weeks, complete this schedule showing gross weekly earnings of a similar employee in the same employment. If either of the foregoing methods cannot be reasonably and fairly applied, the full time weekly wage of the injured employee should be used.													
I 3 Weeks of Employee's Wages I 3 Weeks of a Similar Employee's Wages I Full Time Weekly Wage of Injured Employee: \$													
	SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY EARNINGS												
14/ I-	From		То	No. of	Gross Amount Paid		Value of Additional Compensation						
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WC-6 WAGE STATEMENT

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

WAGE STATEMENT

Board C	laim No.		Employee Last Name En					mployee First Name				Date of Injury	
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B. COMPUTATION OF AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE If the weekly benefit is less than the maximum, complete the schedule below for thirteen (13) weeks immediately preceding the accident. If the employee has not been in your													
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I 3 Weeks of Employee's Wages I 3 Weeks of a Similar Employee's Wages I Full Time Weekly Wage of Injured Employee: \$													
	SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY EARNINGS												
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WC-207 AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT TO RELEASE MEDICAL INFORMATION GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT TO RELEASE MEDICAL INFORMATION

Instructions: This form shall not be filed with the Board, unless otherwise requested

TO:			RE: Employe	ee / Patien	t		
Print Name and Title			Last Name		First Name		M.I.
Address			SSN	Date	of Injury	Birthdate	
City	State	Zip Code	L				

This document authorizes the release of only the medical information as provided below. The above-stated entity, facility or medical practitioner is authorized to release medical information to

in accordance with applicable State and Federal laws.

The information covered by this Authorization and Consent to Release is that authorized by O.C.G.A. §34-9-207 which reads as follows:

(a) When an employee has submitted a claim for workers' compensation benefits or is receiving payment of weekly income benefits or the employer has paid any medical expenses, that employee shall be deemed to have waived any privilege or confidentiality concerning any communications related to the claim or history or treatment of injury arising from the incident that the employee has had with any physician, including, but not limited to, communications with psychiatrists or psychologist. This waiver shall apply to the employee's medical history with respect to any condition or complaint reasonably related to the condition for which such employee claims compensation. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, when requested by the employer, any physician who has examined, treated, or tested the employee or consulted about the employee shall provide within a reasonable time and for a reasonable charge all information and records related to an examination, treatment, testing, or consultation concerning the employee.

(b) When an employee has submitted a claim for workers' compensation benefits or is receiving payment of weekly income benefits or the employer has paid any medical expenses, the employee, upon request, shall provide the employer with a signed release for medical records and information related to the claim or history or treatment of injury arising from the incident, including information related to the treatment for any mental condition or drug or alcohol abuse and to such employee's medical history with respect to any condition or complaint reasonably related to the condition for which such employee claims compensation. Said release shall designate the provider to whom the release is directed. If a hearing is pending, any release shall expire on the date of the hearing.

(c) If the employee refuses to provide a signed release for medical information as required by this Code section and, in the opinion of the Board, the refusal was not justified under the terms of this Code section, then such employee shall not be entitled to any compensation at any time during the continuance of such refusal or to a hearing on the issues of compensability arising from the claim.

Federal regulations (42 CFR Part 2), and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 45 CFR 164.512(1) which reads as follows: "The covered entity may disclose protected health information as authorized by and to the extent necessary to comply with laws relating to workers' compensation or other similar programs, established by law, that provide benefits for work-related illnesses or injury without regard to fault." Anyone who receives information under this authorization receives the same under all limitations set forth in Federal and State law regarding further dissemination of such information.

This release shall expire in 180 days or upon written notice of revocation by the patient. If a hearing is pending, this release shall remain in effect until the hearing and shall expire on the date the hearing is held.

Employee / Patient Signature

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION AT 404-656-3818 OR 1-800-533-0682 OR VISIT http://www.sbwc.georgia.gov

WILLFULLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING OR DENYING BENEFITS IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO PENALTIES OF UP TO \$10,000.00 PER VIOLATION (O.C.G.A. \$34-9-18 AND \$34-9-19).

207

AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT TO RELEASE MEDICAL INFORMATION

Date

WC-BILL OF RIGHTS GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE INJURED WORKER

As required by law, O.C.G.A. §34-9-81.1, this is a summary of your rights and responsibilities. The Workers' Compensation Law provides you, as a worker in the State of Georgia, with certain rights and responsibilities should you be injured on the job. The Workers' Compensation Law provides you coverage for a work-related injury even if an injury occurs on the first day on the job. In addition to rights, you also have certain responsibilities. Your rights and responsibilities are described below.

Employee's Rights

- 1. If you are injured on the job, you may receive medical rehabilitation and income benefits. These benefits are provided to help you return to work. Your dependents may also receive benefits if you die as a result of a job-related injury.
- 2. Your employer is required to post a list of at least six doctors or the name of the certified WC/MCO that provides medical care, unless the Board has granted an exception. You may choose a doctor from the list and make one change to another doctor on the list without the permission of your employer. However, in an emergency, you may get temporary medical care from any doctor until the emergency is over, then you must get treatment from a doctor on the posted list.
- 3. Your authorized doctor bills, hospital bills, rehabilitation in some cases, physical therapy, prescriptions, and necessary travel expenses will be paid if injury was caused by an accident on the job. All injuries occurring on or before June 30, 2013 shall be entitled to lifetime medical benefits. If your accident occurred on or after July 1, 2013 medical treatment shall be limited to a maximum of 400 weeks from the accident date. If your injury is catastrophic in nature you may be entitled to lifetime medical benefits.
- 4. You are entitled to weekly income benefits if you have more than seven days of lost time due to an injury. Your first check should be mailed to you within 21 days after the first day you missed work. If you are out more than 21 consecutive days due to your injury, you will be paid for the first week.
- 5. Accidents are classified as being either catastrophic or noncatastrophic. Catastrophic injuries are those involving amputations, severe paralysis, severe head injuries, severe burns, blindness, or of a nature and severity that prevents the employee from being able to perform his or her prior work and any work available in substantial numbers within the national economy. In catastrophic cases, you are entitled to receive two-thirds of your average weekly wage but not more than \$675 per week for a job-related injury for as long as you are unable to return to work. You also are entitled to receive medical and vocational rehabilitation benefits to help in recovering from your injury. If you need help in this area call the State Board of Workers' Compensation at (404) 656-0849.
- 6. In all other cases (non-catastrophic), you are entitled to receive two-thirds of your average weekly wage but not more than \$675 per week for a job related injury. You will receive these weekly benefits as long as you are totally disabled, but no longer than 400 weeks. If you are not working and it is determined that you have been capable of performing work with restrictions for 52 consecutive weeks or 78 aggregate weeks, your weekly income benefits will be reduced to two-thirds of your average weekly wage but no more than \$450 per week, not to exceed 350 weeks.
- 7. When you are able to return to work, but can only get a lower paying job as a result of your injury, you are entitled to a weekly benefit of not more than \$450 per week for no longer than 350 weeks.
- 8. Your dependent(s), in the event you die as a result of an onthe-job accident, will receive burial expenses up to \$7,500 and two-thirds of your average weekly wage, but not more than \$675 per week. A widowed spouse with no children will be paid a maximum of \$270,000. Benefits continue until he/she remarries or openly cohabits with a person of the opposite sex.
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- 2. You must report any accident immediately, but not later than 30 days after the accident, to your employer, your employer's representative, your foreman or immediate supervisor. Failure to do so may result in the loss of the benefits.
- 3. An employee has a continuing obligation to cooperate with medical providers in the course of their treatment for work related injuries. You must accept reasonable medical treatment and rehabilitation services when ordered by the State Board of Workers' Compensation or the Board may suspend your benefits.
- 4. No compensation shall be allowed for an injury or death due to the employee's willful misconduct.
- 5. You must notify the insurance carrier/employer of your address when you move to a new location. You should notify the insurance carrier/employer when you are able to return to full-time or part-time work and report the amount of your weekly earnings because you may be entitled to some income benefits even though you have returned to work.
- 6. A dependent spouse of a deceased employee shall notify the insurance carrier/employer upon change of address or remarriage.
- 7. You must attempt a job approved by the authorized treating physician even if the pay is lower than the job you had when you were injured. If you do not attempt the job, your benefits may be suspended.
- 8. If you believe you are due benefits and your insurance carrier/employer denies these benefits, you must file a claim within one year after the date of last authorized medical treatment or within two years of your last payment of weekly benefits or you will lose your right to these benefits.
- 9. If your dependent(s) do not receive allowable benefit payments, the dependent(s) must file a claim with the State Board of Workers' Compensation within one year after your death or lose the right to these benefits.
- 10. Any request for reimbursement to you for mileage or other expenses related to medical care must be submitted to the insurance carrier/employer within one year of the date the expense was incurred.
- 11. If an employee unjustifiably refuses to submit to a drug test following an on-the-job injury, there shall be a presumption that the accident and injury were caused by alcohol or drugs. If the presumption is not overcome by other evidence, any claim for workers' compensation benefits would be denied.
- 12. You shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000.00 or imprisonment, up to 12 months, or both, for making false or misleading statements when claiming benefits. Also, any false statements or false evidence given under oath during the course of any administrative or appellate division hearing is perjury.

The State Board of Workers' Compensation will provide you with information regarding how to file a claim and will answer any other questions regarding your rights under the law. If you are calling in the Atlanta area the telephone number is (404) 656-3818, outside the metro Atlanta area call 1-800-533-0682, or write the State Board of Workers' Compensation at: 270 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1299 or visit our website: <u>http://www.sbwc.georgia.gov</u>. A lawyer is not needed to file a claim with the Board; however, if you think you need a lawyer and do not have your own personal lawyer, you may contact the Lawyer Referral Service at (404) 521-0777 or 1-800-237-2629.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION AT 404-656-3818 OR 1-800-533-0682 OR VISIT http://www.sbwc.georgia.gov

WILLFULLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING OR DENYING BENEFITS IS A CRIME SUBJECT TO PENALTIES OF UP TO \$10,000.00 PER VIOLATION (O.C.G.A. §34-9-18 AND §34-9-19).

WC-BILL OF RIGHTS JUNTA ESTATAL DE COMPENSACIÓN DE TRABAJADORES DE GEORGIA DECLARACIÓN DE DERECHOS PARA EL TRABAJADOR LESIONADO

Según lo requiere la Ley O.C.G.A. §34-9-81.1, esto es un recuento de sus derechos y responsabilidades. La Ley de Compensación de Trabajadores le provee a usted, como trabajador en el Estado de Georgia, ciertos derechos y responsabilidades si usted se lesiona en el trabajo. La Ley de Compensación de Trabajador lo provee a usted con cobertura de lesiones relacionadas con el trabajo aunque su lesión sea en el primer día de trabajo. Además de sus derechos, usted también tiene ciertas responsabilidades. Sus derechos y responsabilidades están descritos abajo.

Derechos de los Empleados

- Si usted se lesiona en el trabajo, usted puede recibir rehabilitación médica y beneficios de ingresos. Estos beneficios son proveídos para ayudarlo a regresar al trabajo. También sus dependientes pueden recibir beneficios si usted muere como resultado de lesiones recibidas en el trabajo.
- 2. Se le requiere a su empleador que anuncie una lista de seis doctores o por lo menos el nombre de un WC/ MCO certificado que provee cuidados médicos, al menos que la Junta halla otorgado una excepción. Usted puede escoger un doctor de la lista sin el permiso de su empleador. Sin embargo, en una emergencia, usted puede recibir asistencia medica temporaria de cualquier otro medico hasta que la emergencia termine después usted debe recibir tratamiento de los médicos que se anuncian en la lista.
- 3. Sus cuentas médicas autorizadas, cuentas de hospital, rehabilitación en algunos casos, terapia física, recetas y gastos de transporte serán pagados si la lesión fue ocasionada por un accidente en el trabajo. Todas las lesiones que ocurren en o antes 30 de junio de 2013 se tendrá derecho a beneficios médicos de por vida. Si el accidente ocurrió en o 1 de julio del 2013 el tratamiento médico será limitado a un máximo de 400 semanas a partir de la fecha del accidente. Si su lesión es catastrófica en la naturaleza que puede tener derecho a beneficios médicos de por vida.
- 4. Usted tiene derecho a recibir beneficios de ingresos semanales si usted ha perdido tiempo por más de siete días debido a una lesión. Su primer cheque debe ser enviado a usted dentro de 21 días, después del primer día que falto al trabajo. Si esta fuera más de 21 días consecutivos debido a su lesión, se le pagara la primera semana.
- 5. Los accidentes son clasificados ya sea catastróficos o no catastróficos. Lesiones catastróficas son las que envuelven amputación, parálisis severas, lesiones severas de la cabeza, quemaduras severas, ceguera que prevenga al empleado a que pueda realizar el o ella su trabajo anterior o cualquier otro trabajo disponible en numero considerable dentro de la economía nacional. En casos catastróficos usted tiene derecho a recibir un promedio de dos terceras partes de su ingreso semanal pero no más de \$675 por semana por una lesión relacionada con el trabajo durante todo el tiempo que usted no pueda regresar a su trabajo. Usted también tiene derecho a recibir beneficios médicos y de rehabilitación. Si usted necesita ayuda en esta área llame a la Junta Estatal de Compensación de Trabajadores al (404) 656-0849.
- 6. En todos los otros casos (no catastróficos) usted tiene el derecho a recibir dos terceras partes de su sueldo promedio semanal pero no más de \$675 por semana de una lesión relacionada de trabajo, usted recibirá estos beneficios mientras usted este incapacitado. Pero no más de 400 semanas si no esta trabajando y se determina que usted esta capacitado a desempeñar con restricción por 52 semanas consecutivas o 78 semanas agregadas sus ingresos semanales serán reducidos a dos terceras partes de su sueldo promedio pero no más de \$450 por semana, que no excedan 350 semanas.
- Cuando usted pueda regresar a trabajar pero solo pueda conseguir empleo de salario bajo como resultado de su lesión usted tiene derecho a un beneficio semanal de no más de \$450 por semana pero no más de 350 semanas.
- 8. En caso de que usted muera como resultado de un accidente en el trabajo, su dependiente (s) recibirán para gastos de entierro \$7,500 y dos terceras partes de su sueldo promedio semanal, pero no más de \$675 por semana. Una esposa viuda sin niños se le pagara un máximo de \$270,000 en beneficios continuos hasta que EL/ELLA se vuelva a casar o abiertamente cohabite con una persona del sexo opuesto.
- Si usted no recibe beneficios cuando sea debido, la compañía de seguro/empleador debe de pagar penalidades, que se agregaran a sus pagos.

Responsabilidades de los Empleados

- 1. Usted debe de seguir las reglas escritas de seguridad y otras pólizas razonables y procedimientos del empleador.
- 2. Usted debe reportar cualquier accidente inmediatamente, pero no más tarde de 30 días después del accidente, a su empleador, los representantes del empleador, su capataz o supervisor inmediato. Fallar en hacerlo puede resultar en la perdida de sus beneficios.
- 3. Un empleado tiene la continua obligación de cooperar con proveedores médicos en el curso de su tratamiento relacionado con lesiones de trabajo. Usted debe aceptar tratamientos médicos razonables y servicios de rehabilitación cuando sean ordenados por la Junta Estatal de Compensación de Trabajadores o la Junta puede suspender sus beneficios.
- 4. No se permitirá compensación por una lesión o muerte debido a una conducta mal intencionada de los empleados.
- 5. Debe de notificar a la compañía de seguro/empleador de su dirección cuando se mude a un nuevo lugar. Usted debe notificar a la compañía de seguros/empleador cuando usted halla regresado a trabajar de tiempo completo o medio tiempo y reportar la cantidad de su salario semanal porque usted puede tener derecho a algún beneficio de ingreso aun así halla regresado al trabajo.
- Una esposa dependiente de un empleado difunto debe notificar a la compañía de seguro/ empleador de cambios de dirección o nuevo matrimonio.
- 7. Usted debe intentar un trabajo aprobado por su medico autorizado aunque el pago sea mas bajo que en el trabajo que usted tenia cuando se lesionó, si usted no intenta el trabajo sus beneficios pueden ser suspendidos.
- 8. Si usted cree que debe recibir beneficios y su compañía de seguros/empleador niega estos beneficios. Usted debe de hacer un reclamo dentro de un año después del ultimo tratamiento medico o dentro de dos años de su último pago de beneficios semanales o usted perderá sus derechos a estos beneficios.
- Si su (s) dependiente (s) no reciben beneficio de pagos permitidos. El dependiente debe hacer un reclamo con la Junta Estatal de Compensación de Trabajadores dentro de un año después de su muerte o perderán los derechos a estos beneficios.
- 10. Algún pedido de reembolso a usted por millas o otros gastos relacionados con tratamiento medico debe ser sometidos a la compañía de seguros/empleador dentro de un año del día que los gastos fueron incurridos.
- 11. Si un empleado injustificadamente rehúsa a someterse a una prueba de droga después de una lesión en el trabajo habrá una presunción de que el accidente y lesión fueran causados por droga o alcohol. Si la presunción no se sobrepone por otras evidencias, algún reclamo hecho para beneficios de compensación de Trabajador serán negados.
- 12. Usted será culpable de un delito menor y una vez convicto debe ser castigado con una multa de no más de \$10,000.00 o encarcelamiento de hasta 12 meses o las dos, por hacer declaraciones falsas o engañosos testimonios cuando reclame beneficios. También cualquier declaración falsa o evidencia falsa dadas bajo juramento durante el curso de alguna audiencia de división de apelación o administración es perjurio.

La Junta de Compensación de Trabajadores le proporcionará la información relativa a la manera de presentar una reclamación y responderá a cualquier preguntas adicionales sobre sus derechos en virtud de la ley. Si usted llama en la zona de Atlanta, el teléfono es el (404) 656-3818 y fuera de la zona metropolitana de Atlanta, llame al 1-800-533-0682, o escriba a la Junta Estatal de Compensación de Trabajadores a 270 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1299 o visita sitio web: <u>http://www.sbwc.georgia.gov</u>. No es necesario tener un abogado para presentar una reclamación a la Junta; sin embargo, si usted cree que necesita los servicios de un abogado y no tiene uno propio, usted puede ponerse en contacto con el Servicio de Referencia de Abogados (Lawyers Referral Service) al teléfono (404) 521-0777 o al 1-800-237-2629.

SI USTED TIENE PREGUNTAS LLAME AL (404) 656-3818 O 1-800-533-0682 O VISITA SITIO WEB: http://www.sbwc.georgia.gov CUALQUIER DECLARACIÓN FALSA Y DELIBERADA PARA OBTENER O NEGAR BENEFICIOS ES UNA OFENSA CRIMINAL Y ES SUJETO A PENALIDADES DE HASTA \$10,000 POR CADA VIOLACIÓN (O.C.G.A. §34-9-18 Y §34-9-19).

REVISIÓN 07/2019

WC-BILL OF RIGHTS GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE INJURED WORKER

As required by law, O.C.G.A. §34-9-81.1, this is a summary of your rights and responsibilities. The Workers' Compensation Law provides you, as a worker in the State of Georgia, with certain rights and responsibilities should you be injured on the job. The Workers' Compensation Law provides you coverage for a work-related injury even if an injury occurs on the first day on the job. In addition to rights, you also have certain responsibilities. Your rights and responsibilities are described below.

Employee's Rights

- 1. If you are injured on the job, you may receive medical rehabilitation and income benefits. These benefits are provided to help you return to work. Your dependents may also receive benefits if you die as a result of a job-related injury.
- 2. Your employer is required to post a list of at least six doctors or the name of the certified WC/MCO that provides medical care, unless the Board has granted an exception. You may choose a doctor from the list and make one change to another doctor on the list without the permission of your employer. However, in an emergency, you may get temporary medical care from any doctor until the emergency is over, then you must get treatment from a doctor on the posted list.
- 3. Your authorized doctor bills, hospital bills, rehabilitation in some cases, physical therapy, prescriptions, and necessary travel expenses will be paid if injury was caused by an accident on the job. All injuries occurring on or before June 30, 2013 shall be entitled to lifetime medical benefits. If your accident occurred on or after July 1, 2013 medical treatment shall be limited to a maximum of 400 weeks from the accident date. If your injury is catastrophic in nature you may be entitled to lifetime medical benefits.
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- 5. Accidents are classified as being either catastrophic or noncatastrophic. Catastrophic injuries are those involving amputations, severe paralysis, severe head injuries, severe burns, blindness, or of a nature and severity that prevents the employee from being able to perform his or her prior work and any work available in substantial numbers within the national economy. In catastrophic cases, you are entitled to receive two-thirds of your average weekly wage but not more than \$675 per week for a job-related injury for as long as you are unable to return to work. You also are entitled to receive medical and vocational rehabilitation benefits to help in recovering from your injury. If you need help in this area call the State Board of Workers' Compensation at (404) 656-0849.
- 6. In all other cases (non-catastrophic), you are entitled to receive two-thirds of your average weekly wage but not more than \$675 per week for a job related injury. You will receive these weekly benefits as long as you are totally disabled, but no longer than 400 weeks. If you are not working and it is determined that you have been capable of performing work with restrictions for 52 consecutive weeks or 78 aggregate weeks, your weekly income benefits will be reduced to two-thirds of your average weekly wage but no more than \$450 per week, not to exceed 350 weeks.
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WC-BILL OF RIGHTS JUNTA ESTATAL DE COMPENSACIÓN DE TRABAJADORES DE GEORGIA DECLARACIÓN DE DERECHOS PARA EL TRABAJADOR LESIONADO

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Derechos de los Empleados

- Si usted se lesiona en el trabajo, usted puede recibir rehabilitación médica y beneficios de ingresos. Estos beneficios son proveídos para ayudarlo a regresar al trabajo. También sus dependientes pueden recibir beneficios si usted muere como resultado de lesiones recibidas en el trabajo.
- 2. Se le requiere a su empleador que anuncie una lista de seis doctores o por lo menos el nombre de un WC/ MCO certificado que provee cuidados médicos, al menos que la Junta halla otorgado una excepción. Usted puede escoger un doctor de la lista sin el permiso de su empleador. Sin embargo, en una emergencia, usted puede recibir asistencia medica temporaria de cualquier otro medico hasta que la emergencia termine después usted debe recibir tratamiento de los médicos que se anuncian en la lista.
- 3. Sus cuentas médicas autorizadas, cuentas de hospital, rehabilitación en algunos casos, terapia física, recetas y gastos de transporte serán pagados si la lesión fue ocasionada por un accidente en el trabajo. Todas las lesiones que ocurren en o antes 30 de junio de 2013 se tendrá derecho a beneficios médicos de por vida. Si el accidente ocurrió en o 1 de julio del 2013 el tratamiento médico será limitado a un máximo de 400 semanas a partir de la fecha del accidente. Si su lesión es catastrófica en la naturaleza que puede tener derecho a beneficios médicos de por vida.
- 4. Usted tiene derecho a recibir beneficios de ingresos semanales si usted ha perdido tiempo por más de siete días debido a una lesión. Su primer cheque debe ser enviado a usted dentro de 21 días, después del primer día que falto al trabajo. Si esta fuera más de 21 días consecutivos debido a su lesión, se le pagara la primera semana.
- 5. Los accidentes son clasificados ya sea catastróficos o no catastróficos. Lesiones catastróficas son las que envuelven amputación, parálisis severas, lesiones severas de la cabeza, quemaduras severas, ceguera que prevenga al empleado a que pueda realizar el o ella su trabajo anterior o cualquier otro trabajo disponible en numero considerable dentro de la economía nacional. En casos catastróficos usted tiene derecho a recibir un promedio de dos terceras partes de su ingreso semanal pero no más de \$675 por semana por una lesión relacionada con el trabajo durante todo el tiempo que usted no pueda regresar a su trabajo. Usted también tiene derecho a recibir beneficios médicos y de rehabilitación. Si usted necesita ayuda en esta área llame a la Junta Estatal de Compensación de Trabajadores al (404) 656-0849.
- 6. En todos los otros casos (no catastróficos) usted tiene el derecho a recibir dos terceras partes de su sueldo promedio semanal pero no más de \$675 por semana de una lesión relacionada de trabajo, usted recibirá estos beneficios mientras usted este incapacitado. Pero no más de 400 semanas si no esta trabajando y se determina que usted esta capacitado a desempeñar con restricción por 52 semanas consecutivas o 78 semanas agregadas sus ingresos semanales serán reducidos a dos terceras partes de su sueldo promedio pero no más de \$450 por semana, que no excedan 350 semanas.
- Cuando usted pueda regresar a trabajar pero solo pueda conseguir empleo de salario bajo como resultado de su lesión usted tiene derecho a un beneficio semanal de no más de \$450 por semana pero no más de 350 semanas.
- 8. En caso de que usted muera como resultado de un accidente en el trabajo, su dependiente (s) recibirán para gastos de entierro \$7,500 y dos terceras partes de su sueldo promedio semanal, pero no más de \$675 por semana. Una esposa viuda sin niños se le pagara un máximo de \$270,000 en beneficios continuos hasta que EL/ELLA se vuelva a casar o abiertamente cohabite con una persona del sexo opuesto.
- Si usted no recibe beneficios cuando sea debido, la compañía de seguro/empleador debe de pagar penalidades, que se agregaran a sus pagos.

Responsabilidades de los Empleados

- 1. Usted debe de seguir las reglas escritas de seguridad y otras pólizas razonables y procedimientos del empleador.
- 2. Usted debe reportar cualquier accidente inmediatamente, pero no más tarde de 30 días después del accidente, a su empleador, los representantes del empleador, su capataz o supervisor inmediato. Fallar en hacerlo puede resultar en la perdida de sus beneficios.
- 3. Un empleado tiene la continua obligación de cooperar con proveedores médicos en el curso de su tratamiento relacionado con lesiones de trabajo. Usted debe aceptar tratamientos médicos razonables y servicios de rehabilitación cuando sean ordenados por la Junta Estatal de Compensación de Trabajadores o la Junta puede suspender sus beneficios.
- 4. No se permitirá compensación por una lesión o muerte debido a una conducta mal intencionada de los empleados.
- 5. Debe de notificar a la compañía de seguro/empleador de su dirección cuando se mude a un nuevo lugar. Usted debe notificar a la compañía de seguros/empleador cuando usted halla regresado a trabajar de tiempo completo o medio tiempo y reportar la cantidad de su salario semanal porque usted puede tener derecho a algún beneficio de ingreso aun así halla regresado al trabajo.
- Una esposa dependiente de un empleado difunto debe notificar a la compañía de seguro/ empleador de cambios de dirección o nuevo matrimonio.
- 7. Usted debe intentar un trabajo aprobado por su medico autorizado aunque el pago sea mas bajo que en el trabajo que usted tenia cuando se lesionó, si usted no intenta el trabajo sus beneficios pueden ser suspendidos.
- 8. Si usted cree que debe recibir beneficios y su compañía de seguros/empleador niega estos beneficios. Usted debe de hacer un reclamo dentro de un año después del ultimo tratamiento medico o dentro de dos años de su último pago de beneficios semanales o usted perderá sus derechos a estos beneficios.
- Si su (s) dependiente (s) no reciben beneficio de pagos permitidos. El dependiente debe hacer un reclamo con la Junta Estatal de Compensación de Trabajadores dentro de un año después de su muerte o perderán los derechos a estos beneficios.
- 10. Algún pedido de reembolso a usted por millas o otros gastos relacionados con tratamiento medico debe ser sometidos a la compañía de seguros/empleador dentro de un año del día que los gastos fueron incurridos.
- 11. Si un empleado injustificadamente rehúsa a someterse a una prueba de droga después de una lesión en el trabajo habrá una presunción de que el accidente y lesión fueran causados por droga o alcohol. Si la presunción no se sobrepone por otras evidencias, algún reclamo hecho para beneficios de compensación de Trabajador serán negados.
- 12. Usted será culpable de un delito menor y una vez convicto debe ser castigado con una multa de no más de \$10,000.00 o encarcelamiento de hasta 12 meses o las dos, por hacer declaraciones falsas o engañosos testimonios cuando reclame beneficios. También cualquier declaración falsa o evidencia falsa dadas bajo juramento durante el curso de alguna audiencia de división de apelación o administración es perjurio.

La Junta de Compensación de Trabajadores le proporcionará la información relativa a la manera de presentar una reclamación y responderá a cualquier preguntas adicionales sobre sus derechos en virtud de la ley. Si usted llama en la zona de Atlanta, el teléfono es el (404) 656-3818 y fuera de la zona metropolitana de Atlanta, llame al 1-800-533-0682, o escriba a la Junta Estatal de Compensación de Trabajadores a 270 Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-1299 o visita sitio web: <u>http://www.sbwc.georgia.gov</u>. No es necesario tener un abogado para presentar una reclamación a la Junta; sin embargo, si usted cree que necesita los servicios de un abogado y no tiene uno propio, usted puede ponerse en contacto con el Servicio de Referencia de Abogados (Lawyers Referral Service) al teléfono (404) 521-0777 o al 1-800-237-2629.

SI USTED TIENE PREGUNTAS LLAME AL (404) 656-3818 O 1-800-533-0682 O VISITA SITIO WEB: http://www.sbwc.georgia.gov CUALQUIER DECLARACIÓN FALSA Y DELIBERADA PARA OBTENER O NEGAR BENEFICIOS ES UNA OFENSA CRIMINAL Y ES SUJETO A PENALIDADES DE HASTA \$10,000 POR CADA VIOLACIÓN (O.C.G.A. §34-9-18 Y §34-9-19).

REVISIÓN 07/2019