

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I GET HURT ON THE JOB?

GET MEDICAL ATTENTION.

Your body is more important than anything else. If you need to go to the Emergency Room, GO! The Employer is generally required to have a "pre-approved list" of doctors who will see you free of charge as it relates to your work accident.

REPORT THE ACCIDENT OR INJURY TO YOUR SUPERVISOR.

In Georgia, you are required to report your accident to your supervisor as soon as possible. If you wait too long to report the accident or injury, you may be legally barred from claiming workers' compensation.

WRITE UP AN ACCIDENT REPORT.

As time passes, people tend to forget details about the accident or witnesses may leave the company. It is important that you take some time to jot down exactly what happened as soon as it is practicable. I recommend you speak to witnesses; secure their contact information; take photos; or whatever else you can think of to preserve the details and evidence of your accident.

ATTEND YOUR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS.

Like I stated earlier, you must take care of your body and go to the medical appointments. While you are there, be very candid with the physician and express to him or her all the body parts that are painful. The Employer, Insurance Company, and potential State Board of Workers' Compensation Judges will carefully examine what you tell the doctors. This is no time to be stoic or "superman or superwoman". If it hurts or if something does not feel right, tell the doctor. However, it does not help you if you exaggerate your symptoms. Be candid but always truthful.

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR MILEAGE AND OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES.

In Georgia, you are entitled to mileage reimbursement to and from your doctor's visits at a statutory rate. Also, if you pay for parking or any prescription medication, I recommend you seek reimbursement for those expenses.

REQUEST INCOME BENEFITS.

If you are out of work because of your work injury, you may be entitled to receive 2/3 of your average weekly wage up to a certain statutory amount. This part is a little more tricky and you may need to consult with our office regarding protocol and waiting periods associated with income benefits.

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