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John Bel Edwards, Governor
Ava Dejoie, Secretary

Office of Workers' Compensation Administration

July 24, 2020

AMENDED ORDER

In accordance with Governor John Bel Edwards' July 23, 2020 Proclamation Number 97 JBE 2020 and in an effort to prepare each office for re-opening in a manner that will allow for social distancing and slowing the spread of Covid-19, the Office of Workers' Compensation will remain closed through **August 14, 2020**. During this time, the staff is working remotely and in the office responding to e-mails and performing critical tasks.

With the exception of unrepresented/pro se settlements, which will be held via Zoom, all in-person court appearances and in-person mediations are cancelled until further notice. In-person trials, hearings, and mediations will be rescheduled on an expedited basis.

Telephone mediations are permitted and encouraged. You may contact your OWC mediator for scheduling.

No pleadings will be accepted by e-mail, except for Settlement Petitions and Attorney Fee Petitions. The original and filing fee must be mailed to the respective district office.

Pursuant to Title 40, §5824, §5831, and §5835, contradictory hearings may be:

- submitted on briefs.
- *conducted by video via Zoom (a court reporter will record the matter). If a matter cannot be handled on briefs or by Zoom, it will be set for an in-person hearing beginning in August.*
- *Matters which require live testimony may not be heard by Zoom at this time.*

Louisiana workers' compensation judges will continue to receive, review and/or approve settlements and attorney fee petitions for their district or division office and/or for another district or division office to which they are assigned below, in the following manner, to-wit:

- a. District Judge Brenza Jones at BIrving-Jones@lwc.la.gov for District 1E - Monroe;
- b. District Judge Linda Smith at LSmith7@lwc.la.gov for District 1W- Shreveport;
- c. District Judge James Braddock at JBraddock@lwc.la.gov for District 2 – Alexandria;
- d. District Judge Charlotte Bushnell at CBushnell@lwc.la.gov for District 3 - Lake Charles and Western Division;
- e. District Judge Adam Johnson at AJohnson1@lwc.la.gov for District 4 – Lafayette;
- f. Division Judge Anthony Palermo at APalermo@lwc.la.gov for Cajun Division and Acadiana Division;
- g. District Judge Pamela Moses-Laramore at PMoses-Laramore@lwc.la.gov for District 5 - Baton Rouge;
- h. Division Judge Jason Ourso at JOurso@lwc.la.gov for Central Division;
- i. District Judge Myles Donahue at MDonahue@lwc.la.gov for District 6 – Covington;
- j. Chief Judge Shannon Bruno Bishop at SBruno@lwc.la.gov for District 7 – Harahan;
- k. Division Judge Diane Lundeen at DLundeen@lwc.la.gov for Eastern Division;
- l. District Judge Catrice Reid at CREid1@lwc.la.gov for District 8 - New Orleans;
- m. District Judge Elizabeth Lanier at ELanier@lwc.la.gov for District 9 - Houma;

Pro-se settlements should be submitted via e-mail to the district of proper venue. The Judge or a representative will schedule the pro se settlement for a video hearing and will advise the parties of the date and time the hearing is scheduled.

***Please note highlighted and italicized changes.**