

The Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation Administration (OWCA) was created in 1983 in order to administer the Louisiana Workers' Compensation Act. The office exercises its authority under Chapter 10 of Title 23 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

The OWCA offers numerous services to the employees and employers of Louisiana. Currently, the office's sections are Administrative, Finance and Compliance, Fraud, Hearings, Information Systems, Legal, Medical Services, Records Management, Second Injury Fund, and Workplace Safety.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Chris Broadwater, Assistant Secretary/Director

The OWCA is headed by an Assistant Secretary of Labor, who is also Director of the office. The Director is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

The telephone number for the Administrative section is (225) 342-7561. The FAX number is (225) 342-5665. The email address for the director is cbroadwater@ldol.state.la.us.

FINANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Preston (Petty) Pecue, Manager

The Finance and Compliance section evaluates and approves or disapproves applications for self-insured status, examines statutory compliance regarding workers' compensation coverage, and conducts audits of benefits paid by insurance companies, group self-insured funds and individual self-insurers.

The telephone numbers for the Finance and Compliance section are (800) 201-3448 or (225) 342-5658. The FAX number is (225) 342-7578. The email address for its manager is ppecue@ldol.state.la.us.

FRAUD

Kaye Fournet, Manager

The Fraud section detects and deters workers' compensation fraud and educates the public about the penalties for workers' compensation fraud. It conducts investigations within 30 days of reported workers' compensation fraud. The Fraud Section provides resources to employers and insurers to increase their awareness of potentially fraudulent claims and offers guidance to avoid future instances of fraud. These resources include training seminars, the promotion of the use of written and electronic material, with its nationwide toll-free fraud hotline (800) 201-3362, as well as Internet resources to report suspected fraud directly to the office.

The telephone number for the Fraud section is (225) 342-7558. The FAX number is (225) 342-1880. The email address for its manager is kfournet@ldol.state.la.us.

HEARINGS

Sheral Kellar, Manager

The Hearings section's primary duty is to resolve disputed workers' compensation claims filed with the Office of Workers' Compensation Administration. A claim for benefits, the controversion of entitlement to benefits, or other relief under the Workers' Compensation Act is initiated by filing the appropriate form (LDOL WC-1008) with the office. There are ten district offices located statewide: Alexandria, Baton Rouge, Covington, Harahan, Houma, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Monroe, New Orleans, and Shreveport.

The telephone numbers for the main office of the Hearings section are (800) 201-2499 or (225) 342-7970. The FAX number is (225) 342-4790. The email address for its manager is skellar@ldol.state.la.us.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Larry White, Manager

The Information Systems section is a support section for the OWCA. The primary function of this unit is to support the Workers' Compensation personnel on a statewide network. The network utilizes Windows 2000/XP software and consists of 170 PCs. The Information Systems section completed an upgrade to the office imaging system in January 2007 and will be implementing a Court Docketing & Case Management system by mid 2008.

All Helpdesk calls for Workers' Compensation personnel are referred to the Information Systems section for resolution. The section also serves as the liaison between the LDOL Information Technology section and Workers' Compensation.

The telephone numbers for the Information Systems section are (800) 201-2496 or (225) 342-7574. The FAX number is (504) 342-7562. The email address for its manager is lwhite@ldol.state.la.us.

LEGAL

The Legal section serves in an advisory capacity to the Director and the office staff in legal matters falling under the jurisdiction of the OWCA. It also represents the OWCA in all matters in which the Director or the office are named. It also represents the State of Louisiana in defending constitutional challenges to the workers' compensation statutes and procedures.

The telephone numbers for the Legal section are (800) 201-3405 or (225) 342-7557. The FAX number is (225) 342-7593.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Sue Newman, R.N.

The Medical Services section enforces the reimbursement schedule, audits specific medical bills, schedules independent medical examinations (IMEs), and reviews files for medical necessity of treatment.

All disputes presented to the section are informally resolved by issuance of a recommendation by the Director of the OWCA.

The telephone numbers for the Medical Services section are (800) 201-2494 or (225) 342-7559. The FAX number is (225) 342-9836. The email address for Medical Services is snewman@ldol.state.la.us.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Brenda D. Williams, Manager

The Records Management section is a support section for the OWCA. The section publishes the OWCA Annual Report, which highlights accomplishments of the OWCA in a given year and offers statistical information concerning workplace injuries and illnesses. It provides OWCA reporting forms, as well as instructions for their completion, by means of electronic filing on the LDOL website (www.LAWORKS.net). The section responds to public record requests. It also serves as a repository for workers' compensation records and oversees the imaging of records of the office. In addition, the section provides copies of those records that are considered public records, whether on microfilm, electronically imaged, or on paper.

The telephone numbers for the Records Management section are (800) 201-3457 or (225) 342-5662. The FAX numbers are (225) 342-7582 and (225) 342-3539. The email address for its manager is bwilliams@ldol.state.la.us.

SECOND INJURY FUND

Pauline Williams, Manager

The Second Injury Fund (SIF), is an employer/insurer funded program, whose purpose is to encourage the employment of individuals with pre-existing permanent partial disability that is a hindrance or obstacle to obtaining employment. The SIF promotes the hiring of these individuals by protecting employers/insurers from excess liability for workers' compensation. The SIF reimburses employers/insurers for the medical and compensation costs paid to employees who have met the statutory qualifications and deductibles. The SIF provides an economic incentive to employers to hire or retain individuals with pre-existing disabilities. The SIF provides online claim status to employers and insurers. In addition, the SIF makes electronic fund transfer (EFT) options available to employers.

The telephone numbers for the Second Injury Fund section are (800) 201-2493 or (225) 342-7866. The FAX number is (225) 219-5968. The email address for its director is pwilliams2@ldol.state.la.us.

WORKPLACE SAFETY

Willis E. Callihan, Director

The Workplace Safety section provides voluntary and confidential workplace inspections, on-site training and program assistance to employers in the state. The section administers the Cost Containment Program which offers eligible employers the opportunity to lower their workers' compensation insurance premiums. The section is responsible for distribution and processing of quarterly reports (LDOL WC-1017A) which identifies employers who are experiencing above-average injuries for their industry classification. The report is due one month from the quarter reported. In addition, the section provides on-site facility inspections to identify hazards and assess program elements to ensure compliance with workplace safety provisions.

The telephone numbers for the Workplace Safety and Consultation section are (800) 201-2495 or (225) 342-9601. The FAX number is (225) 342-5158. The email address for its manager is wcallihan@ldol.state.la.us.