



DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

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July 7, 2021 OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Missouri's new COVID-19 cases are increasing state-wide, most cases are of the more virulent Delta variant. The Division continues to be vigilant in protecting team members while allowing access to the court by requiring anyone coming into the DWC offices to have a destination and purpose for their visit. Parties are permitted to gather in the office reception area. Parties will be invited to go to the courtroom when the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) is ready for them.

The Division will continue to schedule mediations and conferences by teleconference or videoconference. The DWC is updating notices to allow for in-person setting requests. Currently, in-person settings can be requested if there is a stated need to appear before a judge in-person.

We will continue to schedule prehearings by status report. This process has been proven successful and provides valuable information to the Division.

When an in-person conference is requested, there should be a reason to do so. The decision to appear in-person must be the injured worker's choice. Injured workers are not required to be present in-person to settle their case, and for many the opportunity to do so remotely saves time, trouble, and money.

ALL ALJs are equipped with laptops with cameras and microphones to allow virtual settings to be held face-to-face. Docket clerks have the ability to schedule WebEx meetings to accommodate the proposed setting requests. Once a setting has been scheduled, meeting sign-in information will be sent to all parties.

Please remember that if you are attending an in-person hearing, mediation, or conference to practice social distancing and follow the guidelines posted at the Division's facilities. Visitors are encouraged to wear their masks. However, we do not require Division staff or visitors to wear facemasks at this time (unless 6 feet social distancing is not attainable). Also, most DWC offices can accommodate a request for a hybrid hearing where some parties/witnesses appear in-person, and some appear virtually, by consent.

The Division will continue the practice of fully mediating cases before setting the case for trial, as this process has proven to be very effective. Requests for mediations longer than 30 minutes can be accommodated.

The DWC is open for business and here as a resource for information or other help you might need.

*Missouri Division of Workers' Compensation is an equal opportunity employer/program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
TDD/TTY: 800-735-2966 Relay Missouri: 711*