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Filing of Voluntary Agreements

Sec. 31-296-1. Voluntary agreements

A voluntary agreement shall be prepared by the employer or his insurer in connection with all cases concerning which there is no dispute that the claimant suffered an accident and injury arising out of and in the course of his employment causing either temporary partial or temporary total disability beyond the three-day waiting period. The voluntary agreement shall be submitted to the claimant for execution by him and forwarded by the employer or its insurer to the commissioner having jurisdiction within three weeks after the employer has actual knowledge of the accident and that the disability will extend beyond the three-day waiting period. Failure of the employer to furnish the insurer with a wage statement for the computation of the proper compensation rate shall not excuse failure to comply with the provisions of this section. Failure or inability of the employer to secure a medical report shall not excuse failure to file a voluntary agreement whenever the employer or the insurer has actual knowledge, or with reasonable diligence could have secured knowledge, that the claimant was actually disabled by a compensable accident. Noncompliance with this section is subject to the penalty provided in section 31-288 of the general statutes.

(Effective January 5, 1971)

Sec. 31-296-2. Undetermined liability

In any case in which the employer or the insurer doubts the fact of accident or the causal relationship between the accident and the disability, but wishes to make payment without prejudice and without admitting liability, he shall notify both the claimant and the commissioner by letter that payment will be made without prejudice. Such letter shall contain a statement of the average weekly wage, the compensation disability rate, the number of dependent children or stepchildren and the total weekly benefit to be paid. A formal notice of the employer's intention to contest liability (Form 43) shall accompany such letter to protect the respondent's rights. Payments without prejudice shall be made for not more than six weeks. If, at the end of such period, the employer or insurer has completed his investigation and determines the accident is compensable, a voluntary agreement shall be offered. Otherwise, the employer shall promptly request an informal hearing.

(Effective January 5, 1971)