STATE OF NEBRASKA
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT
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NEBRASKA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COURT
INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINER (IME) INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The court's IME process may provide a way to get unbiased answers to questions about your medical condition or related issues when there is a disagreement. Before either side can ask the court to assign an IME, there must be a dispute which might be able to be resolved with an independent doctor's opinion.

- Independent Medical Examiners are doctors of many different specialties who practice in cities in Nebraska and a few other states. These doctors have filed an application with the court and been approved by the judges of the court.
- There is no cost to you. The fee for the examination and report is paid by your employer. Your employer must also pay for other necessary expenses such as transportation, lodging, meals, and loss of wages.
- There are rules that must be followed by you, your employer, and the doctor. There is also a form that must be completed if you decide you want to ask the court to assign an IME. We will send you the rules and the form if you need them.
- The Independent Medical Examiner may prepare a report from review of all the medical records sent or may also examine you and run tests in order to prepare the report.

WHO CAN REQUEST AN IME?

- Injured workers
- Employers
- Claims Adjusters
- Attorneys

HOW IS THE DOCTOR CHOSEN?

- The doctor may not have examined or treated you for the injury for which the claim is being made.
- You and your employer (or the insurance company) can agree on a doctor. The doctor may be from the court's list of approved IMEs, but does not have to be. The doctor chosen must agree to the court's rules.
- If you can't agree on a doctor, a request form can be used to ask the court to assign a doctor from its list. The person requesting the exam may suggest a specialty.
- The court will assign a doctor from the list of qualified Independent Medical Examiners, taking into account the specialty and location of the doctor.

WHAT QUESTIONS CAN BE ASKED AND WHO ASKS THEM?

- Both sides to the disagreement may ask questions of the doctor. If the court is asked to assign the doctor, the person making the request includes questions on the request form. The other side may then send the court any different questions to be asked.
- Examples of the kinds of questions that may be asked are:
  - Are you able to return to work, either temporarily or permanently?
  - Do you have any physical restrictions?
  - Have you reached maximum medical improvement?
  - Do you have any permanent physical impairment? If so, to what extent?
  - Was past medical treatment reasonable and necessary? What future medical treatment is reasonable and necessary?
  - What caused your medical condition? Is it related to your employment?
  - Any other questions that are related to your medical condition.

For more information contact the IME Representative directly at (402) 471-6283