



Workers Compensation Lawyer Coalition Addresses Rising Claim Severity Impacting Augusta Workers

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Workers Compensation Lawyer Coalition announces expanded support services for Augusta-area workers facing increasingly complex workers' compensation disputes as new industry data reveals individual claims are becoming more costly and more contested across Georgia.

According to the National Council on Compensation Insurance's 2025 State of the Line Report, workers' compensation lost-time claim frequency declined 6 percent in accident year 2024 nationally, while medical severity and indemnity severity each increased 6 percent in the same period. This trend means individual claims are larger and insurers have stronger financial incentives to dispute them, creating additional challenges for injured workers navigating the claims process.

The impact is particularly pronounced in Augusta, where the industrial economy anchored by manufacturing facilities including Textron/E-Z-GO, distribution centers along I-20, Graphic Packaging operations on the Savannah River, and the Plant Vogtle nuclear expansion places a large segment of the regional workforce in

high-hazard occupations where workers' compensation disputes are common.

"As claim severity rises, insurance carriers are becoming more aggressive about disputing benefits, particularly for workers in Augusta's manufacturing and construction sectors who face the highest-severity injury types," said a spokesperson for Workers Compensation Lawyer Coalition. "Workers need legal representation from the first day of a claim, not just after a denial, because insurers are sending injured workers to employer-selected physicians, delaying wage replacement benefits, and challenging the extent of injuries."

Georgia workers' compensation pays injured workers up to two-thirds of their pre-injury average weekly wage, capped at \$800 per week as of 2024, with benefits subject to a 400-week maximum under the Georgia Workers' Compensation Act. Georgia law requires employers to report work injuries to the State Board of Workers' Compensation, and injured workers must notify their employer within 30 days of injury or risk losing benefits.

WCL ATL Augusta workers' compensation lawyer services connect injured workers with attorneys who understand Georgia's State Board process, know how to challenge employer-selected physician opinions, and are prepared to appeal denied claims through formal hearing proceedings. The network serves construction workers, warehouse employees, nurses, truck drivers, factory workers, and federal employees throughout the Augusta area.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports nearly 200 fatal workplace injuries occur in Georgia annually, with construction, manufacturing, and transportation sectors accounting for a significant share of these incidents. As Georgia is an NCCI-administered state, loss costs and rate recommendations are filed annually, and as claim severity rises, insurers face increased pressure to limit individual payouts.

The coalition's expanded services address the specific challenges faced by Augusta workers' compensation lawyer clients, including disputes over maximum medical improvement determinations, occupational disease claims, and complex industrial injury cases. These services are particularly critical when claims involve high-value injuries such as spinal cord damage, traumatic brain injury, or amputation, where insurance carriers are most likely to contest benefits.

Workers Compensation Lawyer Coalition is a network of workers' compensation law firms representing injured workers throughout Georgia, including Augusta, Atlanta, and surrounding communities. The coalition handles workers' compensation claims, benefit disputes, MMI challenges, and appeals before the Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation on a contingency fee basis, with no upfront costs and free case

reviews available 24 hours a day.

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Workers Compensation Lawyer Coalition

Workers' Compensation Lawyers in Atlanta: Expert advocates dedicated to championing the rights of injured workers, providing comprehensive legal support and maximizing compensation claims in Georgia.

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