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Sold out: 2024 Workers' Compensation Summit a smashing success

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) hosted the 2024 Workers' Compensation Summit: Strengthening the Workers' Compensation Community Together, on Tuesday, Oct. 29, for more than 250 attendees.

The one-day, in-person event took place at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota, and featured two general sessions – including keynote speaker Zach Hughes – and 12 breakout sessions, plus a chance to visit with 20 exhibitors throughout the day.

New this year was the use of the Cvent mobile app, which allowed attendees to view the schedule, select sessions to attend, learn about the speakers and exhibitors, download presentation materials and prepare for the event ahead of time.

The Work Comp Campus Resource Room returned for a second year. There, attendees could have their questions answered by Campus and Minnesota Information Technology (MNIT) experts, sign up for Campus research opportunities and learn simple tips and tricks for navigating Campus.

The DLI Workers' Compensation Summits are carefully planned with all workers' compensation stakeholders in mind, including attorneys, employers, insurers, medical providers, rehabilitation providers, employee representatives, public officials and others. From case law to legislative updates, equity and inclusion to cybersecurity and AI, the event offered a variety of workers' compensation related topics to enhance each attendee's knowledge.

Based on post-event survey responses, as well as conversations throughout the event, attendees, exhibitors, presenters and sponsors alike were very pleased with this year's Summit. We greatly look forward to the next Summit in 2026 and thank everyone who worked so hard to make this year's Summit a success.

See a 2024 Summit photo recap and more at dli.mn.gov/Summit.



Above: Department of Labor and Industry Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach welcomes attendees to the 2024 Workers' Compensation Summit, Oct. 29, in Bloomington, Minnesota. Below, Business Technology Office Director Michelle Doheny introduces keynote speaker Zach Hughes.



Survey for PTSD study open through Dec. 30

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) has partnered with the Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety at the University of Minnesota to conduct a study about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the workers' compensation system. Researchers are asking interested members of the public to complete the [Workers' Compensation – Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Survey – 2024](#). The survey takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. The survey closes Dec. 30.

Upon completion of the survey, respondents can also sign up to be considered for a follow-up interview with the University of Minnesota. Participation is voluntary.

For more information about the survey, visit DLI's [Post-traumatic stress disorder study webpage](#).

Taiwo Lawal is new DLI medical consultant

Dr. Taiwo Lawal, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.P., joined the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) in October as its new medical consultant. The role of the medical consultant is to advise the DLI commissioner relating to the supervision of the total continuum of care of injured employees.

Lawal has been practicing internal medicine and occupational medicine since moving back to Minnesota in 2011. She is board certified in internal medicine and occupational medicine. She has more than 20 years of experience providing comprehensive care, including complex primary care and workers' compensation care.

Lawal earned a medical degree and, later, completed a master of public health degree in epidemiology at the University of Minnesota. She also completed residency training in internal medicine and training in occupational and environmental medicine. She is married with children.



Dr. Taiwo Lawal

Campus product team created to better enhance the platform

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) Business Technology Office (BTO) has continued to engage with internal and external Work Comp Campus users, customers and stakeholders, since its launch in August 2022, to gather input throughout the design, development and post-launch process of new Campus enhancements. To lead this effort, BTO created a special team comprising one user experience researcher (UX), one product designer and two product owners.

Meet the team

- UX Researcher **Sarah Monson** primarily focuses on gathering feedback from partners and stakeholders to help Campus work more efficiently and effectively.
- Product Designer **Sawad Brooks** combines insights from research with business goals to design workflows and features to enhance the functionality and usability of Campus.
- Product Owners **Silvia Casadey** and **Michael Solheid** prioritize the most impactful enhancements by balancing user needs, business goals and technical feasibility.

Some of the team's recent work includes:

- building relationships with stakeholders to identify how and where Campus can help provide value to their work;
- gathering input from qualified rehabilitation consultants (QRCs) and using those insights to inform enhancements to Campus functions for QRCs, including obtaining appropriate access, changing firms, completing forms and submitting critical case-related information; and
- building a pool of Campus research participants for future UX research opportunities.

Become a research volunteer

To partner in the BTO efforts, join the pool of Campus research volunteers to:

- test ideas for new features and functionality;
- share feedback to guide future improvements; and
- help make Campus more user-friendly.

Interested parties can email Sarah Monson at sarah.monson@state.mn.us or [complete the online form](#).

Joining the research participant pool is completely voluntary. By signing up, your contact information will be used to invite you to research opportunities such as surveys, interviews or usability studies. You will receive an email message with details about each opportunity, including what is involved and how to participate. You can choose which activities to join based on your schedule and interest.

Have you signed up but have not yet been contacted to participate in research? The team is currently developing new research opportunities that will kick off in 2025. One such opportunity is a usability study to evaluate the overall user experience of Campus. Watch for more information arriving in your inbox soon.

Governor Walz proclaims Kids' Chance Awareness Week in Minnesota

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz proclaimed Nov. 18 through 23, 2024, as [Kids' Chance Awareness Week](#).

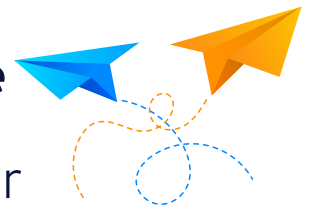
Kids' Chance of Minnesota, also known as the SFM Foundation, is a nonprofit affiliate of Kids' Chance of America that provides college scholarships to children of workers fatally or severely injured in work-related accidents so they can pursue college degrees. Scholarships are open to qualifying students affected by a parent's work-related injury regardless of who the insurer was at the time of injury.

Kids' Chance Awareness Week increases the visibility of Kids' Chance organizations across the country and promotes Kids' Chance scholarship opportunities.

Introducing the *Campus Connect* newsletter

Stay in the loop with the most recent information, training and updates to Work Comp Campus, Minnesota workers' compensation and other related topics by signing up for *Campus Connect*, the newest monthly newsletter from the Workers' Compensation Division.

Subscribe
to our
newsletter



The newsletter will feature:

- new Campus training videos, manuals and resources;
- opportunities to give feedback and participate in Campus research and development;
- updates and enhancements to Campus;
- important changes to workers' compensation documents and processes; and
- other workers' compensation related topics.

[Subscribe to the newsletter email list](#), then watch your email inbox for the first edition of *Campus Connect* next month.

Stay current with workers' compensation rulemaking

The Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI's) [Workers' compensation rulemaking webpage](#) contains information about current and recent rulemaking changes. In addition, visitors to the webpage can sign up to receive notices of workers' compensation rule proceedings via email or U.S. mail.

Work Comp Campus terms and conditions update

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) recently reviewed the Work Comp Campus terms and conditions to ensure they comply with updated Minnesota statutes and rules, and accurately reflect the requirements of Campus users. As a result of this review, DLI will be updating the terms and conditions in January 2025 to incorporate changes that have occurred since Campus launched in 2020.

The most notable change in the terms and conditions will be the addition of a new section related to group administrators that defines the requirement and authority of this role. Additional changes will be made to other sections to provide clarification and simplification of the existing terms and conditions.

After the updated terms and conditions are live in January, users will be asked to read and accept the updated terms and conditions when logging into Campus.

For more information about this update, contact the Workers' Compensation Help Desk at 651-284-5005 (option 3), 800-342-5354 (option 3) or helpdesk.dli@state.mn.us.

VRU provides rehabilitation services to injured workers

The Department of Labor and Industry's Vocational Rehabilitation unit (VRU) is a registered qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC) firm providing statutory vocational rehabilitation services to injured workers. VRU primarily serves injured workers whose claims were denied by the insurer. In addition, VRU also serves injured workers who are receiving workers' compensation benefits.

VRU has 10 QRCs, two of whom are Spanish speaking, and four job-placement professionals.

VRU's goal is to assist injured workers in returning to suitable, gainful employment. To begin the process, a QRC meets with the injured worker for a rehabilitation consultation, or an initial meeting to determine their eligibility for services. If a client is eligible for VRU services, the QRC develops an individualized rehabilitation plan with them that outlines their vocational goal, services they will receive, and a projected timeline and cost.



VRU provides a variety of services including medical management, assistance in returning to the client's date of injury employer, job-seeking skills training, job-placement support, vocational testing, vocational counseling and career exploration. As VRU staff members provide these services, they work closely with the injured worker and other parties to the claim to remove barriers to employment so the injured worker can successfully return to work.

Six regional office locations

VRU has staff members in all six DLI locations: Bemidji, Duluth, Mankato, Rochester, St. Cloud and St. Paul. By working out of regional offices, the team has familiarity with the local labor market, community resources and health care providers. It also results in cost-effective services for stakeholders because the VRU staff members travel to meet clients in a geographic region around the office location.

New staff members

QRC intern **Ciara Macklanburg**, BS, CDMS, is in VRU's Duluth office and serves northeast Minnesota. She has resided in the Duluth area for almost 15 years and has extensive vocational rehabilitation counseling experience in corrections.

QRC intern **Lauren Burks**, MA OTR/L, CLT is in VRU's Rochester office and serves southeast Minnesota. Her experience in human resources and occupational therapy will benefit employees and employers as she provides services under a rehabilitation plan.

Make a referral

To request VRU assistance, [refer in Work Comp Campus](#) or call 651-284-5038.

Process for requesting a penalty review

The Penalty Request – Workers' Compensation form is posted on the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI's) [Work comp: Forms webpage](#) (see "Optional forms"). It lists the most commonly issued types of penalties and helpful supporting documentation to include with the submission of the form. Completed forms and supporting documents can be emailed to penalty.crt.dli@state.mn.us or mailed to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, Compliance, Records and Training, 443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN 55155.

The Penalty Request for Failure to Pay or Deny Rehabilitation Invoice form is also available under "Optional forms" and can be used for concerns related to unpaid or late reimbursement of rehabilitation bills.

QRC versus DCM: What is the difference?

Qualified rehabilitation consultants (QRCs) in Minnesota have the unique opportunity to either serve in the capacity of a QRC on a workers' compensation claim or as a medical case manager or disability case manager (DCM).

However, it is important to know the rules and laws around this unique scenario to make sure any services provided to an injured worker are allowed. A QRC should remember two important requirements when considering whether to provide medical or disability case management services to an injured worker. First, under Minnesota Statutes § 176.102, subdivision 10, paragraph (c), "an individual qualified rehabilitation consultant registered by the commissioner must not provide any medical, rehabilitation or disability case management services related to an injury that is compensable under this chapter when these services are part of the same claim, unless the case management services are part of an approved rehabilitation plan." Additionally, Minnesota Rules part 5220.1801, subpart 8, prohibits a medical case manager for an employee covered by a certified managed care plan to also be the assigned QRC for that same employee.

While a DCM is not a rehabilitation provider under Minnesota rules and is, therefore, not necessarily bound by all statutes and rules pertaining to work as a QRC, QRCs should remember that actions taken in the role of a DCM could still impact their registration as a QRC in Minnesota. For example, if a QRC were to engage in prohibited conduct as described in Minn. R. part 5220.1801, subp. 9, while working as a DCM, it could impact their registration as an approved QRC in Minnesota. Or, if a QRC were to be convicted of "crimes against persons" due to their actions inside or outside of work, their registration could also be impacted.

Other differences

	QRC	DCM
Intended function of the role	Provide consultation, development and implementation of a rehabilitation plan	Monitor, evaluate and coordinate delivery of medical treatment and other health services needed by an injured worker
Services provided	Vocational evaluation, counseling, job analysis, job modification, job development, job placement, labor market survey, vocational testing, transferable skills analysis, work adjustment, job-seeking skills training, on-the-job training and retraining	Medical management, coordination of return to work with date-of-injury employer, on-site job analysis and job modification
Relationship to insurer	Neutral party	Working for insurer's benefit
Certifications required	Must have a CRC or CDMS certification or obtain one within three years	No certifications required
Regulatory body	The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) is responsible for regulatory oversight of QRCs; QRCs must be registered with DLI	A DCM is not a rehabilitation provider, as defined by rule, and is not necessarily bound by all the statutes and rules pertaining to QRCs; DCMs are not registered with DLI

If you are a QRC providing DCM services, specifically clarify for the injured worker that you are working as a DCM and not as a QRC and explain what this means. Injured workers who have worked with a DCM to coordinate medical treatment or assist with their return to work may still ask for a vocational rehabilitation consultation with a QRC.

If you have questions about the difference in these two unique scenarios, contact DLI Rehabilitation Policy Specialist Jordan Trumbo at 615-284-5153 or jordan.trumbo@state.mn.us.

Translated webpages, materials, Language Line available via DLI website

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) posts its available translated materials online at dli.mn.gov/translations. It has documents available in Chinese, Hmong, Karen, Somali and Spanish. A few other documents throughout the website are available in additional languages.



The DLI website now also provides Google Translate near the upper left corner of each page, allowing visitors to choose the language for the website text.

In addition, DLI has access to Language Line, a free language translation phone service for limited-English speakers. If DLI help is needed, view the contact information at dli.mn.gov/about-department/about-dli/contact-us, call and a DLI employee will get in touch with an interpreter in the needed language.

Workers' compensation, Campus assistance available by phone, email

The Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI) Workers' Compensation Help Desk is available to answer basic questions related to workers' compensation or Work Comp Campus. It will also route more complex questions to subject matter experts within the Workers' Compensation Division. Staff members can also provide information about future Campus events and helpful resources on DLI's website.

Live support is available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Voicemail messages left outside of office hours will be responded to within 24 hours of the next business day.

Contact the help desk

- 651-284-5005 (press 3)
- 800-342-5354 (press 3)
- helpdesk.dli@state.mn.us

Stay in the know: Subscribe for news from DLI

Did you know the Department of Labor and Industry offers more than two dozen email lists you can subscribe to receive news targeted to specific groups? (If you are reading this, you are probably on the *COMPACT* email list.)

Lists related to workers' compensation news include the following:

- Adjuster updates
- Employer updates
- Rehabilitation provider updates
- Attorney updates
- Medical provider updates
- Trading partner updates



Other email lists are available for:

- Agency news
- Construction codes, licensing and building trades
- Minnesota OSHA and workplace safety
- Apprenticeship, dual-training and Youth Skills Training
- Labor standards, worker rights, wage and hour
- Rulemaking

To learn more about the available email lists, visit dli.mn.gov/about-department/news-and-media/sign-news-department-labor-and-industry.

Ask the ADR and Work Comp Campus pro

DLI's Alternative Dispute Resolution unit answers frequently asked questions

By Aaron Frederickson, Brian Mak and Nancy Wallrich, Alternative Dispute Resolution; Jo Burr and Jess Larson, Business Technology Office

Editor's note: The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) unit at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) seeks early intervention in workers' compensation disputes through conferences and mediations. It handles calls from the Workers' Compensation Help Desk and responds to questions from all stakeholders.

Q. I am an attorney for employees. When I learn a request for assistance (RFA) was filed by a qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC) or a medical provider, do I need to file a request for certification on that dispute to protect my ability to claim fees for any work I may need to do?

A. When the ADR unit receives an RFA that was not already certified, regardless of who filed it, the arbitrator will reach out to the parties to determine if there is a genuine dispute and make a certification determination.

Q. What do attorneys need to do with their Work Comp Campus account when changing law firms?

A. Attorneys and legal staff members should contact the Workers' Compensation Help Desk prior to leaving their firm. The help desk, in conjunction with Campus experts in the ADR unit, will help ensure a smooth Campus transition from one firm to another. The help desk can be reached at 651-284-5005 (option 3), 800-342-5354 (option 3) or helpdesk.dli@state.mn.us, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Q. Sometimes I want to initiate a dispute on a claim or request access to the claim, but the claim is not located. What should I do?

A. When trying to locate a claim, double-check the injury information you input. A spelling or number deviation from what was reported on the first report of injury will result in not getting a proper hit in a search. If you still cannot locate the claim, contact the help desk to do a search for you or to refer you to the ADR unit for more detailed assistance. If a claim does not exist, then the dispute can still be initiated with the manual information you enter being used to create a temporary claim shell.

Q. Why can't I locate a claim on my dashboard under "My Claims" even though I am sure I should have access to it?

A. Campus users should always click the "include inactive" box on the right side of the page, which ensures their dashboard displays all the claims they have access to.

Q. I want to file an independent medical examination (IME) report at the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), but I do not want to initiate a dispute. How do I do it?



A. To file a document not in connection with a dispute, open the claim, click the “Submit Filing” box and select “other filing.” Use the most appropriate “document title,” add a short description and submit. Your document will then be filed in that claim. You still need to address any service requirements, because a document is not automatically served on parties by simply filing it at DLI.

Q. **Are there new training resources for Campus?**

A. Yes, the DLI Business Technology Office (BTO) unit has created new training tools for Work Comp Campus users. The following resources are now available on the Campus training webpage:

- [Initiate a dispute when a claim cannot be found](#) – a video guide of the process of initiating a dispute in Campus when the user is unable to locate a claim within the system; and
- [Navigate Work Comp Campus like a pro](#) – a video with seven simple tips and tricks to enhance a user’s Campus experience, helping them navigate with ease.

For more Campus training videos, manuals and resources, visit the [Work Comp Campus training webpage](#).

WCRI report compares Minnesota medical payments, utilization with 16 other states

The Workers' Compensation Research Institute's (WCRI) most recent report for Minnesota, *CompScope Medical Benchmarks for Minnesota 25th Edition*, was released in October. This report uses insurer claim files to compare Minnesota's medical payments and service utilization with those of 16 other states, including Iowa and Wisconsin. The report is available from WCRI at wcrinet.org.



The report focuses on claims from 2016 to 2022, excluding COVID-19 claims, with experience through March 2023. Most statistics relate to claims with more than seven days of lost time, measured at an average of one year following the injury.

- For claims with more than seven days of lost time, Minnesota's average adjusted medical payment for 2022 claims measured in 2023 was \$14,300, 27% lower than the 17 states median.
 - Average payments per claim for nonhospital providers were 24% lower than the 17-state median.
 - Average hospital outpatient and inpatient payments were typical of the median study state.
- Medical payments per claim with more than seven days of lost time, increased 8% in 2022 after a decrease of 3% per year from 2018 to 2021 for claims with an average of one year maturity. The growth in per claim payments was, in large part, driven by increases in ambulatory surgical center facility and inpatient hospital payments.
- For claims with more than seven days of lost time and at one year maturity, average hospital outpatient payments per claim moderately grew from 2019 to 2022 (3.4%), largely driven by an increase in payment per service. Payment per service grew 4.7% from 2019 to 2022.
- Minnesota's average adjusted hospital inpatient payments per inpatient episode for 2020 claims (claims from October 2019 through September 2020 evaluated in March 2023) of \$39,223 was close to the median state value (\$41,064).
- Minnesota's hospital outpatient payment index for common knee and shoulder surgeries were among the highest of the study states before the adoption of the 2018 fee schedule, and that remained the case after the new fee schedule was adopted. This is in line with the fee schedule's intention to sustain an overall payment neutrality between the old and new payment systems.
- Minnesota has the lowest utilization index of nonhospital services of the 17 study states. The lower utilization for Minnesota was mainly driven by low utilization of physical medicine.

Workers' compensation training sessions offered in January

OSHA recordkeeping basics offered online in January

The Department of Labor and Industry is offering two free, online introductory-level training seminars about OSHA recordkeeping requirements Friday, Jan. 17, and Friday, Jan. 24, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Maintaining an accurate OSHA log of recordable work-related injuries and illnesses is an important skill that benefits employers, workers, safety professionals and government agencies.

Topics

- Recordability of injuries and illnesses
- Counting time
- How many logs to keep
- Creating a log summary
- Recording COVID-19 cases
- Differences between OSHA cases and workers' compensation claims
- Classifying cases
- Privacy cases
- Maintaining logs
- Reporting log data to OSHA



More information

Learn more about these sessions and register to attend (required) on the [MNOSHA Compliance: Recordkeeping standard webpage](#).

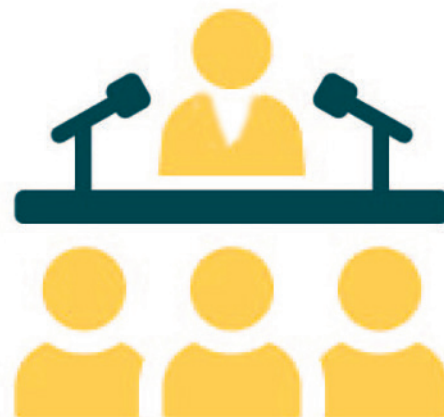
Registration now open for orientation, refresher training in February

Registration is open now through Dec. 31 for orientation and refresher training for qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC) interns, vendors and supervisors on **Monday, Feb. 10, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.**, in the Minnesota Room at the Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN.

This in-person orientation training is for QRC interns, QRC intern supervisors, newly registered job-placement vendors, rehabilitation providers re-entering the field and registered rehabilitation providers interested in refreshing their skills. QRC interns must complete this training within one year of starting their intern cycle. Seven CRC and CDMS continuing education credits will be available for individuals participating in the training.

Topics

- Workers' compensation 101
- Working as a rehabilitation provider
- Rehabilitation consultation and ethics
- Registration, renewal, completion of internship
- Medical aspects
- Litigation procedures
- Vendor perspective
- Engaging interpreters



More information

For complete information and to register, visit the [WC training for rehabilitation providers webpage](#).

If you have questions, contact Jordan Trumbo at 651-284-5153 or jordan.trumbo@state.mn.us. Just announced: This training will also be offered Monday, Aug. 11.

Workers' compensation events calendar

Note: Event dates may change. Always check the online calendar at dli.mn.gov/about-department/about-dli/events-workers-compensation.

January 2025

- Jan. 9 Rehabilitation Review Panel
- Jan. 16 Medical Services Review Board
- Jan. 17 Training: OSHA recordkeeping basics
- Jan. 22 Workers' Compensation Advisory Council
- Jan. 24 Training: OSHA recordkeeping basics

February 2025

- Feb. 10 QRC intern, vendor, supervisor training
- Feb. 12 Workers' Compensation Advisory Council

March 2025

- March 19 Workers' Compensation Insurers' Task Force

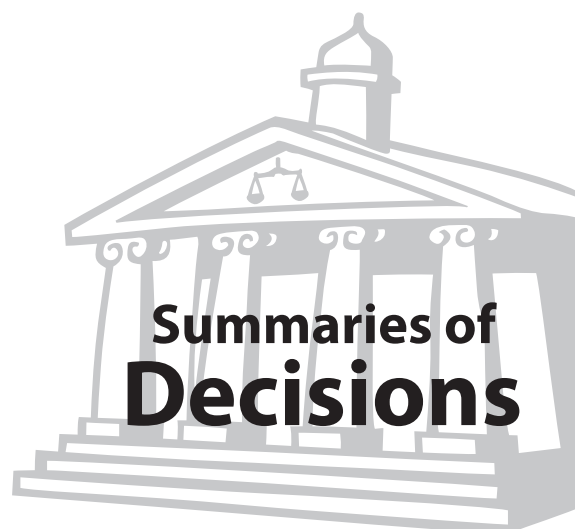
April 2025

- April 3 Rehabilitation Review Panel
- April 17 Medical Services Review Board

Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

August through October 2024

Case summaries published are
those prepared by the WCCA



Dawn M. Simonson v. Douglas County, Aug. 5, 2024

Permanent Total Disability – Retirement

The compensation judge's finding that the employee failed to rebut the retirement presumption was manifestly contrary to the evidence where the employee had been permanently and totally disabled for 27 years and had shown to be in extreme financial need.

Reversed.

Nicholas Rowe v. City of Minneapolis Police Department, Aug. 16, 2024

Statutory Interpretation Statutes Construed – Minnesota Statutes § 176.011, Subdivision 15(E)

Where a peace officer is entitled to the presumption of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) under Minnesota Statutes § 176.011, subd. 15(e), rebuttal of that presumption must be based on the most recently published edition of the DSM. Where the psychological evaluation relied upon in rebuttal used the prior edition of the DSM, the self-insured employer did not rebut the presumption by substantial factors as required by the statute.

Vacated and remanded.

Cynthia Goerndt v. Family Healthservices of Minnesota, Aug. 27, 2024

Causation – Substantial Contributing Cause

Substantial evidence, including well-founded medical expert opinion, supports the compensation judge's finding that the employee continues to suffer from long COVID-19 symptoms and an aggravation of her pre-existing psychological conditions arising from her COVID-19 infection which arose out of and in the course of her employment.

Affirmed.

Shaylonda Buckwalter v. Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC, Sept. 17, 2024**Wages – Calculation**

The compensation judge accurately determined the employee’s weekly wage for a seasonal worker under Minnesota Statutes § 176.011, subdivision 8a.

Affirmed.

Melanie Dowling v. TheKey, LLC, Sept. 24, 2024**Arising Out Of And In The Course Of**

Substantial evidence supports the compensation judge’s determination that an injury sustained by a home health care worker seven hours after a work shift and four hours before her next work shift, while performing no duties for the care client, and while staying in the client’s guest room overnight for her personal convenience, did not arise out of and in the course of her employment.

Affirmed.

Daryl Drusch, by Julie Drusch, v. City of Howard Lake Fire Department, Sept. 30, 2024**Causation – Peace Officers Presumption
Statutes Construed – Minnesota Statutes § 176.011, Subdivision 15
Practice and Procedure – Remand**

Where it can be inferred from the medical evidence that the employee did not have coronary sclerosis at the time he was hired, the presumption that his coronary sclerosis was due to the nature of his employment as a firefighter under Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 15, applies. The compensation judge’s denial of the petitioner’s claim for dependency benefits is reversed and the matter is remanded for findings on whether the self-insured employer has rebutted the statutory presumption.

Reversed and remanded.

James L. Lehet v. Roofers Advantage Program, Oct. 29, 2024**Vacation of Award – Referral For Hearing**

Where the parties have submitted conflicting expert medical opinions to this court on the issue of causation for the employee’s current worsened condition in addressing a petition to vacate an award on stipulation, and the employee has allegedly sustained a subsequent work injury to the same body part while working for a different employer which has not been litigated, the matter is referred for an evidentiary hearing on that issue.

Referred to the Office of Administrative Hearings.