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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CONNECTICUT WORKERS' COMP UPDATE

The law firm of **Strunk Dodge Aiken Zovas (SDAZ)** provides you with our **SUMMER 2024 WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW UPDATE**. Please feel free to share this update with your colleagues. If someone inadvertently has been left off our email list and would like to receive future updates, they can contact **Jason Dodge** at jdodge@ctworkcomp.com or 860-785-4503.

STRUNK DODGE AIKEN ZOVAS NEWS

Strunk Dodge Aiken Zovas celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2024! We thank all of our clients for their continued support of our law firm and we look forward to assisting you in the future regarding the defense and administration of workers' compensation claims.

Courtney Stabnick of SDAZ has been named **2024 "Lawyer of the Year"** by Best Lawyers for litigation-insurance in the Hartford region.

Attorneys Anne Zovas, Lucas Strunk, Richard Aiken, Heather Porto, Philip Markuszka, Courtney Stabnick, Jason Dodge and Richard Stabnick of SDAZ have been selected by their peers for recognition of their professional excellence in Workers' Compensation- Employers in the 31st edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Strunk Dodge Aiken Zovas has been named by Best Lawyers as a 2024 Tier 1 "Best Law Firm." Best Lawyers is the oldest and most respected lawyer ranking service in the world. The U.S. News – Best Lawyers® "Best Law Firms" rankings are based on a rigorous evaluation process that includes the collection of client and lawyer evaluations, peer review from leading attorneys in the field, and review of additional information provided by law firms as part of the formal submission process.

Attorney Christopher Buccini of SDAZ has been named Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Section of the Connecticut Bar Association. Best wishes to Chris in this prestigious position!

The Connecticut Bar Association held its annual Legal Conference at the Hartford Convention Center on June 10, 2024. **Attorney Buccini** was the moderator along with Attorney Nicole Fluckiger for the seminar entitled "Recent Developments in CT Workers' Compensation." Chief Judge Stephen Morelli gave his annual presentation regarding the Workers' Compensation Commission in Connecticut. Attorney Michael Kerin provided a review of recent appellate law in Connecticut. Attorney Melanie Kolek made a presentation regarding the 2024 legislative session. Attorney Marie Gallo Hall spoke regarding new memoranda in the Commission (see below) and oral argument at the Compensation Review Board.

Attorneys Richard Aiken, Jason Dodge, Lucas Strunk and Anne Zovas were named Super Lawyers for 2024 in the field of workers' compensation law. **Attorneys Christopher D'Angelo, Ariel MacPherson Philip Markuszka and Matthew Sacco of SDAZ** were named "Rising Stars" in workers' compensation law.

Attorneys Anne Zovas, Richard Aiken, Lucas Strunk, Jason Dodge and Richard Stabnick of SDAZ have received an AV rating by Martindale-Hubbell. Martindale-Hubbell states that the AV rating is "The highest peer rating standard. This is given to attorneys who are ranked at the highest level of professional excellence for their legal expertise, communication skills, and ethical standards by their peers."

Attorney Richard Aiken of SDAZ is again organizing the 26th Annual Verrilli-Belkin Workers' Compensation Charity Golf Event at Shuttle Meadow Country Club on Monday September 9, 2024. This event is for Connecticut Bar Association Members. The golf tournament has been able to raise thousands of dollars for charities throughout the years.

Law Day 2024 was observed at Hartford Superior Court on May 10, 2024. The theme this year was "Voices of Democracy". Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas gave an engaging and motivating speech to the many judges, lawyers and public attendees. **Attorney Anne Zovas of SDAZ** participated in the program on behalf of the Hartford County Bar Association by presenting a scholarship award.

Strunk Dodge Aiken Zovas has been named the Connecticut representative of the National Workers' compensation Defense Network. The NWCDN is a nationwide network of workers' compensation defense law firms that partner with other attorneys to provide clients with expertise, education, and guidance in the field of workers' compensation. Only one firm per state is selected for this prestigious organization. If representation is needed in a state outside of Connecticut, the NWCDN network provides a vetted list of law firms that can provide excellent legal assistance to clients of **SDAZ**.



SDAZ is pleased to announce that **Attorney Matthew C. Sacco** has joined our firm. Attorney Sacco received his Bachelor of Arts degree in music with a concentration in opera performance from Western Connecticut State University in 2019. He graduated from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 2022. Attorney Sacco represents self-insured and insured employers as well as municipalities before the Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission. Attorney Sacco was named by Super Lawyers to its Rising Stars list for workers' compensation in 2024. Attorney Sacco is a member of the Connecticut Bar Association.

Kids' Chance of Connecticut will hold their annual golf event on Monday September 30, 2024 at Glastonbury Hills Country Club. See below information regarding this event. Attorneys Jason Dodge and Philip Markuszka of SDAZ are Board members of Kids' Chance of Connecticut. The mission of Kids' Chance of Connecticut is to provide educational scholarships to the children of Connecticut workers who have been seriously or fatally injured in work-related accidents. If you are aware of a child who may qualify for a scholarship to a college or technical school, please go to the following website for an application www.kidschanceofct.org.

Kids'  Chance of CT

2024 Annual

Charity Golf

Outing & Fundraiser



Glastonbury Hills
COUNTRY CLUB

Monday, September 30th, 2024

Register Today!

Help us get an early count on our total number of golfers!

\$250 / golfer

\$900 / foursome

bit.ly/KCCTgolf24

You can now follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Strunk-Dodge-Aiken-Zovas-709895565750751/>

SDAZ can provide your company with seminars regarding Connecticut Workers' Compensation issues. Please contact us about tailoring a seminar to address your needs.

We do appreciate referrals for workers' compensation defense legal work. When referring new files to SDAZ for workers' compensation defense please send them to one of the attorneys' email: azovas@ctworkcomp.com, raiken@ctworkcomp.com, lstrunk@ctworkcomp.com, jdodge@ctworkcomp.com, HPorto@ctworkcomp.com, cgriffin@ctworkcomp.com, nberdon@ctworkcomp.com, cstabnick@ctworkcomp.com, cbuccini@ctworkcomp.com, pmarkuszka@ctworkcomp.com, cdangelo@ctworkcomp.com, amacpherson@ctworkcomp.com, rstabnick@ctworkcomp.com, or by regular mail. We will respond acknowledging receipt of the file and provide you with our recommendations for defense strategy.

Please contact us if you would like a copy of our laminated "Connecticut Workers' Compensation at a glance" that gives a good summary of Connecticut Workers' Compensation law to keep at your desk.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

In the 2024 session a number of bills were considered that addressed workers' compensation, but no statutes were passed. Some of the legislation considered (but not passed) included raising the number of weeks for permanency of the cervical spine (now 117 weeks versus 374 for the lumbar spine), requiring carriers to file a notice to terminate prescription medication before cutting off drugs unilaterally, making medical providers provide health records timely or face potential fines, and disallowing municipalities from reducing pension benefits due to the receipt of permanency benefits.

CONNECTICUT WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION NEWS

BURIAL EXPENSES

As of January 1, 2024, the burial fee for deaths covered under the Workers' Compensation Act is \$13,885.25 based on the overall 2023 CPI-W increase for the northeast of 3.2%. Connecticut General Statutes Section 31-306 was amended in 2021 to reflect that the compensation for burial benefits will be adjusted by the percentage increase in the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in the Northeast as defined in the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<https://portal.ct.gov/WCC/Home-News/Workers-Compensation-News/2024/2024-Burial-Expense-Adjustments>

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

As of January 1, 2024, the mileage reimbursement rate is 67 cents per mile.

As of January 1, 2023, the mileage rate had been 65.5 cents per mile. Prior to that the rate had been at 62.5 cents per mile since July 1, 2022

<https://portal.ct.gov/WCC/Home-News/Workers-Compensation-News/2024/2024-Mileage-Reimbursement-Rate-Rises>

MEMORANDUM 2024-05

The Chairman has issued the following new memo which stated that physicians can charge for causation or permanency opinions in a denied case:

Effective July 1, 2024, a treating physician who is asked to provide a causation opinion or a Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) rating on a **denied** claim may charge up to \$400 for this report. The report must be affirmatively requested by the patient or their representative, and the patient would be responsible for payment. As with standard special report fees, if a physician feels that an additional fee is warranted, they may seek permission to charge that higher rate from an administrative law judge. However, physicians considering requesting additional fees should keep in mind that the patient bears the responsibility for payment and should proceed accordingly.

The Professional Guide for Attorneys, Physicians, and Other Health Care Practitioners and the Payor and Medical Provider Guidelines to Improve the Coordination of Medical Services will be updated to reflect this change.

MEMORANDUM 2024-04

Effective June 14, 2024, the following changes have been made to WCC forms:

- Form 30C has been updated with “Check, if Firefighter Cancer Claim pursuant to C.G.S. Chapter 568” and “Check, if Firefighter Cancer Claim pursuant to C.G.S. Section 7-313p” to help WCC better track Firefighter Cancer claims pursuant to [Public Act No. 22-139](#). Language on Post Traumatic Stress Injuries has also been updated to reflect such injuries are pursuant to C.G.S. Section 31-294k.
- Form 30D has been updated with “Check, if Firefighter Cancer Claim pursuant to C.G.S. Chapter 568” and “Check, if Firefighter Cancer Claim pursuant to C.G.S. Section 7-313p” to help WCC better track Firefighter Cancer claims pursuant to [Public Act No. 22-139](#).
- The Hearing Request Form has been updated to allow the option for an email address to be added under the Injured Worker section.
- Voluntary Agreement Form has been updated with “Check, if C.G.S. Sec. 5-142” to help WCC better identify wage calculations which are pursuant to C.G.S. [Sec. 5-142](#).
- WCR-1: Rehabilitation Request Form has been updated with options to either fax or email the form to Rehabilitation Services in addition to mailing or submitting the form in-person. An optional line has also been added for applicants to add their email address.

Effective June 14, 2024, the following form is now available:

- Indemnity Only Stipulation and What it Means.

MEMORANDUM 2024-03

Effective July 1, 2024, wage statements should be attached to all Voluntary Agreements. If the claimant is concurrently employed, wage statements from all employers should be included with the submission. Failure to attach a wage statement(s) will result in the rejection of the Voluntary Agreement.

MEMORANDUM 2024-02

2024 Official Connecticut Fee Schedule for Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Centers effective April 1, 2024 has been issued by the Workers' Compensation Commission.

To order, please contact OPTUM360 at 1-800-464-3649, option 1, or visit <https://www.optum360coding.com/reference-products/workers-compensation/>, keyword "Connecticut".

MEMORANDUM 2024-01

The Commission has immediately suspended the mediation program and is beginning a review of the guidelines for the program. The suspension is due to "parties failure to comply with the program guidelines and misuse of the program."

We are sure that we will hear more about this in the future. We hope that the Commission will be able to begin the program again. In the meantime, there are a number of private mediation services that are available to assist in resolving claims. Please contact us if you have any questions about private mediation.

<https://portal.ct.gov/WCC/Workers-Compensation-News/Commission-Memorandums/2024/Memorandum-No-2024-01>

NEW WORKERS' COMPENSATION PORTAL

A new Worker's Compensation portal has been established at this site:

[https://wccct.govqa.us/WEBAPP/rs/\(S\(ee5fdcqqfjppdvhg3ssjxq1e\)\)/supporthome.aspx](https://wccct.govqa.us/WEBAPP/rs/(S(ee5fdcqqfjppdvhg3ssjxq1e))/supporthome.aspx)

The old Worker's Compensation website remains in place. However, this new portal will allow a search of managed care plans for a particular date of injury. Also, workers' compensation coverage searches and requests for workers' compensation files and freedom of information requests can be performed through this new portal. The prior worker's compensation history of an individual and information concerning a particular file (forms filed, hearing requests, hearings held, voluntary agreements approved) can be searched through this portal as well. Information regarding self-employers in the system can also be reviewed.

<https://portal.ct.gov/WCC/Home-News/Workers-Compensation-News/2023/Records-and-Information-Request-Service>

The Commission does have a website where you can look up such information as to whether a hearing is assigned, list of all claims for an employee, status of a Form 36, and interested parties. This is quite a useful site and is a different website than the Commission's main site. It can be found at:

<http://stg-pars.wcc.ct.gov/Default.aspx>

Memorandum 2023-08

The Form 42 has been revised. The new Form 42 includes "a check box indicating "Check, if total impairment rating, inclusive of any prior ratings, for body part." The box should be checked when the rating is for the total impairment inclusive of any previous ratings for the body part. The box should not be checked when the rating is in addition to a previous rating. The revised form can be obtained from our [Online Forms](#) page."

<https://portal.ct.gov/WCC/Workers-Compensation-News/Commission-Memorandums/2023/Memorandum-No-2023-08>

MEMORANDUM 2023-05:

Memorandum 2023-05 has been issued by Chief Administrative Law Judge Morelli regarding maximum compensation rates. The Chairman has ordered that the maximum total disability rate for injuries occurring after October 1, 2023 is \$1,575 (based on the estimated average weekly wage of all employees in Connecticut). The maximum temporary partial/permanent partial disability rate for accidents after October 1, 2023 is \$1,154 (based on the average weekly earnings of production and related workers in manufacturing in Connecticut).

<https://portal.ct.gov/WCC/Workers-Compensation-News/Commission-Memorandums/2023/Memorandum-No-2023-05>

NEW COMPENSATION REVIEW BOARD PANEL

The new CRB panel beginning January 1, 2024 will be Administrative law Judges Delaney and Schoolcraft along with Chief Administrative Law Judge Morelli.

MEDICARE NEWS FROM CMS

LIFE EXPECTANCY TABLES

Beginning February 24, 2024, CMS will utilize the CDC's "Table 1: Life Table for the total population: United States, 2021" for the Workers' Compensation Medicare Set Aside life expectancy calculation.

CASE LAW

New rules for oral argument at the Compensation Review Board! There will be a clock set up for oral argument and the parties will only be allowed fifteen minutes for their presentation.

ESPOSITO v. CITY OF STAMFORD, ____ Conn. ____, SC 20928 (August 2, 2024)

The claimant sustained a head injury when he fell at work and struck a concrete floor on April 24, 1982; because of the head injury the claimant developed vision problems. The respondents did not dispute that the vision problems were related to the head injury. It was determined that the claimant had profound visual loss in both eyes. The respondents agreed that the claimant was entitled to total disability benefits pursuant to Section 31–307(c)(1); that statute provides that a claimant is entitled to totally incapacity benefits if he sustained “total and permanent loss of sight of both eyes, or the reduction to 1/10 or less of normal vision.”

On April 1, 1998 the respondents filed a Form 36 questioning whether the claimant was entitled to total disability benefits. In a 1998 decision, Commissioner Paoletta determined that the claimant was entitled to ongoing benefits for total disability. The Commissioner ordered temporary total benefits to be paid pursuant to pursuant to Section 31–307(c)(1).

The claimant continued receiving total disability benefits until his death on November 7, 2020. Upon his death, the claimant’s spouse sought permanent partial disability award for loss of vision of the eyes pursuant to section 31–308(b). The statute in effect as of the date of claimant’s date of accident allowed for a permanency award up to 235 weeks per eye.

The claimant was initially married to his spouse on July 4, 1974, divorced in 1992, and remarried to the same spouse in 2010. The claimant was married as of the date of death in 2020.

An issue arose as to whether the spouse was entitled to benefits for permanency post the demise of the claimant. At the trial level, the Administrative Law Judge found that maximum medical improvement had been attained by June 9, 1998, the date of the decision by Commissioner Paoletta, and that the permanency award of 235 weeks for each eye was owed. While the Judge determined that there was an award for permanency owed to the spouse, she also found that the respondents were entitled to credit for benefits paid since June 9, 1998 up until the date of claimant's demise in November 2020. Since the payment of total disability from 1998 to 2020 exceeded the amount of the permanency award, there was no additional money owed to the spouse.

The claimant appealed the decision to the Compensation Review Board contending that the Judge erred in allowing a credit for total disability paid against the permanency due. The claimant contended that while maximum medical improvement may have occurred, there was no request for permanency benefits and therefore credit against the permanency award should not be given for the total disability benefits that were paid to the claimant.

On appeal, the Compensation Review Board determined that no permanent partial disability award was owed, but its reasoning was different from that of the Trial Judge. The Board stated, "entitlement to permanent partial disability benefits cannot be established in the absence of proof that the claimant has reached maximum medical improvement along with the concomitant assignment or award of a permanent partial disability rating or an agreement between the parties sufficient to establish a binding meeting of the minds." (Internal quotes omitted.)

The case was heard at the Connecticut Supreme Court. In a split decision the Court held that permanency was not owed since maximum medical improvement and a rating had not been established. and there was no meeting of the minds by the parties regarding a permanency award. The dissent argued that the entitlement to permanency had vested in 1998 and that an award should be allowed.

THE GROTTO, INC, V LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, ___ CONN. APP. _____, AC 46589 (August 13, 2024)

The employer's workers' compensation policy was cancelled; the cancellation was affirmed by the Appellate Court in a prior decision. Thereafter, the employer brought this claim against the insurer claiming negligent misrepresentation, negligence and CUTPA/CUIPA violations. The Appellate Court determined that this claim could proceed and that res judicata did not bar the claims since the employer could not previously pursue these claims in the workers' compensation commission.

DAFINICE V. SENIOR PHILANTHROPY OF NEWINGTON, 6513 CRB-7-23-8 (August 9, 2024)

The claimant sustained an injury to her neck at work on April 27, 2020. The respondents promptly paid medical bills that were incurred in 2020. There was no initial lost time. The respondents did not file a Form 43 within one year of the incident; they did issue a voluntary agreement in July 2021 and later a permanency award for 9% of the neck. In 2020 the claimant filed an uncontested Form 30C. The claimant sought a Motion to Preclude when she subsequently developed a syrinx that was contested. The CRB reversed the Judge's denial of the Motion to Preclude and remanded the case for further proceedings to address the issue whether "the evidentiary record provides a reasonable basis for the inference that the respondent's actions demonstrated their acceptance of the claim such that the claimant knew or should have known that the claim had been accepted."

MCKAY V. DEEPDALE EMPLOYMENT, LLC, 6509 CRB-5-23-7 (August 9, 2024)

In this interesting case the CRB affirmed a finding that the claimant's injuries were compensable and that she was entitled to a scar award. The claimant was a live-in estate manager for the employer. She had a company car and would tend to matters at all times of the day on the estate. She had a three year old child that would at times come with her to address a work issue; the employer was aware of this. On the date of the injury there was a Wi-Fi issue on the estate and she was texted about it. She was preparing to leave her apartment and address the issue when she was texted that the issue had been resolved. Her child had gone out the door in preparation to leave for the task; the claimant left to get her child and when doing so she fell in a stairway sustaining serious facial injuries. Both the trial judge and the Board found this compensable based on theory that the claimant was performing a special errand at the time of injury. The CRB found that this was not a home office type of case and distinguished those claims from the facts in this matter. The Board noted that the incident occurred within minutes of her being called to service. The CRB also found that the award for scarring was timely notwithstanding the fact that it was issued more than two years after the incident since the actual scar evaluation took place earlier and could not be issued until compensability had been addressed.

WRATCHFORD V STOP & SHOP SUPERMARKET COMPANIES, 6504 CRB-3-23-5 (MAY 22, 2024)

The claimant was “zapped” plugging in an iPad at work by electricity and sustained an arm injury. She was worked up extensively with EMG and MRI of the neck and arm; all the diagnostic studies were benign. A diagnosis of CRPS was considered although Dr. Berland, the neurologist RME, did not agree with that diagnosis. The doctors confirmed that the claimant was totally disabled, even the RME. The respondents denied liability for the claim contending that the claimant did not provide an accurate history to the doctors regarding her activities. At the formal hearing it was revealed that the claimant spent hours on the computer playing video games. The claimant also was writing a book with the assistance of voice recognition software. The claimant also was active on Reddit. The Administrative Law Judge dismissed the claim finding that the claimant was not credible or persuasive regarding her claim of total disability and therefore the conclusions of the doctors of total disability could not be relied upon. On appeal, the CRB affirmed the finding. There is good language in this decision for respondents noting that an expert’s opinion cannot be relied upon if the physician is given inaccurate information. The Board rejected the claimant’s argument that *Bode v. Connecticut Mason Contractors*, *The Learning Corridor*, 130 Conn. App. 672 (2011), cert. denied, 302 Conn 942 (2011) should be followed. In *Bode* a finding of work capacity by the Commissioner was overturned on appeal.

JOHN SMITH V. DATTCO (Sixth District decision, Judge Delaney, July 19, 2024)

The claimant was a bus driver for the employer. The claimant alleged a back injury resulting from bouncing on his seat in March 2022 while driving in the State of Virginia. A first report of injury was filed in April 2022 with a date of accident of March 20, 2022. A form 30 C, notice of claim for compensation was filed in May 2022 with a March 13, 2022 date of accident listed. The claimant had a prior work injury to his back while working for a bus company in Massachusetts; that case was settled. The prior claim also involved the claimant developing a back injury because of driver’s seat issues. Notwithstanding the claimant’s denial that he ever had a prior low back injury, the medical records supported a significant prior back injury. The Trial Judge’s opinion noted treatment from July 12, 2011 through February 23, 2022 for the prior back injury. The medical records revealed that the claimant was recommended to have medial branch blocks and possible radiofrequency ablation in the month prior to the alleged March 2023 work accident. Dr. Lange performed an RME for the respondents and opined that the March 2022 work accident was not a substantial contributing factor in the present back injury. The Judge found Dr. Lange’s opinion persuasive. He also found the claimant not to be credible regarding prior medical history and treatment for his back. The Judge noted that the present request for medical treatment was the same that had been made prior to the alleged March 2022 work accident. The Judge dismissed the claim and concluded that the claimant did not sustain an injury arising out

of and in the course of his employment on March 13, 2022. No appeal has been taken and this is a final verdict. **Attorney Jason M Dodge of SDAZ** defended the case. The name of the claimant has been changed for confidentiality purposes.

ACRONYMS USED IN CONNECTICUT WORKERS' COMPENSATION:

ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS	MEANING OR USE
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge.
AOE	Arising from employment.
App Ct	Appellate Court.
AWW	Average weekly wage. Generally, the average wage we use based on the gross earnings from 52 weeks of wages before work accident.
AX	Abbreviation of accident in medical or adjuster notes.
CHIRO	Abbreviation for chiropractor.
CME	Commission Medical Exam. An exam scheduled by the Judge to address issues re diagnosis, work capacity, mmi and causation. Usually scheduled after conflicting doctor opinions are produced by the parties.
CMS	Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Amongst other things, CMS reviews Medicare set aside accounts (MSA's) to determine if they properly protect Medicare's interest in settlement of workers' compensation claims.
COE	Course of employment.

CR	Compensation Rate. The actual rate on weekly basis paid to an injured worker. Calculated based on the injured worker's tax filing status and applying that to the average weekly wage.
CRB	Compensation Review Board. Three-member board that reviews on appeal workers' compensation decisions from Judges.
DEPO	An oral statement under oath where attorneys on both sides are allowed to pose questions to the deponent.
DJD	Degenerative joint disease.
DOI	Date of injury.
EE	Employee
ER	Employer
ESI	Epidural Steroid Injection. Used by pain management specialists to treat spine injuries.
FCE	FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY EVALUATION: Generally, an examination performed by a physical therapist to determine what restrictions an injured worker has regarding work capacity.
FD	Full duty.
FROI	First report of injury.
HX	Abbreviation for history in medical notes.
IND	Indemnity: the weekly wage loss payment made to an injured employee.

LD	Light duty.
MBB	Medial Branch Block. Injection to spine by pain management specialist. Usually, a precursor to RFA procedure.
MCP	Medical Care Plan. A list of doctors that have been approved by the Chairman office for an employer; injured workers for an approved MCP must treat with only the doctors in the MCP. In general, most employers do not have an approved MCP.
MMI	Maximum medical improvement. The point where functionally there is likely not going to be improvement in the future. It is our goal to get the employee to this point as early as possible.
MSA	Medicare Set-aside account. The amount of money set aside for future medical treatment at the time of settlement of a work injury. Often, the MSA is reviewed and approved by CMS.
NCM	Nurse case manager. A nurse assigned by an insurance carrier to assist the injured worker in scheduling tests, exams, PT and surgery.
NOA	Notice of appearance: generally filed by counsel with commission and all parties when they enter the case.
OH	Occupational health.
OTC	Over the counter, generally refers to non-prescription medications
OTC	Occupational therapy.
PA	Physician Assistant
PPD	Permanent partial disability. The level of ratable impairment to a particular body part; usually only given at mmi.

PT	Physical Therapy
RFA	Radiofrequency Ablation. Surgical procedure using radiofrequency waves to create heat and kill tissues. Can be used for spine pain.
RME	Respondent medical examination (used to be called Independent medical Examination: IME). An examination scheduled by the respondents/employers/carriers to address work capacity, causation, permanency, maximum medical improvement etc.
RPI/Rep Trauma	Repetitive trauma injury such as carpal tunnel or hearing loss claim.
SED	Sedentary duty.
SOL	Statute of Limitations, generally referring to the time period within which a civil claim in superior court can be filed.
SSDI	Social Security Disability (not regular retirement benefits). A federal program for disabled individuals. Generally, people receiving this benefit are on Medicare and receive monthly indemnity payments.
STIP	Abbreviation for stipulation: generally, refers to full and final settlement document approved by the Administrative Law Judge.
Sup Ct	Supreme Court
SX	Abbreviation for surgery.
TKR	Total knee replacement.
TP	Temporary partial disability. Paid to injured employee when they are capable of light or sedentary work and not their regular job.

TT	Temporary Total disability. Paid when an injured employee cannot perform any work.
WCC	Workers' Compensation Commission