

SUMMARY OF 2024 AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The 2024 Rules, effective July 1, 2024, contain organizational, editorial, and substantive changes. This summary of the 2024 amendments to the Rules is intended as a convenient reference and should not be considered an exhaustive description of all rule changes. For detailed information regarding changes to a particular rule, please refer to the published version of the rule.

Rule 61(b)-Board Forms

The bold paragraph in Rule 61(b) is amended to be consistent with Rule 61(b)(59). and clarifies that when filing a Board form with the Board, the most currently revised version of the form must be used.

Rule 105 (a)- Appeals to the Courts

Rule 105(a) that required simultaneous filing with ICMS at the time a petition for review is filed with the Superior Court was inconsistent with O.C.G.A. § 5-3-7(h) that allows filing with the lower court within 5 days after the filing of the petition for review in the Superior Court. To make the rule consistent with the statute, the second sentence of Rule 105(a) is amended to provide:

A copy of the petition for review should simultaneously be filed electronically through ICMS, but in no event later than 5 days after the petition for review is filed with the Superior Court in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 5-3-7(h), which satisfies the requirement that a copy of the petition be served on the clerk of the Board.

Rule 203(e)-Employee's Travel Expenses to Obtain Medical Treatment

Rule 203(e) is amended to provide as follows:

Travel expenses shall include the actual cost of meals when total elapsed time of the trip to obtain outpatient treatment exceeds four hours. Where overnight travel is reasonably necessary, travel expenses shall include the actual reasonable cost of meals and lodging. Cost of meals shall not exceed \$45 per day.

Rule 221(a)-Electronic payments

The following sentence is added at the end of Rule 221a):

Payments by electronic funds transfer shall be considered to be made at the time the payer initiates an Automated Clearing House (ACH) electronic funds transfer with its financial institution.

Rule 226-Supporting Documentation Required for Petition for Appointment of Temporary Conservator

Rule 226(b) is amended to require the attachment of supplemental documentation required by Forms 226a and 226b and provides as follows:

Board Rule 226(b): Any applicant for conservatorship shall consent to a criminal history record check via a Form WC-226(a) or Form WC-226(b) at the time the petition for conservatorship is submitted to the Board. In addition, the applicant shall attach supporting documentation necessary to process the request, including, but not limited to, marriage certificate, birth certificates, death certificate, custody orders, child support orders and any other documentation requested by the Board. When a petition for appointment of temporary conservator for a legally incapacitated adult is submitted, an affidavit by a qualified physician who has recently examined the alleged legally incapacitated adult shall also be required in addition to the documentation listed above.