

DO YOU HAVE ANY LEGAL RIGHTS IF YOU ARE HURT AT WORK?

By Charles N. Therman, Esq.

You are hurt on the job from an accident related to your job activities. As a personal injury and workers' compensation attorney for nine years, I understand that it is one of the most difficult, confusing and scary situations you have ever been involved in. You want to keep working to support your family and pay your bills, but your injuries stop you from doing what you have done your whole life – provide for you and your family. Dozens of questions swirl through your mind, the most important of which is how do I survive? Do I have any legal rights?

The answer is YES. You have legal rights under the Illinois Workers' Compensation law. In most instances, this law requires your employer to provide insurance for you if you are injured on the job or as a result of your job. Almost everyone who is hired, injured, or whose employment is in Illinois is covered, even if you are not a citizen or legal resident.

If you are an injured worker, the law typically entitles you to three benefits:

The first is payment of all of your medical expenses to treat your injury. In other words, your employer, or its insurance company, is required to pay 100% of your necessary medical expenses.

Second, while you are off work because of the injury, you are entitled to payment of 2/3rds of your weekly earnings. This amount is tax free, so you should be receiving a check for approximately the same amount you would have if you were healthy enough to work.

Lastly, once you have been released from your doctor's medical care and are able to return to work, you are entitled to a money settlement. This settlement is based upon how well you have recovered and how serious your injury was.

There are additional benefits which are available if your injuries are disabling or you are not capable of returning to your job.

If you have been injured at work and are not receiving all of your benefits under Illinois law, you should speak to an experienced Workers' Compensation attorney in your area.

About the Author: Charles N. Therman is a highly experienced and successful injury lawyer located in the Chicago land area who only concentrates on all types of injury and accident cases.

The information you obtain from this article is not, nor is it intended to be, legal advice. You should consult an attorney for advice regarding your individual situation. I invite you to contact us at (773)545-8849 and welcome your calls, letters and electronic mail.