

**176.2611 COORDINATION OF THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS' CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION IMAGING SYSTEM.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the definitions in this subdivision apply unless otherwise specified.

(b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of labor and industry.

(c) "Department" means the Department of Labor and Industry.

(d) "Document" includes all data, whether in electronic or paper format, that is filed with or issued by the office or department related to a claim-specific dispute resolution proceeding under this section.

(e) "Office" means the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Subd. 2. **Applicability.** This section governs filing requirements pending completion of the workers' compensation modernization program and access to documents and data in the office's case management system, the workers' compensation Informix imaging system, and the system that will be developed as a result of the workers' compensation modernization program. This section prevails over any conflicting provision in this chapter, Laws 1998, chapter 366, or corresponding rules.

Subd. 3. **Documents that must be filed with the office.** Except as provided in subdivision 4 and section 176.421, all documents that require action by the office under this chapter must be filed, electronically or in paper format, with the office as required by the chief administrative law judge. Filing a document that initiates or is filed in preparation for a proceeding at the office satisfies any requirement under this chapter that the document must be filed with the commissioner.

Subd. 4. **Documents that must be filed with the commissioner.** (a) The following documents must be filed directly with the commissioner in the format and manner prescribed by the commissioner:

(1) all requests for an administrative conference under section 176.106, regardless of the amount in dispute;

(2) a motion to intervene in an administrative conference that is pending at the department;

(3) any other document related to an administrative conference that is pending at the department;

(4) an objection to a penalty assessed by the commissioner or the department;

(5) requests for medical and rehabilitation dispute certification under section 176.081, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), including related documents; and

(6) except as provided in this subdivision or subdivision 3, any other document required to be filed with the commissioner.

(b) The filing requirement in paragraph (a), clause (1), makes no changes to the jurisdictional provisions in section 176.106. A claim petition that contains only medical or rehabilitation issues, unless primary liability is disputed, is considered to be a request for an administrative conference and must be filed with the commissioner.

(c) The commissioner must refer a timely, unresolved objection to a penalty under paragraph (a), clause (4), to the office within 60 calendar days.

Subd. 5. **Form revision and access to documents and data.** (a) The commissioner must revise dispute resolution forms, in consultation with the chief administrative law judge, to reflect the filing requirements in this section.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, "complete, read-only electronic access" means the ability to view all data and document contents, including scheduling information, related to workers' compensation disputes, except for the following:

(1) a confidential mediation statement, including any documents submitted with the statement for the mediator's review;

(2) work product of a compensation judge, mediator, or commissioner that is not issued. Examples of work product include personal notes of hearings or conferences and draft decisions;

(3) the department's Vocational Rehabilitation Unit's case management system data;

(4) the special compensation fund's case management system data; and

(5) audit trail information.

(c) The office must be provided with continued, complete, read-only electronic access to the workers' compensation Informix imaging system.

(d) The department must be provided with read-only electronic access to the office's case management system, including the ability to view all data, including scheduling information, but excluding access into filed documents.

(e) The office must send the department all documents that are accepted for filing or issued by the office. The office must send the documents to the department, electronically or by courier, within two business days of when the documents are accepted for filing or issued by the office.

(f) The department must place documents that the office sends to the department in the appropriate imaged file for the employee.

(g) The department must send the office copies of the following documents, electronically or by courier, within two business days of when the documents are filed with or issued by the department:

(1) notices of discontinuance;

(2) decisions issued by the department; and

(3) mediated agreements.

(h) Upon integration of the office's case management system and the department's system resulting from the workers' compensation modernization program, each agency will be provided with complete, read-only electronic access to the other agency's system.

(i) Each agency's responsible authority pursuant to section 13.02, subdivision 16, is responsible for its own employees' use and dissemination of the data and documents in the workers' compensation Informix imaging system, the office's case management system, and the system developed as a result of the workers' compensation modernization program.

Subd. 6. **Data privacy.** (a) All documents filed with or issued by the department or the office under this chapter are private data on individuals and nonpublic data pursuant to chapter 13, except that the documents are available to the following:

- (1) the office;
- (2) the department;
- (3) the employer;
- (4) the insurer;
- (5) the employee;
- (6) the dependent of a deceased employee;
- (7) an intervenor in the dispute;
- (8) the attorney to a party in the dispute;

(9) a person who furnishes written authorization from the employer, insurer, employee, or dependent of a deceased employee; and

- (10) a person, agency, or other entity allowed access to the documents under this chapter or other law.

(b) The office and department may post notice of scheduled proceedings on the agencies' websites and at their principal places of business in any manner that protects the employee's identifying information.

Subd. 7. **Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals.** The Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals has authority to amend its rules of procedure to reflect electronic filing with the office under this section for purposes of section 176.421, subdivision 5, and to allow electronic filing with the court under section 176.285. The court may amend its rules using the procedure in section 14.389.

**History:** 2018 c 185 art 1 s 4