



STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Judge Frank R. McKay
Chairman
Judge Benjamin J. Vinson
Director
Judge Terry H. Chastain
Director

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ORDER OF THE STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Whereas O.C.G.A. § 34-9-58 provides that the State Board of Workers' Compensation shall exercise all powers and perform all the duties relating to the enforcement of the workers' compensation laws; and

Whereas O.C.G.A. § 34-9-40 provides that the Board shall have full authority, power, and the duty to promulgate policies, rules and regulations for the administration of the workers' compensation laws; and

Whereas Governor Brian Kemp issued an Executive Order on March 14, 2020, declaring that a Public State of Emergency exists in the State of Georgia due to the public health emergency from the spread of COVID-19; and

Whereas Governor Kemp's Executive Order further provides that all resources of the State of Georgia shall be made available to assist in activities designed to address this emergency, control the spread of COVID-19, and aid recovery efforts; and

Whereas the Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court issued an order on March 14, 2020, pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 38-3-60 declaring a statewide judicial emergency due to the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the health, safety, and liberty of all citizens of this state; and

Whereas the Chief Justice's order extends and otherwise grants relief from deadlines which can be applicable to workers' compensation claims such as the following: statutes of limitations, time within which discovery or any aspect thereof is to be completed, time within which to serve a party, time within which to appeal or to seek the right to appeal any order, ruling, or other determination;

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the Board finds that these deadline extensions are applicable to workers' compensation claims for the period of the Chief Justice's Order of March 14, 2020 through April 13, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the payment of timely weekly benefits, payments pursuant to Board awards and orders approving settlement agreements and provision of authorized medical treatment constitute essential functions necessary to protect the health and safety of individuals. Therefore, the statutory requirements and Board rules relating to payment of benefits or provision of authorized medical treatment are not affected by this order.

The Board will continue to handle Petitions for Medical Treatment (PMTs), motions, conference calls and any emergency situation.

So ordered, this 17th day of March, 2020.

Frank R. McKay /s/

CHAIRMAN

Benjamin J. Vinson /s/

DIRECTOR

Terry H. Chastain /s/

DIRECTOR