

Workers Compensation Lawyer Coalition Addresses Dual Federal and State Claims Systems Affecting Smyrna Workers

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ATLANTA, GA - June 23, 2026 -
Workers Compensation Lawyer Coalition has announced expanded guidance for Smyrna and Cobb County employees navigating the complex divide between federal and state workers' compensation systems, particularly as the area's workforce faces unique jurisdictional challenges with Dobbins Air Reserve Base operations and rapid commercial development in The Battery Atlanta district.

The firm highlights a critical distinction affecting thousands of local workers: federal civilian employees and contractors working at or near Dobbins Air Reserve Base fall under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, administered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, rather than Georgia's State Board of Workers' Compensation system. This jurisdictional divide creates fundamentally different claims processes, deadlines, and benefit structures that can confuse injured workers seeking compensation.

"Smyrna workers face an unusually complex workers' compensation landscape because of the proximity to Dobbins and the mix of federal contractors and private employers in the area," said a spokesperson for Workers Compensation Lawyer Coalition. "Federal workers who mistakenly file under Georgia's state system lose their federal benefits entirely, while private sector employees at The Battery or construction sites along the I-285 corridor must navigate Georgia's strict one-year filing deadline, the shortest claims window of any civil remedy under state law."

The WCL ATL Smyrna workers compensation lawyer network reports seeing increased confusion among workers who don't realize which system covers their employment. The Battery Atlanta, the mixed-use development adjacent to Truist Park, employs thousands of hospitality and retail workers who fall under state jurisdiction, while nearby federal contractors operate under entirely different rules.

Georgia's workers' compensation law imposes a one-year deadline from the date of accident to file claims with the State Board of Workers' Compensation. The Board enforces this deadline strictly, denying claims filed even one day late without extraordinary circumstances. This timeline particularly affects construction workers on projects like the I-285/I-75 interchange reconstruction and Cumberland Galleria redevelopment, where symptoms from overexertion or fall injuries may develop gradually.

The state system also requires employers to post a panel of physicians, and workers who seek treatment outside this panel risk losing coverage for that treatment. Large Smyrna employers like WellStar Health System and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics contractors must comply with these panel requirements, creating additional complexity for injured workers seeking immediate care.

Under Georgia law, injured workers receive up to two-thirds of their pre-injury average weekly wage, capped at $875 per week in 2026, for up to 400 weeks of temporary total disability benefits. However, insurers frequently seek to designate workers as having reached maximum medical improvement before full recovery to terminate wage replacement benefits.

The Smyrna workers compensation lawyer coalition notes that construction sector expansion in Cobb County, including residential development along the South Cobb corridor, has created numerous active worksites where OSHA-regulated hazards generate high-severity claims from scaffolding falls, struck-by incidents, and electrical contacts.

Workers Compensation Lawyer Coalition is a network of workers' compensation law firms representing injured workers throughout Georgia, including Smyrna, Atlanta, Augusta, Sandy Springs, and surrounding communities. The coalition handles workers' compensation claims, benefit disputes, MMI challenges, federal

FECA claims, and appeals before the Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation on a contingency fee basis.

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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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