



Ankin Law Office LLC

Protecting the Rights of Injured Workers

162 W Grand Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60654, United States
Tel: 312-346-8780 or 800-442-6546
Fax: 312-346-8781
Email: howard@ankinlaw.com
Website: www.ankinlaw.com
Blog: www.thechicago-injury-lawyer.com

Are Work-At-Home Employees Entitled to Workers' Compensation?

July 26th, 2011 by Admin - BN



A New Jersey appellate court recently considered a very interesting case where the husband of a woman who died of a pulmonary embolism while working from home for AT&T was seeking workers' compensation benefits related to her death. He alleged that her pulmonary embolism was caused by her sedentary work lifestyle. As an employee of AT&T, she had worked from home and spent most of her time working sitting in front of a computer screen.

In defense of the claim, her employer alleged that her work was no more a contributing factor than her less than active day-to-day lifestyle, along with her weight (300 lbs.) and the fact that she took birth control pills.

The court, however, disagreed, as explained in this [NJ.com article](#):

The appellate court upheld a lower judge's decision that Renner's fatal condition, known as a pulmonary embolism, was caused by her work and that her husband, James, is entitled to benefits under the state's workers' compensation law... "Cathleen led a sedentary life in and out of work," the court wrote in its ruling. But the evidence showed her work inactivity was greater than her non-work inactivity, the court said. Her husband, James, testified that his wife, who weighed more than 300 pounds, never sat around and "was always up and out."

This is a significant holding in light of the increasing number of telecommuting employees. These employees, although working from home, are arguably "on the job" if injured while performing work-related tasks, just as employees injured while traveling for work-related purposes are "on the job." Employees working from home should not be treated any differently and should be entitled to the same job-related benefits, such as [workers' compensation benefits](#), as those working on site.

Howard Ankin of Ankin Law Office LLC (www.ankinlaw.com) handles [workers' compensation](#) and [personal injury](#) cases. Mr. Ankin can be reached at (312) 346-8780 and howard@ankinlaw.com.

ANKIN LAW OFFICE LLC

[Chicago Workers Compensation](#) | [Chicago Personal Injury](#) | [Chicago Motor Vehicle Accidents](#)
[Chicago Wrongful Death](#) | [Chicago Social Security Disability](#) | [Chicago Class Action Lawsuits](#)