

Top 5 Things You Need To Know About Reporting A Work Injury

- 1. Report the work injury to your employer as soon as possible.** Do not wait. Sometimes injured employees want to go home and rest before reporting a work injury (especially if the injury occurs right before a day off), but timely reporting is critical for your credibility. This is especially true if the work injury is unwitnessed.
- 2. Fill out the top half of the DWC-1 claim form completely and accurately and submit it to your employer.** Filing the DWC-1 claim form with your employer is critical as it begins the 90-day investigatory period for your employer and their insurance carrier/administrator to determine if your claim should be accepted or denied. Be sure to list with sufficient detail how the injury occurred and all body parts injured. Obtain a copy of the DWC-1 claim form from your employer as immediately as possible. **Tip:** Take a picture of your DWC-1 claim form with your phone camera *before* submitting it to your employer. If your employer fails or refuses to give you a DWC-1 claim form or a copy of the claim form, you can secure a copy of that form at <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/forms.html>. You can then complete and send the DWC-1 claim form to your employer via certified mail and keep a copy for your records.
- 3. Amend the DWC-1 claim form if appropriate.** You may initially be focused on the most seriously injured body part(s) and may not realize other body parts were injured until days later. If this occurs, you should amend the DWC-1 claim form for prompt reporting and submit it to your employer. **Tip:** Take a picture of your amended DWC-1 claim form with your phone camera *before* you submit it to your employer. Request a copy of the amended DWC-1 claim form from your employer as immediately as possible. Be sure to notify the treating doctor of the amended body part(s).
- 4. Obtain medical treatment through your employer's work injury clinic.** Receiving prompt medical attention and getting back to work should be your utmost priority. Your employer or their workers' compensation insurance carrier/administrator is obligated to pay for *reasonable* medical treatment (up to \$10,000 during the 90-day investigatory period) in the event of a work injury. Obtain the initial medical treatment through your employer's work injury clinic unless you previously predesignated your own doctor to treat you in the event of a work injury.
- 5. Rose, Klein & Marias, LLP is here to help.** There are different types of work injuries. A specific injury happens while doing a particular task or duty. A continuous trauma is the result of wear and tear on the body from doing repetitive tasks. There are also toxic exposure cases in which a condition may be diagnosed years after exposure. Additionally, there are compensable consequences an injured worker may suffer due to the original injury and should be reported. Rose, Klein & Marias, LLP handles all of these work injuries and we're here to assist you obtain all the benefits you are entitled to within the workers' compensation system. We provide free attorney consultations. If you have questions, please contact us or visit our website at www.rkmlaw.net.

NOTICE: Making a false or fraudulent workers' compensation claim is a felony subject to up to 5 years in prison or a fine of up to \$50,000 or double the value of the fraud, whichever is greater, or by both imprisonment and fine.

Los Angeles- (213) 626-0571

Ontario- (909) 944-1711

Cerritos- (562) 436-4696

San Diego- (619) 278-0958

Ventura- (805) 642-7101