

A guide to the Minnesota workers' compensation system for work-related deaths

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This guide briefly explains how current Minnesota laws apply to work-related deaths occurring on or after Oct. 1, 1995. It is meant to provide basic information about the Minnesota workers' compensation process and benefits. It is not a full description of the workers' compensation system and it is not meant to provide legal advice.

1. Available benefits

When a worker dies because of a work-related accident or occupational illness, there may be workers' compensation benefits payable to the survivors of the worker or the worker's estate. These benefits are paid by the employer's workers' compensation insurer or the employer, if the employer is self-insured.

- Burial expenses are payable up to certain limits.
- Dependency benefits may be payable to the surviving spouse, children or other dependents.
- For work-related deaths on or after April 28, 2000, if the worker dies without leaving a surviving spouse, children or dependents, the estate of the deceased worker is entitled to payment.

2. Who to contact for more information

If you have questions:

- The employer's insurance company can give you answers to many questions.
- Talk to an attorney for legal advice about a death benefits claim.
- Contact the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI's) Workers' Compensation Help Desk at helpdesk.dli@state.mn.us, 651-284-5005 (press 3) or 800-342-5354 (press 3) between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or contact the Office of Workers' Compensation Ombudsman at dli.ombudsman@state.mn.us, 651-284-5013 or 800-342-5354.

3. Other third-party resources

DLI may provide you with additional information about third-party resources for dependents who may be eligible for benefits outside of those provided under the Minnesota workers' compensation system. DLI does not control or operate, and is not responsible for the content, accuracy or opinions expressed by any third-party organization, service or resource provided in supplemental material to this guide. Reference to any specific third-party organization, service or resource is for the information and convenience of the public and does not constitute endorsement or recommendation by DLI. In keeping with DLI records privacy standards related to workers' compensation claims, DLI will not provide or disclose your private or protected workers' compensation file data to any third-party organization, service or resource unless expressly authorized by surviving dependents or otherwise authorized by law.