



## **10 Reasons Why You Should Hire a Lawyer If You Were Injured at Work**

Many employees who have been injured at work presume that the process of applying for workers' compensation is straightforward and the insurance company has your best interests at heart. This is not always true, which is why it's important to have a knowledgeable workers' compensation attorney on your side.

At GA Injury Advocates, we have represented many injured workers in and around Atlanta, Georgia, and understand the benefits of legal representation for those who are struggling with medical bills while seeking compensation for a workplace illness or accident. While you aren't legally required to retain an attorney when you file a claim, here are 10 good reasons why you should.

### **1. You may not fully understand your rights**

If you deal with the insurance company directly, you can be at a disadvantage if you don't understand your rights under the Georgia Workers' Compensation Act. For example, they may tell you that you cannot claim an aggravated back injury because you had back problems to begin with, which may not be the case. Being represented by an attorney can prevent your rights from being disregarded.

### **2. You may not know the current workers' compensation laws**

Workers' compensation laws are both complex and subject to change. A single mistake in reporting your accident could prevent or delay you from getting the benefits you need to cover your medical expenses and living costs. A workers' compensation attorney will be familiar with any recent changes to the law and tailor their representation accordingly.

### **3. You could miss important deadlines**

In Georgia, you are required to report your accident to your employer within 30 days and file a Notice of Claim within a year. If you are

unaware of these statutory deadlines, you could unknowingly lose your opportunity to collect workers' compensation benefits. Your attorney will know which deadlines apply and help you complete all required steps on time.

#### **4. Your claim can be denied**

Unfortunately, workers' compensation insurance companies and employers sometimes deny legitimate claims. They presume that an injured worker will feel too powerless and intimidated to hire a lawyer. When they know that you are represented by an attorney who knows the law regarding income benefits and medical care, you're in a stronger position.

#### **5. You may not receive all the benefits you are entitled to**

Your employer's insurance company may be reluctant to pay out all of the benefits that you are entitled to. They could undervalue your average weekly pay, which establishes the amount of the disability checks you receive while off work and the settlement if your case settles. This could leave you with thousands of dollars less than you deserve.

A workers' compensation attorney will be aware of what your payments should be and hold the insurer accountable. They will help you obtain all the benefits you may be entitled to, including backdated payments if your claim was originally denied.

#### **6. Your attorney will know how to effectively deal with any problems**

Too many claimants hire an attorney only after they have run into problems that they don't know how to deal with, like a benefits denial or revocation. Working with legal counsel at the onset of your claim can

prevent many of these complications from happening in the first place, and if they do occur, your attorney will know how to handle them in the most efficient and effective manner.

## **7. Your attorney will help you protect your job**

Many injured workers are afraid to report an injury or file a workers' compensation claim because they worry that their employer might retaliate against them by

- Demoting them
- Unjustified disciplinary action
- Negative reassignment or transfer
- Terminating their employment.

Although there is no guarantee that you will keep your job, an attorney can help with this if it is important to you.

## **8. Your attorney will help you hold any third parties accountable**

If you were injured at work or during the course of your duties by a third party (who is not your employer or co-worker), such as a vendor or delivery driver, you can file a lawsuit against them in addition to pursuing your worker's compensation claim. An attorney will know when a third-party liability exists in your case and help you pursue additional compensation.

## **9. Your attorney can determine if any jurisdictional problems apply**

Jurisdiction for workers' compensation claims can be complicated. For example, what happens if you are injured in another state while working for a Georgia employer? Can you file your claim in Georgia? An attorney will confirm that you are filing in the right jurisdiction.

## **10. You will have professional support if your claim is denied**

There are many reasons why a workers' compensation claim may be denied, but you always have the right to appeal an adverse decision. An attorney will advise you on what documents you may need to present an effective appeal, such as medical records, witness statements, and other evidence, and look after your best interests during any hearings.

### **Contact a Georgia Worker's Compensation Attorney**

If you have been injured at work, you have the right to file a workers' compensation claim to pay your medical expenses and help you meet the costs of daily living until you are able to return to work. When you do so, remember that your employer and their insurer will have attorneys on retainer to ensure that they don't have to pay a single dime more than they have to.

This is why you need a qualified and experienced workers' compensation attorney to protect your rights. At Georgia Injury Advocates, we are committed to helping you recover the compensation you are entitled to and promise to provide you with a strong and tenacious advocacy that can make a positive difference with your workers' compensation claim. For more information or to arrange a confidential consultation, call us today at (770) 766-0555.