



When you're injured on the job

Important information about Workers Comp

No. 2 in a series provided by the attorneys at RudichLaw



You got hurt at work. What do you do?

1. First things first Get the medical attention you need. You are not required to go to a doctor your employer selects for you.

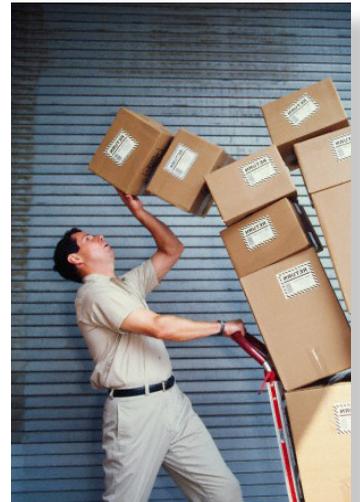
2. Call a lawyer with experience and expertise in Workers Comp cases. Tell him or her what happened. It's best to prepare some notes first so you're prepared to provide the most relevant details, most importantly, the date and place of the accident and a brief description of the accident and injury. You'll want to have the names and contact information of any witnesses. It's also helpful to take photos if there is the possibility of a third party claim. *Why call a lawyer before you file a claim?* An experienced Workers Comp lawyer gives you the best chance of getting the maximum Workers Comp benefits. Even if your employer is in your corner, their insurance company is not. It's their job to limit the financial exposure of your injury or illness to their bottom line and get you back to work as soon as possible.

3. Notify your employer In most cases, you have 45 days of you injury to notify your employer, though it's best to do so right away. If you have a repetitive motion injury (such as carpal tunnel syndrome) or Occupational Illness, it can be difficult to determine the date of the injury or illness. A lawyer can be especially helpful in such cases. You may be asked by your employer to fill out some paper work regarding your injury or illness. You can consult with a lawyer before doing so.

What are your rights in Illinois?

The Illinois Workers Compensation Act was created to protect your rights. Here are the basics.

- In most cases, you're entitled to collect money for your permanent work related injuries as long as they were within the course and scope of your employment.
- Your employer is required to cover all necessary and reasonable medical bills you incurred as a result of your work injury. You have the right to be treated by doctors of your choice at your employer's expense.
- You are entitled to two-thirds of your average weekly gross income for the time you miss work related to this injury.
- Even a previous injury aggravated in the course of your job is covered.
- In some cases, you have a right to collect money from a "third party," someone other than your employer who was at fault for your accident.
- Repetitive motion injuries, like carpal tunnel syndrome are covered under the Illinois Workers Compensation Act.
- If your work-related injury prevents you from returning to your job, your employer is required by law to assist you in finding a new job, or to pay you a portion of your lost income. If you are forced to take a lower-paying job because of your injury, your employer is required to pay a portion of the difference.
- Your employer is prohibited from harassing or firing you for filing a claim. That is discrimination!





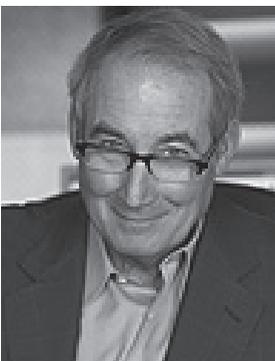
What about the money?

- It's all yours. The money you receive as a result of an Illinois Worker's Compensation claim is tax-free.
- Your attorney's fees are limited to 20% of a permanency award and any disputed benefits your lawyer is able to get for you.



Why not file the claim through your employer?

- You aren't guaranteed the maximum benefit. Without your own lawyer, you get what your employer's insurance company is willing to pay. A lawyer can help you get what you are entitled to.
- Some claims are denied entirely by insurance companies. They have lawyers. You need one too.
- You could have a "third party" claim. You may not know that without consulting with your own lawyer.
- Your lawyer can determine whether or not you qualify for a permanency settlement. You can't collect permanency unless your case is filed with the Illinois Workers Compensation Commission.



This information was provided by Rudich Law

If you have been injured at your job, call Roger Rudich now, at 866-457-8892. He can help you get the compensation you deserve. Roger has extensive experience with Workers' Comp and knows how to prepare a case and win. You pay no fee unless you collect.

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