“AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE”
Insult to Injury: Texas Workers' Comp System Denies, Delays Medical Help

Article By: Terry Carter
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Photo of Ed Martin by Pam Francis
Impact of Covid-19 on Workers Compensation
So what should an Injured Worker do and what should you advise in this COVID – 19 era?

- **Give Notice to Employer as soon as Injured**
  - There are deadlines on Notice to Employer
  - Have proof you gave Notice

- **Get Medical Treatment for the injury asap.**
  - Tell medical provider’s office all body parts injured.
  - It is best if the medical provider accepts employer’s WC coverage
  - Keep all medical appointments

- **Retain a lawyer that handles Workers’ Compensation (WC) cases asap**
  - WC systems are regulated by the state and have many deadlines
  - Insurance Companies normally have experienced WC lawyers
  - In many states, disputes in cases are rampant
  - Attorney fees are based on recovery

- **Do Not Quit your job**
  - Generally, temporary benefits will cease if the IW quits the job where hurt
  - It is not unusual for the employer to mistreat the employee after an injury.

- **Explore all resources available to injured workers.**
  - Examples are state job retraining, food pantries, rent assistance
“Don’t get hurt in Texas”

“The moral of the story is, don’t get hurt in Texas,” said Richard Pena, a former president of the state bar of Texas, who still takes some workers’ compensation cases. Pena said that in the cases for which he gets paid at all, he typically receives about $630 per case—for nine weeks’ work and hearings.

Excerpt from Gail Collins’ book As Texas Goes . . .