

Open Meeting
May, 29, 2014
9:00 – 9:10 am

Commission Personnel Attending:

Sherrie Hayashi, Commissioner
Jaceson Maughan, Deputy Commissioner
Heather Gunnarson, Division Director, Adjudication
Ron Dressler, Division Director, Industrial Accidents
Sara Danielson, Administration

Public Attending:

Julie Clark, State Risk Management Workers Compensation Coordinator
Stan Mead, Galaher Settlements

Open Meeting Convened:

Commissioner Hayashi welcomed everyone.

Business Items:

R612-200-8 Burial Expenses.

Ron Dressler explained that the proposed changes to this rule involve clarifying or simplifying the language used in the rule and increasing the burial expense from \$8,000 to \$9,000.

Julie Clark, from State Risk Management asked for clarification of wording on whether or not \$9,000 was the maximum or whether more could be paid. A slight work adjustment was made to the rule text. A period was placed after “\$9,000 shall be paid.” And the proposed language “provided that” was struck and the capitalization of unusual will remain.

Ron Dressler explained that there would be a meeting with some of the Workers Compensation Advisory Council later that day, to review the mass change that is being proposed to all Industrial Accident rules and a decision as to whether or not to move forward with just the Burial rule would be made after that meeting.

R602-2-4 Attorney Fees.

Jaceson Maughan, Deputy Commissioner, stated that the average weekly wage of Utah workers has increased; therefore increasing the amount of benefits provided in workers compensation cases. Because of the increase in the benefits, a similar increase in attorney fees is appropriate. The proposed rule change increases the maximum for legal services rendered through final Commission action from \$17,468 to \$18,101, and for legal services rendered before the Court of Appeals from \$25,200 to \$26,114, and for legal services rendered before the Supreme Court from \$30,927 to \$32,048.

This rule change has been submitted to Administrative Rules, and is scheduled to become effective July 22, 2014.

Commissioner Hayashi, also stated that a claimant attorney wanted the Commission to provide a copy of his letter regarding this rule change to those present. A copy was provided.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:10 a.m.