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John Bel Edwards, Governor
Ava Dejoie, Secretary

Office of Workers' Compensation Administration

May 15, 2020

The Office of Workers' Compensation is currently preparing each office for re-opening in a manner that will allow for social distancing and slowing the spread of Covid-19. As such, this office will remain closed to the public through June 5, 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, all in-person court appearances and in-person mediations are cancelled through June 5, 2020. 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.

Effective immediately, judges will begin scheduling contradictory hearings. Pursuant to Title 40, §5824, §5831, and §5835, the judge will determine whether the contradictory hearing may be:

- submitted on briefs;
- heard by telephone (a court reporter will record the matter). The mover is responsible for setting up the call, unless the parties agree otherwise. All parties must be on the line prior to contacting the judge.

If a matter cannot be handled on briefs or by telephone, it will be set for an in-person hearing beginning in August. Matters which require live testimony may not be heard by phone.

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 Adam Johnson at AJohnson1@lwc.la.gov for District 4 – Lafayette;
- d. Division Judge Anthony Palermo at APalermo@lwc.la.gov for Cajun Division;
- e. District Judge Charlotte Bushnell at CBushnell@lwc.la.gov for District 3 - Lake Charles and Western Division and all Pro Se Settlements;
- f. Division Judge Jason Ourso at JOurso@lwc.la.gov for Central Division;
- g. District Judge Pamela Moses-Laramore at PMoses-Laramore@lwc.la.gov for District 5 - Baton Rouge;
- h. District Judge Catrice Reid at CREid1@lwc.la.gov for District 8 - New Orleans;
- i. District Judge Elizabeth Lanier at ELanier@lwc.la.gov for District 9 - Houma;
- j. Division Judge Paula Murphy at PMurphy2@lwc.la.gov for Acadiana Division;
- k. Division Judge Diane Lundeen at DLundeen@lwc.la.gov for Eastern Division;
- l. District Judge Myles Donahue at MDonahue@lwc.la.gov for District 6 – Covington;
- m. District Judge James Braddock at JBraddock@lwc.la.gov for District 2 – Alexandria;
- n. Division Judge Anthony Palermo at APalermo@lwc.la.gov for Cajun Division;
- o. District Judge Charlotte Bushnell at CBushnell@lwc.la.gov will handle all Pro Se Settlements.

All pro-se settlements must be submitted via e-mail to Workers' Compensation District Judge Charlotte Bushnell. Judge Bushnell will schedule the pro se settlement for a video hearing and will advise the parties of the date and time the hearing is scheduled.