



**Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation  
Workers' Compensation Commission**

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TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

The restrictions on movement and social interaction that have been caused by the Covid-19 virus have necessitated several changes in process and procedure in the Mashantucket Pequot Workers Compensation Commission. Until further notice the following changes will be in effect:

Giving of Notices.

Effective as of March 9, 2020 and continuing until revoked, amended or altered, it shall be a rule of the Commission that notices required to be served by personal service or by registered or certified mail as set forth in Chapter 2, Section 24 of the MPTN Workers Compensation Code may additionally or alternatively be served by regular mail or fax transmission. This will include Notices of Claim pursuant to Chapter 2, Section 4a, Notices to Contest pursuant to Chapter 2, Section 4b, Notices to Discontinue and objections thereto pursuant to Chapter 2, Sections 9b, 10, 16.

Temporary Partial Benefits/Job Searches.

Due to the restrictions on personal activity resulting from state and federal directives concerning the Covid-19 virus, an injured workers' ability to search for work so as to document entitlement to benefits under Chapter 4, Section 12a is restricted. However, it is to be recognized that in the modern workplace environment most searching for employment is done through on-line services and not in person. The Commission also recognizes that there are a limited number of employers who will be hiring during this period.

Injured workers receiving or eligible to receive such benefits which would in normal times require job searches should perform job searches to the extent possible without violating the government issued requirements of social distancing. The standard of five (5) searches per week will be suspended. The Commissioner will apply a standard of reasonable effort, which it is recognized may result in limited searching and may in some instances job searching may not be possible. Employees should make best efforts and the Commission will be liberal in allowing such benefits during the period of social distancing.

Should the employer desire to discontinue benefits a Notice to Discontinue shall be filed and then a hearing should be requested. **No discontinuance is allowed during this time without approval of the Commissioner after a hearing or unless the parties are in agreement that discontinuance may occur**, in which case the injured worker or his/her representative shall provide written consent to discontinuance to the employer.

Settlement Approvals.

As previously determined, all hearings will be conducted telephonically until further notice. With regard to settlement approvals, the procedure followed in cases where the injured worker is unable to appear in person should be followed. In such cases, the parties must mail to the Commissioner four fully executed copies of the Stipulated Agreement with the signature of the injured worker notarized, in addition to which the parties must submit an Affidavit signed by the injured worker and notarized that confirms the injured workers understanding of the monetary terms of the settlement, the attorney's fee, and confirming the injured worker's understanding of the legal effect of the settlement on the injured worker's rights to workers compensation benefits.

The parties should also submit the most recent medical report in the case. All documents should be mailed to Post Office Box 1028, Manchester, CT 06045 by regular mail.

Notarization of Documents.

Regarding notarization of any documents that may be required in connection with settlement approval or any other cause, as it is likely that such notarization will occur off tribal land in the State of Connecticut, the provisions of Governor Lamont's Executive Order No. 7K issued on March 23, 2020 shall apply.

All of the above shall remain in place until revoked.



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Brian E. Prindle, Chief Commissioner

Dated: March 27, 2020