

Legal Rights of an Employee Injured at Work



How can I protect my rights after an injury on the job?

When injured on the job in Georgia, the first thing you should do is report the accident to your supervisor. This should be done as soon as reasonably possible and preferably in writing. It is best if the injury is reported the same day or the following day, but it must be reported within 30 days.



What are my rights in Georgia?

An injured worker is entitled to medical treatment related to the occupational accident. The employer should prominently post a list of pre-approved doctors you can choose from. If your employer does not provide you with that list you may have the right to choose any physician you wish. At the same time, if the employer suggests that you utilize your personal health insurance, you have the right to say no.

What are my rights against third parties?

In most cases, filing a claim for an accident occurring at work through the workers' compensation system is the exclusive remedy for employees. However, there are times when an injury will involve a third party who caused the accident. This may be due to an automobile accident that occurred while you were on the job. In that case, so long as the other vehicle involved was not employed by the same employer, a separate claim may be filed against that driver. Some injured workers may find that their injuries are caused by a defective piece of equipment and they may be able to pursue a separate claim against the manufacturer.

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