



WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD



Workers' compensation fraud is punishable by Louisiana law

The Louisiana Workforce Commission is working with law enforcement to find and prosecute Workers' Compensation Fraud.

WHAT IS WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD

Common forms of workers' compensation fraud include:

- Faking an injury or illness in order to collect workers' compensation benefits
- Claiming that a work-related injury or illness is more severe than it really is
- Claiming that an injury which occurred in another location happened in the workplace
- Collecting workers' compensation benefits long after an injury has healed

These actions are illegal. Under the Louisiana Workers' Compensation law [Louisiana Revised Statutes, Section 23:1208], it is unlawful:

- For any person, for the purpose of counseling or defeating any workers' compensation benefit payment for themselves (himself) or another person, to willfully make a false statement or representation.
- For any person, either directly or indirectly, to aid and abet an employer or claimant or counsel an employer or claimant to willfully make a false statement or representation.

What can happen to you?

- Any person who violates these provisions of the Workers' Compensation law will be subject to punishment based on the value of the benefits or payment obtained. [L.R.S., Section 23:1208(C)]
- \$10,000 or more: The person shall be imprisoned (with or without hard labor) for up to 10 years, fined up to \$10,000, or both.
- Between \$2,500 and \$10,000: The person shall be imprisoned (with or without hard labor) for up to 5 years, fined up to \$5,000, or both.
- Less than \$2,500: The person shall be imprisoned (with or without hard labor) for up to 6 months, fined up to \$500, or both.

Any person who violates these provisions of the Workers' Compensation law may also be assessed civil penalties by the workers' compensation judge or not less than \$500 or more than \$5,000 and may be ordered to make restitution for benefits claimed or payments obtained through fraud. [L.R.S. Section 23:1208(D)]

Any employee who violates these provisions of the Workers' Compensation law will, upon determination by a workers' compensation judge, forfeit any right to compensation benefits. [L.R.S. 23:1208(E)]



TO REPORT WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD CONTACT

Louisiana Workforce Commission
Workers' Compensation Fraud Section
Toll-Free Fraud Hotline: 1-800-201-3362
(All information remains anonymous)