

# *Compensation for work-related injuries*

In order to ensure that injured workers receive compensation as expeditiously as possible, Mississippi workers'



compensation laws require em-

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ployers to compensate workers who are injured during the course of their employment. Unlike a typical personal injury case, workers' compensation laws do not require that the injured worker prove that their employer caused their injuries. The law simply requires that the injury arise out of the and in the course of one's employment.

While an employee is unable to work due to their injuries, the employer (often through its workers' compensation insurance carrier) is required to pay the employee two-thirds of the worker's average weekly wage, subject to certain stated exceptions and adjustments. These payments must continue until such time as the worker reaches maximum medical improvement.

Also, under Mississippi law, an employee has the right to choose his/her own physician. Without a working knowledge of the law, the insurance company representatives often direct an injured employee to a "company doctor", who is then pressured to either return the employee back to work too soon or return the employee to work without any physical restrictions. This can often lead to an employee becoming re-injured or quitting due to his/her inability to perform the job.

If you find yourself involved in a work related injury, it is important to discuss your case with an attorney that is familiar with the workers' compensation laws of your state. Left alone to maneuver your way through the process will leave you vulnerable to the well-trained insurance representatives intent on saving money by denying you justice on your claim.

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