

Litigation procedures at DLI

DLI Alternative Dispute Resolution



Resources for injured workers

dli.mn.gov/workers/workers-compensation-workers

WORKERS' COMPENSATION -- WORKERS

The Workers' Compensation Division oversees and administers the workers' compensation system in Minnesota. We strive to create an environment where injured workers promptly receive benefits and services and where the system operates efficiently and effectively. **Injured workers: Click on the red Work Comp Campus button below (far right) for information about how to access your claim online.**

| CAMPUS LOGIN MINSURAN | CE LOOKUP INFORMATION FOR BUSIN | NESSES WORK COMP CAMPUS |
|---|--|--|
| What you need to knowAccess your claim in CampusBenefits, general informationClaim processCOVID-19 updatesFAQsLumbar fusion informationPermanent partial disability (PPD) scheduleSettlementsWork Comp Campus for employees | What you can do Campus login (access your claim) File medical, rehabilitation disputes Help desk Insurance lookup QRC/vendor directories View reports, publications Watch our videos | How we can help Alternative dispute-resolution Contact us DLI's Vocational Rehabilitation Help desk Ombudsman |



General assistance

Workers' Compensation Division Help Desk

- Contact the help desk at <u>helpdesk.dli@state.mn.us</u>, 651-284-5005 (press 3) or 800-342-5354 (press 3).
- The translation service Language Line is available at no cost for non-Englishspeaking individuals.

Office of Workers' Compensation Ombudsman

- The ombudsman assists **injured workers** and **small businesses** to resolve workers' compensation issues.
- Contact the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) Ombudsman Pam Carlson at 651-284-5478, 800-342-5354 or <u>dli.ombudsman@state.mn.us</u>.



DLI Alternative Dispute Resolution

Alternative dispute-resolution is an alternative to formal litigation in resolving workers' compensation disputes. Parties may be represented by an attorney or participate without one.

- There are four primary functions of DLI's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) unit: customer assistance; administrative conferences; dispute certification; and mediation.
 - ADR services aSt. Paul: 651-284-5030 or 800-342-5354; and
 - **Duluth**: 218-733-7810 or 800-342-5354.
- re provided at the following offices:
- Note: Hearings and trials are before a workers' compensation judge.



Legal advice and data privacy issues

DLI does not have attorneys on staff to represent injured workers.

• An injured worker must contact a private attorney if they want legal advice.

Data privacy laws prevent DLI staff members from revealing any information to a nonparty to a claim without the expressed or written permission of the involved employee.

• This includes **spouses**, **partners**, **parents**, **future employers** and **rehabilitation providers** (see Minnesota Statutes sections 13.43, 176.138, 176.231 and 176.39).



Who may file a request for assistance (RFA) – dispute

Employee: Disputes about recommended medical treatment and rehabilitation benefits and services.

Employer: Rarely seen; insurers file on their behalf.

Insurer: About medical treatment and rehabilitation benefits or services.

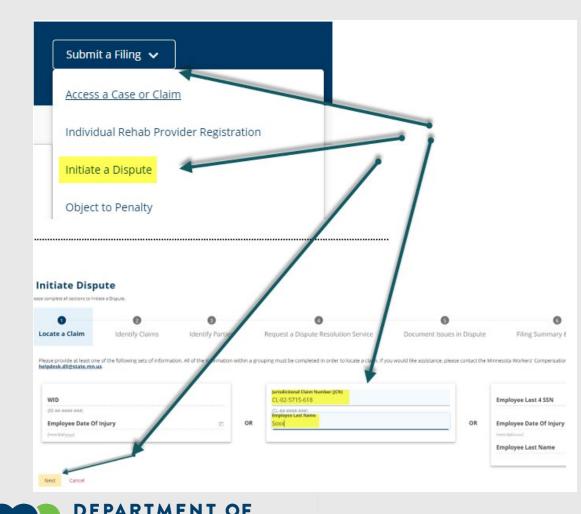
Rehabilitation provider: To seek direction of plan or plan amendments, or for nonpayment of provider invoices.

Health care provider: Regarding payment or the amount.

Attorney: About medical treatment and rehabilitation benefits.

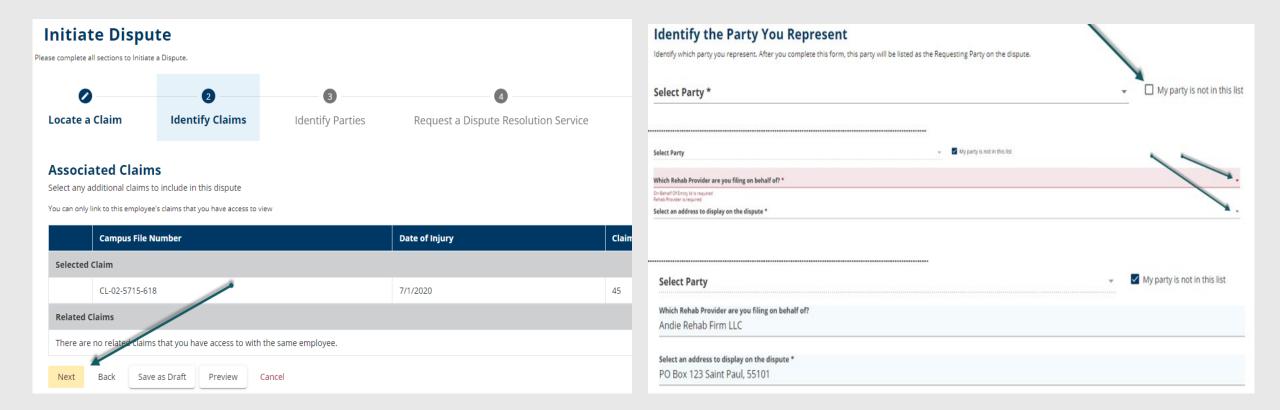


Initiating an RFA in Work Comp Campus

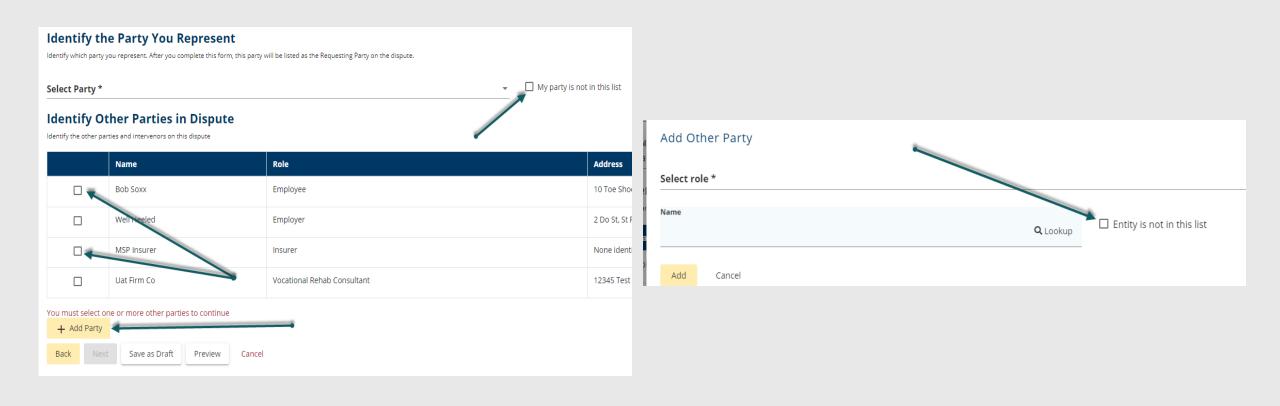


OR AND INDUSTRY

- Click on "Submit a Filing" in the top blue bar in your Work Comp Campus dashboard.
- Select "Initiate a Dispute," which opens the "Locate a Claim" section.
- Enter the injured employee's information. You can choose which of the three boxes in which to list the information.
- Click the "Next" button.









| | | Entity is not in this list | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| City * Saint Paul | | | County Ramsey |
| | • | Country United States | |
| | | Saint Paul | City* Saint Paul |

Identify Other Parties in Dispute

| Identify the othe | r parties and intervenors on this dispute | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| | Name | Role | Address |
| | Bob Soxx | Employee | 10 Toe Shoe, St Paul MN 55155 |
| | Well Heeled | Employer | 2 Do St, St Paul MN 55155 |
| ~ | MSP Insurer | Insurer | None identified |
| | Uat Firm Co | Vocational Rehab Consultant | 12345 Test Ave, Saint Paul MN 55101 |
| | William B. Johnson <mark>, Attorney</mark> | | 1414 Mockingbird Lane, Saint Paul MN 55155 |
| + Add Par Back N | ty Next Save as Draft Preview Cancel | | |



| Choose a Dispute Resolution Service | |
|---|--|
| Select a Resolution Service you would like to help resolve your Dispute. If you want to request an Administrative Conference, there must be doc | |
| Dispute Action * | |
| Dispute Action is required | |
| Back Next Save as Draft Preview Cancel | |
| | |
| Choose a Dispute Resolution Service | |
| Select a Resolution Service you would like to help resolve your Dispute. If yo | |
| Discuss Anti * | |
| | |
| Certify this Dispute | |
| Request a Mediation | |
| Request an Administrative Conference | |
| Request no service now, only initiate the dispute. | |
| Mark Comp Computer 2019 | |
| Change - Discuste Develoption Compiler | |
| Choose a Dispute Resolution Service Select a Resolution Service you would like to help resolve your Dispute. If yo | |
| Dispute Action * | |
| Request an Administrative Conference | |
| | |

Cancel

Save as Draft Preview

| Locate a Claim | Identify Claims | I dentify Parties | Request a Dispute Resolution Service | S Document Issues in Dispute | Filing Summary & Signature | Affidavit of Service |
|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Lucate a claim | identity claims | identity rardes | Request a Dispute Resolution Service | bocument issues in bispace | Hing Summary & Signature | Allibavic of Service |
| Select the type that r | nost applies to the reason | you are filing this dispute * | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 6-1 | L +L | | - +6 | | | |
| | | | 4 | | | |
| Medio | al | | | | | |
| Rehat | oilitation | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | und a potent tion team fo | | dispute that matches th | e information you | have entered on t | his form |
| | | | | | | |
| | outed Is | sues | | | | |
| L + | Add Issue | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Sup | porting | , Attach | ments | | | |
| + | Upload Doc | ument | | | | |
| | | | | | -11 - | |
| File N | ame | | | | File Type | |



Next

Back

| Open Issue | × Disputed Issues | |
|---|---|---|
| Complete the following questions for each open issue. | + Add Issue | |
| Are you requesting a service or seeking reimbursement?* | · | |
| Which of the following applies to the service you are requesting or seeking reimbursement for? * | Request Type Service | Benefit Issue Retraining |
| Specify any details about the issue. Specify any details about the issue. | Issue Type | Description |
| Status* Open | Plan Approval | Insurer has denied retraining stating job sear |
| Save Cancel | Issue Status Open | Edit Issue |
| | | |
| Open Issue | | |
| Complete the following questions for each open issue. | Supporting Attachm | nents |
| Are you requesting a service or seeking reimbursement?* Service | + Upload Document | |
| | | |
| Which of the following applies to the service you are requesting or seeking reimbursement fo <mark>r? *</mark> Retraining | File Name | File Type |
| | Instructions | |
| Issue Type * Plan Approval | treatment or rehabilitation related | ent, attach copies of the itemized bills, prescriptions, mileage or parking expenses, medical re d to the work injury, attach documentation that the expense was necessary. If you are request describing the physical restrictions or permanent partial disability. Include any treatment para |
| Specify any details about the issue. * Insurer has denied retraining stating job search be continued now for more than a year. Seek direction of rehab plan including approval of retraining pla | Explain the details of your request | |
| Status * Open | A decision can be reached solely on the | documents provided below and the explanation provided here. |
| | Back Next Save as D | oraft Preview Cancel |
| Save Cancel | | |



Disputed Issues Upload Document + Add Issue Request Type Benefit Issue Service Retraining Retraining Plan form.docx (11.43 KB) P Description Issue Type â Remove Plan Approval Insurer has denied retraining stating job sear... Issue Status 💉 Edit Issue Open **Supporting Attachments** Document Category + Upload Document File Name File Type Retraining Plan form.docx Request for Assistance Document Type * Request for Assistance Retraining -Rationale.docx Request for Assistance Instructions If you are requesting reimbursement, attach copies of the itemized bills, prescriptions, mileage or parking expenses, r Description treatment or rehabilitation related to the work injury, attach documentation that the expense was necessary. If you a recommending the treatment or describing the physical restrictions or permanent partial disability. Include any treat Retraining Plan form Explain the details of your request See above disputed issues A decision can be reached solely on the documents provided below and the explanation provided here. Upload Cancel Back Next Save as Draft Preview Cancel



Claims Associated to this Dispute

| Campus File Number | Date of Injury | Claim Administrator Claim Number | |
|--|----------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Selected Claim | | | |
| CL-02-5715-618 | 7/1/2020 | 45 | |
| Related Claims | | | |
| There are no related claims with the same employee | | | |

Parties in Dispute

| Name | Role | Address |
|------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Andie Rehab Firm LLC | Requesting Party | PO Box 123, Saint Paul MN 55101 |
| Bob Soxx | Employee | 10 Toe Shoe, St Paul MN 55155 |
| MSP Insurer | Insurer | None identified |
| William B. Johnson, Attorney | | 1414 Mockingbird Lane, Saint Paul MN 55155 |

Dispute Issue and Document Summary

| Dispute Type | Number of Issues | Document to be filed with DLI | Date Processed |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Rehabilitation | 1 | Request for Assistance | 9/8/2021 |

Electronic Signature

Please type your First and Last Name as they appear on your CAMPUS profile. By signing and dating this form, I certify copies of this form and attachments are being sent to the employee, insurer, any attorney(s), the Department of L department's Vocational Rehabilitation unit (VRU).



Affidavit of Service

Parties

Select the parties to serve below. You may update service addresses for parties served via mail. Click the Add

| + Add Serv | ice Recipient | |
|--------------|--------------------|--|
| Serve Party | Name | Role |
| | Bob Soxx | Employee |
| | Casper Ghost | Attorney |
| | Suzy Assist | Other Representative |
| | Mark Para | Paralegal |
| \checkmark | Tammy General | Service of Process Designee for Uat Law Firm Inc |
| \checkmark | Charlie Chaplin | Service of Process Designee for Uat Law Firm Inc |
| \checkmark | Harper Attorney | Service of Process Designee for Uat Law Firm Inc |
| | Well Heeled | Insured |
| | Well Heeled | Employer |
| | MSP Insurer | Insurer |
| | Lurch Respond | Attorney |
| | Bee Para | Other Representative |
| | Melissa ClaimAdmin | Other Representative |
| ~ | Melissa ClaimAdmin | Service of Process Designee for MSP Insurer |
| \checkmark | Olive Oil | Service of Process Designee for Uat Respond Law Firm |
| ~ | Perry Support | Service of Process Designee for Uat Respond Law Firm |
| - | | |



Notice

Upon clicking Submit, Campus will:

- · Create and merge an Affidavit of Service with your filed document
- Send an email to all parties who receive service via Campus

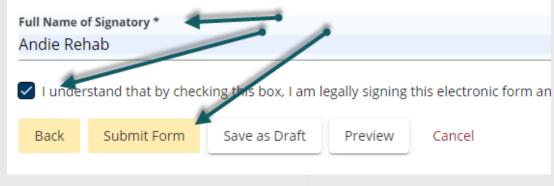
To serve parties by mail you must print a copy of the filed document and your Affidav

Declaration

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything that I have stated in this docum

Electronic Signature

Please type your First and Last Name as they appear on your CAMPUS profile. By sigr department's Vocational Rehabilitation unit (VRU).



Please wait while we process your Initiate Dispute Form

Please remain on this page, or your Initiate Dispute Form will not be processed.

Initiate Dispute Successfully Submitted!

Confirmation Number: 6630

Associated ID: DS-02-5883-190

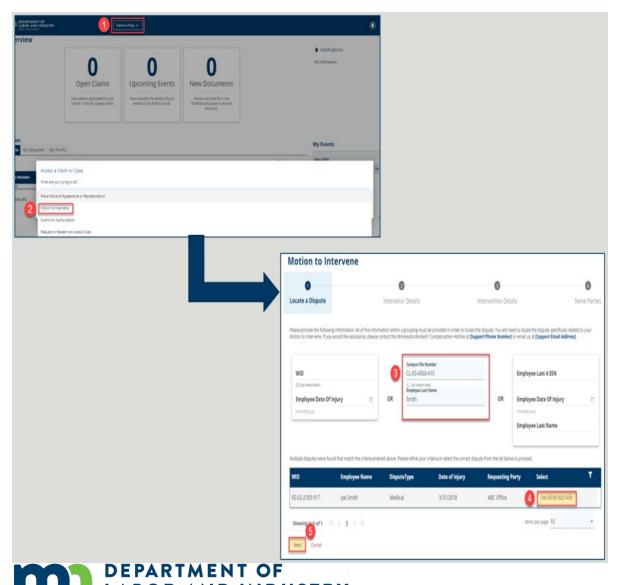
Click the link to view your new document:

DO-02-5883-192

nail has been sent to Uattestdli+qrc11@gmail.com for your records. You may view your forn <u>My Form History</u>.



Interventions: Motion to Intervene



- When another party has filed an RFA, a QRC with outstanding invoices can intervene in the existing dispute to get paid, especially if settlement of the claim is being considered. You need to file a Motion to Intervene.
- Build the Motion to Intervene by clicking on the "Submit a Filing" dropdown menu and selecting "Access a Case or Claim," then following the prompts to generate the motion.

Step 1. Click on the Submit a Filing drop-down menu and select Access a Case or Claim. Then go to the far right nabla (upside down triangle).

| DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY | Submit a Filing 🗸 | - |
|---|--|---|
| Compus TEST Environment | Access a Case or Claim | |
| ly Overview | Individual Rehab Provider Registration | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| cess a Claire or Case | | |
| | | _ |
| cores a Claire or Case Net are you trying to dor | | - |

Step 3. Click on Next.

Access a Claim or Case



Step 4. Enter injured worker's identifying information in one of the three sections and then click on Next.

| Step 2. Select Motion to Intervene. | | 198 (2.4).4/(0.1)67 | Campus File Number | | Employee Last 4 SSN |
|--|---|---|--|----|-------------------------|
| Access a Clater or Case Wholes prototypy to do? | × | 1 Ann Anna Anna Angelegen ben fel superp 1710(2021) | el. en eren ant Ferglapper Looi Narre | 01 | Implayer Sein Of Jejary |
| Dilation to instrume | | 1 | | | Briglingen Lost Marmo |
| Submit at Authorization Request or Bedwers at votoes Code | | Test Court | | | |



File Name File Type Description Remove Next Back Cancel Save as Druft

Locate the rehabilitation dispute and then click on the yellow document number.

Multiple driputes were found that match the orderial-entered above. Private refine your orderial or select the correct dripute from the fot below to proceed.

Step 5.

| CIW | Employee Name | DisputeType | Date of Injury | Requesting Party | Select |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| EE-01-6165-967 | Lif jay | Medical | 1/10/2821 | LÉjay | UW 05-02-5854-695 |
| 88-01-4169-967 1 | ulpy | Medical | 1/15/2021 | Lipy | VM-05-42-5854-481 |
| EE-01-6165-967 | Li Jay | Rehabilitation | 1/10/2021 | GALLACHER BASSETT SERVICES INC | Vie 0542-5854-678 |
| EE-01-6169-967 | Lil (ay | Medical | 1/10/2021 | GALLAGHER BASSETT SERVICES INC | VM 05-02-5854-541 |
| 85-01-6169-967 | LI py | Medical | 1/10/2021 | Lifjay | Vie 0542-5854-623 |
| EE-01-6169-967 | Lipy | Wedical | 1/10/2021 | ui jay | USI 25-02-5854-691 |

Step 6. Select Yes, I am filing this motion as a QRC and click on Next.





Step 7. Type in today's date and total amount of money due. For Start date, list the first day of services from the collection and then the last date that payment is due. Select Acknowledge Intervention and complete the QRC's identifying information (or) person who has final authority to negotiate the bill(s) if percented.

| neces | sary. | | | | | |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Locate a Dispute | 13 mil | rvenor Details | | Interventio | on Details | Serve Parties |
| The applicant is filing this Mattion is intervene in the | following shapping: 05-12-1854-678 | | | | | |
| Rathald Response Davies * 1/200/2022 | | | | | | |
| (venint)(c)) The applicant, NPR2CNIT, has provided services or | pad benefits to or an behalf of the eng | physe and has a statutory right to intervene under to | Annesola Slatutes \$ 176.36 | κ. | | |
| Atached to this Mution to Intervene is an exhibition | terricing the charges for services provi | del or payments made to or or behalf of the employ | yee by the applicant for the | dates below. | | |
| Torati Datin Amuset in Date * S | 2350.95 | Bart Barc* 2/1/2021 | | | End Beac* 3/31/2021 | |
| Upon request of a party or to present exidence of it | e intervention care at hearing. The app | (evental (pro)) (kant acknowledges it will provide additional docum | vertation, records and repo | rts as required by | (mm/00/202) | |
| Acknowledge Intervention | | | | | | |
| - | The applicant to obtain payment from | any source for the services provided or payments ma | de to or on behalf of the e | nployee as beni | ord in the attached exhibits). | |
| The applicants representative, who has authority to | settle on behalf of the applicant can be | contacted using the information below. | | | | |
| First Name * | | Last Name * | | | Talk* | |
| bica | | Intern | | | QRC | |
| Plane 1 | | brail* | | | | |

Therefore, the applicant requests it be allowed to intervene as a party in the above captored proceeding and that payment for services provided or benefits paid be made, piou appropriate statutory intervez.

Ustertdi-internel@gmail.com

Step 8. Select Upload Document to attach the outstanding invoices. It is recommended that if there are several invoices needing payment that you scan them together as one document prior to working on the motion to intervene to make the upload process easier.

Supporting Attachments

(651) 222-2222

| + Upi | load Docum | ert | - | | | |
|----------|------------|--------|---------------|-----------|-------------|--------|
| File Nam | • | | | File Type | Description | Remove |
| Net | Back | Cancel | Save as Draft | | | |

Step 9. Upload the document. Then for Document Type select Notice of Right to Intervene and then in the Description identify what the document(s) are. Then click on Next.

Upload Document

| Remove | 121 to 03-31-21. | dock (11.52 KB) | | | |
|--------|------------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| | G | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Document Type * Notice of Right to Intervene

Description

Notice of Right to Intervene which includes the attached outstanding invoices sent to insurer for payment with no response from insurer afterwards.



Step 10. It is recommended that you initially save the document via Save as Draft so in case you're interrupted you won't have to completely re-create the form. Following this you can resurrect the motion to intervene by going to your My Forms tab and clicking on the document. Once pulled up click on the Next button.



Step 11. You may select the parties you wish to electronically serve by checking box by the names of the parties in the Affidavit of Service.

Then check the Declaration box, enter your name, check the Understanding box and file/submit the form.

Address

Affidavit of Service

Parties Select the parties to serve + ADD Server Rest

Select the parties to serve below. You may update service addresses for parties served via mail. Click the Add Service Respiret button to add parties to the service los.

| + A0054 | rvice Reclaient | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Serve Party | Name | Role | |
| 8 | GALLAGHER BASSETT SERVICES INC | Requesting Farty | |

| • | GALLAGHER BASSETT SERVICES INC | Requesting Facty | | Dechana | 1/25/2532 |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|------------------------------|
| 8 | Bob Lobles | Attorney | 123 Test Drive Tearing America, Mile 35555 | US MAR | Overse a data * 1/20/2022 |
| 8 | priny WcGill | Service of Process Designee for Aufest, Forde, Gray, Monson & Pager, P.A. | DUTestbirt-paralegari legmaticom | Bectronic. | 1/29/2022 |
| 8 | james Lättest | Service of Process Designee for GALLAGHER BASSETT SERVICES INC | Vaterbill+intiligmat.com | dectrons | 1/28/2022 |
| 5 | Peter Parkar | Service of Process Designee for GAULAGHER BASSETT SERVICES INC. | DuffectExt1-general/birgmail.com | Electronic | 1/25/2022 |
| 8 | Philip Rry | Service of Process Designee for Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson & Hager, P.A. | DUTestExt1-legalecastant/typnal.com | (incrure) | 1/29/2012 |
| | | | | | |

Notice

Upon closing Submit, Campus with

Create and merge an Affdavit of Senice with your filed document
 Send an email to all parties who reveive senice via Comput

To serve parties by mail you must print a copy of the filed document and your Affidavit of Service

Declaration

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything that i have stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. 8 358,116

Electronic Signature

Please type your find and case have as they appear on your CAMPUS profile. By lighting and dating this form, i certify capes of this form and attachments are being sent to the employee, insure, any attachment of cabo department's viscolonal Relationation and CARD.

Full Name of Egnetary * Enica Intern

I understand that by checking this box. I are legally signing this electronic form and I confirm that the information on this form is blue, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge

Submit Form Back Cancel Preview Document

Step 12. You should see the message below upon successful filing of the form with the department. Next click on the document (i.e., DO-02-6157-056) to see the document the parties will see in Campus.





Service Method Service Date

Step 13. Once here you may click on the printer icon to make a copy for your file and/or to send out copies via US mail.



- Step 14. Example copy of motion to intervene.
- ** Note: After the motion is approved by the department, it will be displayed in your My Disputes tab on your Campus dashboard.

| ampus File Numb nployee WID: EE ate(s) of Injury: 1 | |
|---|--|
| Jay, Employee d LLAGHER BAS | SETT SERVICES INC. TPA |
| . The applicant | (is filing this Motion to Intervene in the following disputes(s): |
| Medical Re | quest dated: Rehabilitation Request dated: 3/31/2021 |
| Claim Petit | ion for Only Medical Benefits or Rehabilitation Benefits dated: |
| | I, Andie Rehab Firm LLC (name of entity filing this Motion to Intervene), has provided services or paid benefits to of the employee and has a statutory right to intervene under Minvesota Statutes § 176.361. |
| behalf of the of a party or t | his Motion to Intervene is an exhibit(s) iterationg the charges for services provided or payments made to or on employee by the applicant from 31/3021 (date) to 3/31/3021 (date). The claim to-date is \$2,360.365. Upon request to present evidence of the intervention claim at hearing, the applicant acknowledges it will provide additional en, records and reports as required by law. |
| | on in this case may affect the ability of the applicant to obtain payment from any source for the services provided made to or on behalf of the employee as itemized in the attached exhibit(s). |
| | rs representative, who has authority to settle on behalf of the applicant, Erica Intern, GRC Intern, can be (851) 222-2222 (phone number) and Uattestidi=internei@gmail.com (email address). |
| . Therefore, th | e applicant requests it be allowed to intervene as a party in the above-captioned proceeding and that payment for |
| services prov | ided or benefits paid be made, plus appropriate statutory interest. |
| Date signed 1/20/2022 | Signature of person filing motion // Decompany Signed By Erica Intern On 1/20/2022 at 11:12:12:40 /CT |





Dispute certification process for rehabilitation issues – Minn. Stat. 176.106

- ADR hears medical and rehabilitation disputes. Rehabilitation disputes may include retraining plans, rehabilitation provider bills and change of qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC), and disputes seeking direction or termination of the rehabilitation plan.
- First, a request for certification of a dispute is received from a stakeholder.
- An ADR mediator then contacts the opposing party to determine whether a dispute exists and will attempt to resolve the dispute. A Dispute Certification Notice is sent to the parties advising them whether the dispute has been certified and, if so, whether a conference is to be scheduled.
- Note: Before the conference, parties can amend their RFA and upload exhibits in support of their position.



Dispute certification process for rehabilitation issues – Minn. Stat. 176.106, continued

 If there is a certified dispute, an administrative conference will be scheduled within 21 days (Minn. Stat. section 176.106, subdivision 3), unless the issue involves only fees for rehabilitation services already provided or there is good cause for holding the conference later than 21 days).



Dispute certification process for medical issues

Can a QRC file a Medical Request form on behalf of an employee (even if they do not charge for it) when the employee does not have an attorney or sufficient understanding of the process to file a request on their own?

- A QRC may not file a Medical Request for an employee. This is a benefit issue (see Minnesota Rules 5220.1801, subpart 8B). The employee should contact the Workers' Compensation Division Help Desk at <u>helpdesk.dli@state.mn</u>, 651-284-5005 (press 3) or 800-342-5354 (press 3) to request assistance.
- See frequent questions and answers about rehabilitation practice at <u>dli.mn.gov/business/workers-compensation/faqs-rehabilitation-providers</u>.



Administrative conferences

- Currently, all administrative conferences are by telephone. Mediations are a mixture of in-person or remote meetings. If a translator is required, the mediation is in person. Conferences and mediations are set to one hour and are considered semi-formal, with no sworn testimony or recordings. QRCs are to be notified of rehabilitation conferences via Campus (see Minn. R. 1415.3700, subp. 2).
- **Conference procedure:** The party filing the RFA form presents their position and the opposing party provides their response. **Note:** If the rehabilitation provider does not understand a question, they should ask for clarification before responding. If the parties do not reach an agreement, a written Decision and Order will be issued by DLI within 30 days. It may be appealed to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH).
- ADR cannot contact one of the parties without providing notice to the other parties. Also, unless the parties have agreed to hold the conference open to receive additional documents or arguments, no further information or documents will be accepted.



Suggested preparation for administrative conference

- Review the RFA and response, plus any attachments filed by the parties.
- The dispute issues help determine what type of documents may be needed.
 - **Bill disputes:** Bring your invoices and reports that substantiate the disputed bills, including other documents, as appropriate.
 - **Direction of the plan:** Review your reports and be prepared to respond to questions regarding the direction of the plan, costs and the employee's participation in the plan.
 - Qualified employee: You should be able to discuss specific points that your opinion is based on, including information received and documents. For instance, just because a person would benefit from rehabilitation services is not enough of a reason.



Common issues and disputes

The insurer fails to respond to the QRC regarding the proposed rehabilitation plan.

• The QRC may go ahead with the rehabilitation plan; follow-up with the insurer to determine if it agrees; or file an RFA to "seek direction of the rehabilitation plan."

The provider filed an RFA and, when contacted by ADR, the insurer agreed to pay outstanding bills, but no payment was received.

- As the QRC or vendor, you might consider requesting ADR draw-up an "Order on Agreement" to ensure receipt of payment on the outstanding invoices within 14 days.
- Or you can wait a reasonable amount of time for payment, such as two weeks.
- If there is still no payment, as the QRC or vendor, you do not have to file another RFA, but should call the mediator to schedule an administrative conference.



Common issues and disputes, continued

Requesting additional job-development and job-placement services

- Job development is limited to a total of 26 weeks (see Minn. Stat. section 176.102, subd.
 5). There is no time limit on job-placement services.
- DLI suggests using job-development and job-placement descriptions from the R-2 Rehabilitation Plan form and R-3 Rehabilitation Plan Amendment form instruction sections for the service categories in those R-forms.

Retraining plans should include the following

- Retraining plans should adequately address each of the <u>Poole</u> factors.
- Retraining plans should provide supporting documentation based on facts. Do not assume someone with an IQ of 100 is smart enough to be a biomedical scientist.



QRC and vendor attendance

- QRCs and vendors do not need to attend conferences related to medical treatment or discontinuance of benefits, especially if the parties see no reason.
- If the attorney or adjuster wants a rehabilitation provider to attend a conference or hearing, **and is willing to pay** the provider's hourly fee, then the provider should attend.
- If possible, the rehabilitation provider should be available by phone during the conference in case an issue arises. Time during the actual phone call is billable.
- If the dispute involves a rehabilitation issue, the rules indicate the QRC should attend the conference.



Decision and Order

What should a QRC do when a Decision and Order states rehabilitation services should be discontinued, and the rehabilitation file be closed?

- If the employee appealed the decision, the QRC would not be obligated to stop services because the appeal places the matter on hold (see Minn. R. 5220.0510, subp. 7). Discontinuance of services because it is on appeal is not a reason set forth under this subpart.
- During the appeal period continued services may not be compensable.
- If there is no appeal within 30 days, the file is to be closed. It is suggested you contact the parties one to two weeks after the Decision and Order to see if they will appeal.



QRC billing case law

- <u>Ewing vs. Print Craft, Inc.</u>, SCA19-0534: The QRC provided services for other injuries not related to the admitted claim. Due to this case, an RFA is no longer required to terminate rehabilitation services, if notice is provided to the QRC.
- <u>Winstead vs. Martin Luther Manor/Fairview Health Services</u>, WC18-6191: The QRC declined to file a motion to intervene during settlement, so was not entitled to a Parker-Lindberg hearing after settlement occurred.
- <u>Dilley vs. Carver Cnty. Sheriff</u>, WC18-6205: The employee's attorney represented the employee's interests in a dispute about the need for rehabilitation services (for Heaton fees) when the primary dispute was payment of the QRC's past invoices and the QRC represented herself.



QRC billing case law, continued

• <u>Aguilar vs. Kendell Doors and Hardware</u>, WC22-6448: The QRC failed to list the interpreter services on R-forms. Therefore, the insurer was not required to pay vendor invoices.



Office of Administrative Hearings

- The Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) conducts administrative conferences about a proposed discontinuance of the employee's wage-loss benefits (see Minn. Stat. 176.239) and medical disputes greater than \$7,500, including requests for surgery.
- OAH resources: <u>mn.gov/oah/lawyers-and-litigants</u>
- Docket calendar: <u>mn.gov/oah/lawyers-and-litigants/docket-calendar.jsp</u>
- The appeal period is 60 days after a Findings and Order is issued.
- It is suggested you contact the parties two to three weeks after the Findings and Order to see if they will appeal.





Questions?