

200 – 1881 Scarth St. Regina SK S4P 4L1 Phone: 306.787.4370 Toll free: 1.800.667.7590

wcbsask.com

# Worker appeals

Workers have the right to appeal any WCB decision on their claim.

## The appeal process

There are three steps to the appeal process. A decision must be made on each appeal issue at each step before you can move on to the next step.

### Step 1: initial review

Contact the WCB staff member who made the decision on your claim. Provide any additional information you feel they may have missed. Many misunderstandings and disagreements can be settled at this stage.

## Steps 2 and 3 must be made in writing and include:

- The decision you are appealing.
- The date the decision was made.
- The WCB staff member who made the decision.
- Why you disagree with the decision.
- How you think it should be resolved.
- Any other information to support your position.

#### **Step 2: appeals department**

If you still disagree, you can appeal to the <u>appeals department</u>. The appeals department is separate from the claims operations division.

To appeal to the appeals department, you can:

- Use the online appeal form
- Email your appeal to appeals@wcbsask.com.
- Mail your written appeal to the address at the top of the page, attention: appeals department.

You will receive a letter from the department telling you that they received your appeal and when you can expect a decision.

An appeals officer will review all information related to the decision or issue you are appealing and will respond to you in writing.

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### **Step 3: Board Appeal Tribunal**

If you disagree with the decision of the appeals department, you can ask for further review by the Board Appeal Tribunal. To appeal to the Tribunal, you can:

- Use the <u>online appeal form</u>.
- Email your appeal to <u>boardappeal@wcbsask.com</u>.
- Mail your written appeal to the address at the top of the page, attention: Board Appeal Tribunal.

The Board Appeal Tribunal is the final step in the appeal process, unless your claim has been accepted and your appeal is about a valid medical question.

A valid medical question is one where your doctor or chiropractor disagrees with the medical position taken by the WCB on your claim.

#### **Medical Review Panel**

After the Board Appeal Tribunal decision, if you still disagree with a medical decision on your claim, you can ask for a Medical Review Panel examination.

You can only ask for the Medical Review Panel examination if appeal step 1 through step 3 have already been completed and your WCB claim was accepted.

There is a fact sheet that gives you information on a <u>Medical Review Panel</u>. View the WCB's website or contact board services for the forms and an explanation of the process.

Here is the basic information:

- Your doctor or chiropractor must sign an enabling certificate explaining why
  they believe the WCB decision is medically incorrect. Enabling certificates
  are available from board services only.
- The Medical Review Panel is made up of three doctors: a chair selected by the WCB in consultation with the Saskatchewan Medical Association and two doctors who you select.
- The decision of the Medical Review Panel is final and binding on you and on the WCB. This means that you cannot appeal the panel's decision. It also means the WCB must accept the panel's decision.

For more information on the Board Appeal Tribunal or Medical Review Panel, refer to the WCB's website, <u>wcbsask.com/board-appeal-tribunal</u>.

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## If you need help

You can have someone help you with your appeal, and you can ask for information from your claim file. You have to complete forms to do this.

- To appoint someone to represent you, send an <u>Authorization Letter of Representation (WREP) form</u> to the WCB. This form gives the WCB permission to discuss your confidential information with that person.
- To get copies of the information from your claim file, you or your representative must submit a Request for Copy of File form.

These forms are on the WCB's website. Complete them and mail, email or fax them to the WCB. The mailing address and fax numbers and email address are at the top of the form. Please remember to always include your name and claim number when sending anything to the WCB.

### **Fair Practices Office (FPO)**

The FPO receives inquiries and questions about WCB practices in all areas of service delivery. However, it cannot review issues that are under appeal. For more information on the FPO, refer to the detailed <u>fact sheet</u> found on the WCB's website.

Phone: 306.787.8651 or toll free: 1.888.787.8651

Toll free fax: 1.866.787.6751

Email: fairpracticeoffice@wcbsask.com

wcbsask.com/fair-practices-office

### **Injured Worker Appeal Services**

You can also ask the office of Injured Worker Appeal Services to give you free and independent advice about your claim and your appeal.

300 – 1870 Albert St. Regina, SK

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Toll free phone: 1.877.787.2456

Fax: 306.787.0249

Email: appealservices@gov.sk.ca

Saskatchewan.ca

For more information, visit the Injured Worker Appeal Services website at saskatchewan.ca/business/safety-in-the-workplace/assistance-for-wcb-claims-and-appeals.

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