

Attention: Claimant's Attorneys!

Having to chase down employment contracts from Claimant attorneys is causing unnecessary delay in the processing of settlement documents at the Commission. The Commission is considering what measures to take to eliminate this delay.

As soon as a Claimant's attorney takes on a workers' compensation claim, whether the claim is controverted or noncontroverted, the attorney must file satisfactory evidence of employment, that is, the attorney employment contract, for approval by the Commission.

Miss. Code § 71-3-63 and Commission Rule 2.12 state that no claim for a fee greater than \$200 for legal services rendered shall be valid unless approved by the Commission. Any attorney who receives a fee greater than \$200 for legal services rendered without approval by the Commission shall be guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed one year. Commission approval is not given until the attorney's employment contract is filed.

Commission Rule 2.12 provides additionally that attorneys shall be entitled to all information available to their respective clients only upon satisfactory evidence of employment.

The Commission strives for efficiency in every department. Please help us by promptly filing the employment contract at the beginning of your participation in the claim.