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Save the date for the 2026 Workers' Compensation Summit

The Department of Labor and Industry will host the [2026 Workers' Compensation Summit](#) – Sharing Knowledge, Shaping Solutions – on Thursday, Oct. 22, in Bloomington, Minnesota.

This one-day event is geared toward all workers' compensation stakeholders, including attorneys, employers, insurers, medical providers, rehabilitation providers, public officials and others.

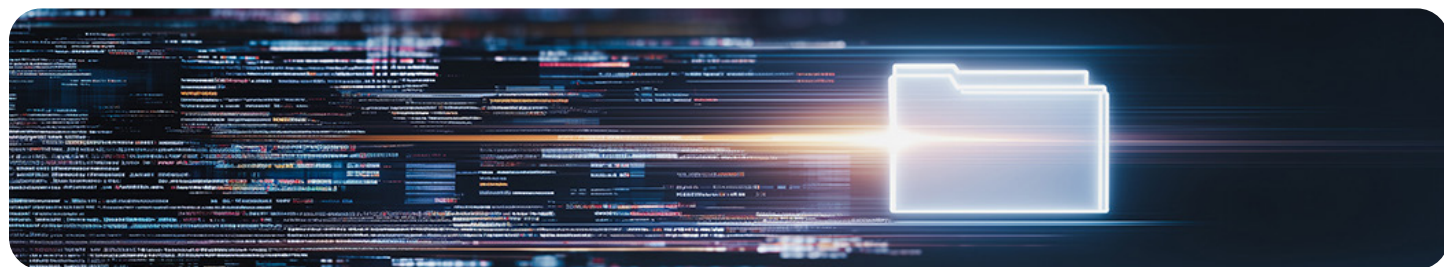
Plan to join us at the [DoubleTree by Hilton Minneapolis Airport](#) for our ninth Workers' Compensation Summit. Watch for additional communications for this event in the weeks to come.

Sponsors, exhibitors wanted

DLI is excited to again offer organizations two ways to showcase their company and support this important event, either as an exhibitor at the Summit or as a sponsor behind the scenes. If you have question about becoming an exhibitor or sponsor or are already interested in participating, email Lisa Wichterman at lisa.wichterman@state.mn.us.

More details soon

Topics, speakers, schedules and registration information are being determined and planned now. Watch the Summit webpage for complete information. Updates will also be sent to our workers'-compensation-related email lists (such as for *COMPACT*); see the [available lists and sign up to receive notices](#).



Enhanced guidance for EDI first action transactions

The Department of Labor and Industry's Workers' Compensation Division has created a [new guidance document for electronic data interchange \(EDI\) first action transactions](#) in an effort to provide additional clarification for stakeholders.

This resource will provide clear guidance about the various types of EDI first action transactions, when to use them and when each type of transaction is due.

Some of the information covered in this document includes:

- accepting liability;
- fully denying liability;
- enhanced clarity regarding first action when a claim petition is filed with the Court of Administrative Hearings;
- when disability benefits will not be paid or will not initially be paid;
- key first action data and technical procedures; and
- more.

Questions regarding EDI or this resource document can be emailed to Lynne Knowles at lynne.d.knowles@state.mn.us.

2026 legislative update overview, details

Governor Tim Walz signed legislation May 18, enacting statutory amendments recommended by the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council (WCAC) during the 2026 legislative session. WCAC is a statutory council made up of representatives from business and organized labor and charged with recommending to the Legislature amendments to Minnesota Chapter 176, the chapter governing workers' compensation in Minnesota. WCAC is also charged with reporting its views on legislation relating to Minnesota Chapter 176. See Minnesota Statutes section 175.007 for more information.

Overview summary

The 2026 workers' compensation legislation, [2026 Minnesota Session Laws, Chapter 103 – S.F. 3720](#), contains 14 sections and adopts recommendations unanimously approved by WCAC related to:

- updates to the Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association's (WCRA's) governing statutes and processes for excess surplus distributions and deficiency assessments (sections 1 through 6);
- authorizing the use of Court of Administrative Hearing (CAH) judges to fulfill quorum requirements at the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA) in the event there are not enough active WCCA judges and reserve judges available for a quorum (section 7);
- expanding the type of medical providers that can diagnose post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for workers' compensation purposes by adding psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners to the list (section 8);
- a technical correction to the notification requirement for employee attorney retainer agreements under section 176.081 (section 9);
- amending the dollar amount multipliers for permanent partial disability for injuries occurring on or after Oct. 1, 2026 (section 10);
- clarification that for purposes of independent medical examinations, an employee may bring their personal physician or an unpaid witness (section 11);
- expanding the timeframe for an employer or insurer to change their liability determination with an amended Notice of Primary Liability Determination (NOPLD) after accepting liability from 60 days to 90 days (section 12);
- clarification regarding the issuance of decisions based on stipulated facts from the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and CAH (section 13);
- repeal of items from chapter 79 that are no longer necessary following the WCRA changes in sections 1 through 6 (section 14).



Detailed summary

This provides only a summary of the 2026 workers' compensation legislation. See the [actual language of Chapter 103](#) on the Office of the Revisor of Statutes website.

Section 1

Minnesota Statutes, section 79.34, subdivision 3 – amounts due upon withdrawal or termination from WCRA

Adds language to specify that other outstanding amounts in addition to unpaid premiums charged to a withdrawing or terminated WCRA member are payable as of the effective date of the withdrawal or termination from WCRA.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 2

Minnesota Statutes, section 79.34, subd. 4 – insolvent members

Clarifies that the plan of operation in effect at the time a member is declared insolvent by a state regulatory authority or court of competent jurisdiction is used to determine any unsatisfied net liability to WCRA.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.



Section 3

Minnesota Statutes, section 79.35 – duties and responsibilities

Amends WCRA's duties and responsibilities to include: (1) equitable distribution of excess or deficient premiums as determined by the WCRA board and approved by the commissioner of DLI; (2) distribution of excess surplus as recommended by the WCRA board and approved by order of the commissioner of DLI; and (3) collection of deficiency assessments as recommended by the WCRA board and approved by the commissioner of commerce.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 4

Minnesota Statutes, section 79.36 – additional powers

Removes potential liability in excess of the prefunded limit from WCRA's powers relative to reinsurance of its potential liability.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 5

Minnesota Statutes, section 79.362 – excess surplus distributions and deficiency assessments

Condenses statutory provisions for both surplus distributions and deficiency assessments previously spread throughout the chapter into one section and adds detail on the administration of distributions of excess surplus or deficiency assessments. Further, it requires WCRA to outline the processes for excess surplus distributions or deficiency assessments in the WCRA Plan of Operation.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 6

Minnesota Statutes, section 79.38 – plan of operation

Adds a requirement that WCRA's Plan of Operation be amended to include information on the method for determining rate and exposure bases, the method for excess surplus distribution and the method for collecting a deficiency assessment.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 7

Minnesota Statutes, section 175A.05 – reserve WCCA judges

Authorizes the use of active compensation judges from CAH, with consent from the chief judge of CAH, for WCCA cases if WCCA does not have a quorum available after drawing from the pool of retired judges already authorized to hear a case for quorum requirements.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 8

Minnesota Statutes, section 176.011, subd. 15(d) – PTSD diagnosticians

Adds psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners to the list of providers that can diagnose post-traumatic stress disorder for purposes of workers' compensation.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 9

Minnesota Statutes, section 176.081, subd. 9 – retainer agreements

Updates the notification requirement for employee attorney retainer agreements consistent with the 2024 changes to the maximum fees allowed for legal services.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment and applies to injuries on or after Oct. 1, 2024.

Section 10

Minnesota Statutes, section 176.101, subd. 2a – permanent partial disability

Increases the dollar amount multipliers for permanent partial disability impairment ratings.

- Effective date: This section is effective for dates of injury on or after Oct. 1, 2026.

Section 11

Minnesota Statutes, section 176.155, subd. 1 – IME witnesses

Amends the description of witness for independent medical examinations (IMEs) to specify that witness is an unpaid witness and costs for an unpaid witness are to be defrayed the same as costs of a personal physician attending an IME.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 12

Minnesota Statutes, section 176.122, subd. 1 – amended NOPLDs

Increases the amount of time an employer or insurer has to use the NOPLD to change a primary liability determination from admitted to denied upon learning the employee's disability is not the result of a work-related injury from 60 days to 90 days. After 90 days, the employer or insurer must file a Notice of Intent to Discontinue Benefits to stop paying benefits.

- Effective date: This section is effective for dates of injury on or after Oct. 1, 2026.

Section 13

Minnesota Statutes, section 176.322 – decisions based on stipulated facts

Makes technical changes to the authority of the commissioner and compensation judges to issue decisions based on stipulated facts.

- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 14

Repeals Minnesota Statutes, sections 79.34, subd. 2a, 79.361 and 79.363, which are no longer necessary after the 2026 legislative changes to chapter 79 detailed above.

Subscribe to DLI's email newsletters

Did you know the Department of Labor and Industry offers more than two dozen email lists you can subscribe to to receive news targeted to specific groups? (If you are reading this, you are probably on the *COMPACT* email list.)

Lists related to workers' compensation news include:

- Adjusters updates
- *COMPACT*
- Employer updates
- Rehabilitation providers updates
- Attorney updates
- *Campus Connect*
- Medical providers updates
- Trading partner updates



Other email lists are available for:

- *Labor and Industry News*
- Construction codes, licensing and building trades
- Minnesota OSHA and workplace safety
- Apprenticeship, dual-training and Youth Skills Training
- Labor standards, worker rights, wage and hour
- Rulemaking

To learn more about the available email lists, visit dli.mn.gov/about-department/news-and-media/sign-news-department-labor-and-industry.

Ask the ADR and Work Comp Campus pro

DLI's Alternative Dispute Resolution unit answers frequently asked questions

By Brian Mak and Aaron Frederickson, Alternative Dispute Resolution

Editor's note: The Alternative Dispute Resolution unit at the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry seeks early intervention in workers' compensation disputes through conferences and mediations. It handles calls from the Workers' Compensation Help Desk and responds to questions from all stakeholders.

Q. What do I file when I am withdrawing as counsel for a party?

A. Work Comp Campus has a new document “type,” which you can use when you submit a withdrawal. In the pertinent claim, click “Submit a Filing” then choose “Other Filing.” Attach your notice and choose “Notice of Attorney Withdrawal” as the document type. The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) staff will be alerted and can then remove you. Remember that because the Court of Administrative Hearings (CAH) and the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) are on separate systems, you will need to file your withdrawal in the claim in Campus and also through C-Track at CAH.

Q. Where do I need to file an NOA or NOR?

A. Similar to the answer above, attorneys must file their Notice of Appearance (NOA) or Notice of Representation (NOR) on the claim in Campus and also through C-Track at CAH.

Q. I have a medical dispute and a rehabilitation dispute that I want to file at DLI. Can I include both issues in the same Request for Assistance?

A. No, the medical and rehabilitation issues should each be filed in separate Requests for Assistance, just as Medical Requests and Rehabilitation Requests were separate prior to Campus. If the disputes cannot be resolved, the issues would be heard together at the same conference.

Q. I filed a Request for Assistance on a dispute and now I would like to try mediation with the ADR unit. Should I amend the Request for Assistance?

A. No, a request for mediation is a separate procedure from the Request for Conference, so that should be filed in a separate Request for Mediation. The ADR unit can either mediate the issues in the Request for Assistance itself or global issues – whatever the parties want it to be. If requested, the conference can be rescheduled to allow time for the parties to attempt a mediated resolution.

Q. I settled a claim. Do I need to tell both CAH and DLI?

A. Yes, let both CAH and DLI know you've settled a claim so any pending appearances at both can be canceled.

From the *State Register*: Provider participation list available

Health care providers that provide medical services to an injured worker under the workers' compensation law are required to participate in the Medical Assistance Program and MinnesotaCare as a condition of receiving payment for treatment of the workers' compensation injury. (See Minnesota Statutes § 256B.0644 and Minnesota Rules, parts 5221.0500, subpart 1, and 9505.5200 to 9505.5240.)



The Department of Human Services (DHS) list of providers that participate in the Medical Assistance Program and MinnesotaCare is now available online. To see if a provider is on the list, check the [Minnesota Health Care Programs \(MHCP\) provider directory](#).

To obtain a full list of participating providers, call the DHS Provider Call Center at 651-431-2700 or 800-366-5411 and request a work order to have the list sent to you. You may also fax the request to 651-431-7462 or mail it to the Department of Human Services, Provider Eligibility and Compliance, P.O. Box 64987, St. Paul, MN 55164-0987.

Translated webpages, materials, Language Line available via DLI website

The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) posts its available translated materials on its website at dli.mn.gov/translations. It has documents available in Chinese, Hmong, Karen, Somali and Spanish. A few other documents throughout the website are available in additional languages.

The DLI website now also provides Google Translate near the upper left corner of each page, allowing visitors to choose the language for the website text.

In addition, DLI has access to Language Line, a free language translation phone service for limited-English speakers. If DLI help is needed, view the contact information at dli.mn.gov/about-department/about-dli/contact-us, call and a DLI employee will get in touch with an interpreter in the needed language.



Workers' compensation, Campus assistance available by phone, email

The Workers' Compensation Help Desk is available to answer basic questions related to workers' compensation or Work Comp Campus. It will also route more complex questions to subject matter experts within the Workers' Compensation Division.

Live support is available 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except holidays). Voicemail messages left outside of office hours will be responded to within 24 hours of the next business day.

- 651-284-5005 (press 3)
- 800-342-5354 (press 3)
- helpdesk.dli@state.mn.us

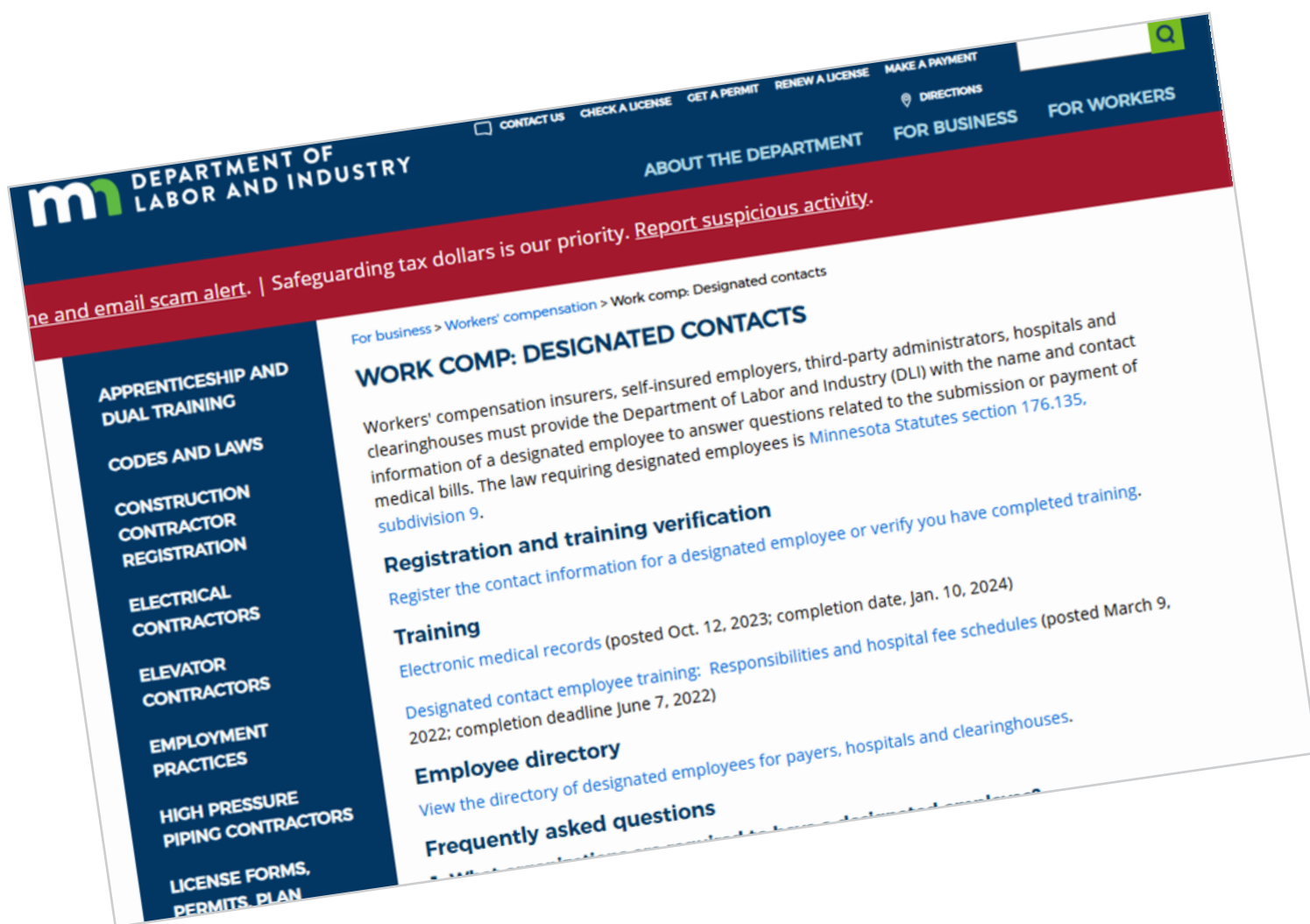


Reminder about designated contacts

Workers' compensation insurers, self-insured employers, third-party administrators, hospitals and clearinghouses must provide the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) with the name and contact information of a designated employee to answer questions related to the submission or payment of medical bills, as required by Minnesota Statutes section 176.135, subdivision 9.

Recently, DLI has noticed a growing number of inaccurate designated contact information for listed entities. All entities required to have a designated contact should review the designated contact for your organization in DLI's designated contact directory and make any necessary updates.

Frequently asked questions about designated contacts, including directions about how to update a designated contact, can be found on DLI's [Work comp: Designated contacts webpage](#). For additional questions, contact DLI's medical policy staff at medical.policy.dli@state.mn.us.



Visit dli.mn.gov/business/workers-compensation/work-comp-designated-contacts

Long-term chemical exposure and workers' compensation trends in Minnesota's commercial printing industry

By Kristin Osiecki, Research and Data Analytics

Each year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) compiles national and state data on workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities through the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) and the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). These systems capture OSHA-recordable incidents within a calendar year and offer an important snapshot of acute workplace injuries. However, their 12-month reporting window limits their ability to detect long-latency conditions, particularly illnesses stemming from prolonged physical strain or extended chemical exposure.^{1 2} These chronic conditions may not appear until late in a worker's career or after retirement, making them difficult to track through traditional surveillance methods. This challenge aligns with OSHA's 2025 list of the most frequently cited standards, where hazard communication recorded 3,010 violations and respiratory protection accounted for 2,294 violations, underscoring ongoing difficulties in managing chemical hazards and ensuring effective protective equipment use.³



Minnesota's workers' compensation system is designed to address chronic chemical exposure through its occupational disease framework, which differs from the model used for acute workplace injuries.⁴ Chronic illnesses, such as solvent-related neurological damage, chemical-induced respiratory disease, cancers linked to carcinogenic exposures and other conditions caused by repeated or cumulative exposure, may qualify for compensation when workplace exposure is shown to be a substantial contributing factor.⁵ Because these conditions typically develop slowly, Minnesota's statute of limitations begins when the worker knows, or reasonably should know, that the illness is work-related and has resulted in disability. Determining compensability in these cases is complex and relies on extensive evidence, including physician evaluations, toxicology data, industrial hygiene measurements, OSHA records, safety data sheets, employment histories and expert testimony. Under Minnesota's "last significant exposure" rule, liability generally falls to the employer associated with the worker's most recent meaningful exposure, a critical factor for employees whose exposure occurred across multiple workplaces over time.⁶

Despite these legal mechanisms, chronic occupational illnesses related to chemical exposure are often underrecognized and underreported. Establishing causation is complicated by incomplete exposure histories, limited access to occupational health expertise and the influence of non-work risk factors, such as age, smoking and environmental exposures. Workers may also hesitate to report symptoms due to fear of retaliation, and disputes over medical causation are common.⁷ For these reasons, Minnesota's workers' compensation system tends to function more effectively for acute injuries than for slowly developing occupational diseases. Complementary protections under the Minnesota Employee Right-to-Know Act,⁸ the Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Act,⁹ and the Public Employee Safety and Health¹⁰ program support exposure control and hazard communication, while long-term tracking helps identify trends in chronic chemical-related illness.¹¹

The commercial printing industry offers a relevant example of these challenges. In 2023, Minnesota's commercial printing sector (North American Industry Classification System codes 323, 3231) ranked eighth in the nation for employment, with 18,788 workers,¹² and 13th in number of establishments, with 550 businesses.¹³ Organic solvents remain a central component of printing operations, functioning as ink diluents, cleaning agents and process chemicals. Because these solvents are often complex mixtures rather than single substances, they pose varied and sometimes unpredictable health risks. Historical research in printing and other solvent-intensive industries demonstrates that workers exposed decades ago, when solvent concentrations were typically higher, have elevated risks for neurological symptoms, including impaired

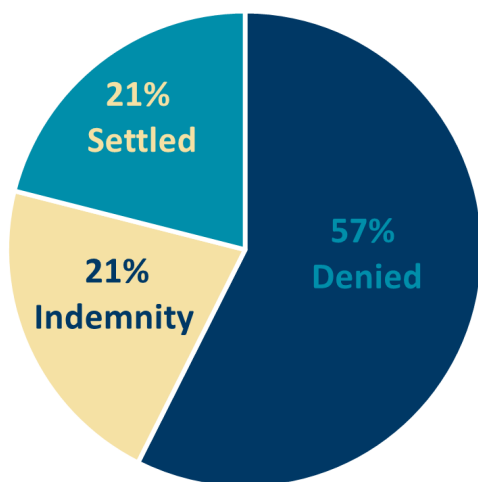
color vision, tremors, dizziness, fatigue, memory deficits and mood disturbances.¹⁴ Long-term exposure has also been associated with changes in nerve function. Although today's exposure levels are significantly lower, evidence indicates that mixtures of solvents may present greater neurological risks than individual chemicals, such as toluene.¹⁵

One well-established condition linked to heavy solvent exposure is chronic toxic encephalopathy (CTE), recognized by the World Health Organization and included in both the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision and Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 4th Edition. While CTE is uncommon in modern printing facilities with appropriate controls, research consistently shows a dose-response relationship between cumulative solvent exposure and declines in short-term memory, attention and psychomotor performance. These neurological effects may persist for years after exposures end.^{16 17}

To better understand how long-term chemical exposures intersect workers' compensation outcomes, DLI reviewed injury and illness patterns in Minnesota's commercial printing industry. According to 2024 BLS SOII data, commercial printing had an estimated 3.4 total recordable cases, 1.7 cases with days away from work, and 0.9 cases involving job transfer or restriction per 100 full-time-equivalent (FTE) workers.¹⁸ These figures fall above Minnesota's statewide average of 2.9 cases per 100 FTE workers. The Minnesota illness rate for printing was 26.7 per 10,000 FTE in 2024, more than twice the overall statewide rate of 12.5 cases. The printing industry's reliance on solvents presents meaningful exposure-related health concerns.

Workers' compensation data provides additional insight. From 2012 through 2024, Minnesota's commercial printing industry reported 1,008 workers' compensation claims, 986 of which resulted in indemnity benefits.¹⁹ Most claims stemmed from physical injuries related to lifting, overexertion and/or repetitive motion. Chemical exposures accounted for 42 claims from 2012 through 2023. The average age and tenure of position of the claimants was 49 and 11, respectively. Of these claims, 24 were fully denied and nine were settled for a total of \$294,416. One claim received partial permanent disability benefits totaling \$4,800, six claims received temporary total disability benefits totaling \$67,568 and two claims received both temporary total disability and temporary partial disability benefits totaling \$107,272. Overall, chemical-related claims resulted in a total of \$474,056 in indemnity and settlement payments, with an average payout of \$24,950 per claim.

Figure 1. Payment outcomes of Minnesota commercial printing chemical exposure claims from 2012 through 2023 (n=42)



Long-term health impacts may extend beyond workers' active employment years. Research among retired workers shows that those with past solvent exposure are at increased risk for persistent neuropsychological deficits, suggesting that solvent-related central nervous system damage can endure for many years after occupational exposure ends.²⁰ This concern is amplified by the widespread use of industrial chemicals. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that more than 65,000 commercial chemicals are in use in the United States, with an additional 2,000 to 3,000 introduced annually. While the exact number of neurotoxic substances used in industry is unknown, conservative estimates suggest more than 1,000 chemicals may pose risks to the nervous system.²¹ These realities highlight the importance of accurate hazard communication, complete safety data sheets and strong regulatory oversight to ensure transparency, especially since manufacturers of proprietary solvent mixtures may withhold certain ingredients as trade secrets.

Evidence from prevention programs demonstrates that reducing solvent exposure through substitution, engineering controls, protective equipment and screening for chronic solvent encephalopathy can lead to significant declines in solvent-related illness.^{22 23} Although many regions continue to experience high levels of occupational solvent exposure, Minnesota's coordinated regulatory framework and workers' compensation system provide a foundation for improving recognition, prevention and reporting of chemical-related occupational diseases.

Endnotes

¹Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2024). Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII): Handbook of Methods. U.S. Department of Labor. Retrieved from bls.gov/opub/hom/soii

²Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI): Handbook of Methods. U.S. Department of Labor. Retrieved from bls.gov/opub/hom/cfoi

³Occupational Safety and Health Administration (2025). Top most frequently cited standards. U.S. Department of Labor. Retrieved from osha.gov/top10citedstandards

⁴Minnesota Statutes § 176.011, subdivision 15, and Minnesota Statutes § 176.151.

⁵Last Significant Exposure rule, Minnesota Statutes § 176.66, subdivision 10.

⁶Workers' compensation framework for chronic, long latency chemical exposures, Minnesota Statutes §§ 176.011, 176.021 and 176.66.

⁷Minnesota Statutes § 176.66, subdivision 10.

⁸Hazardous chemical exposure, SDS access, and employee hazard communication rights, Minnesota Employee Right-to-Know Act: Minnesota Statutes §§ 182.65-182.673.

⁹Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Act (MNOSHA) enforcement and exposure records, Minnesota Statutes §§ 182.65-182.674.

¹⁰Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) requirements Minnesota Statutes § 182.664.

¹¹Cancer and chronic disease surveillance relevant to long-term exposure tracking, Minnesota Statutes §§ 144.68-144.69.

¹²SimplyAnalytics, "Printing and Related Support Activities [NAICS: 323, 3231] | Total Number of Employees, 2023," accessed May 17, 2026.

¹³SimplyAnalytics, "Printing and Related Support Activities [NAICS: 323, 3231] | Total Number of Establishments, 2023," accessed May 17, 2026.

¹⁴Yu, I.T.-S., Lee, N.L., Zhang, X.H., Chen, W.Q., Lam, Y.T., and Wong, T.W. (2004). Occupational exposure to mixtures of organic solvents increases the risk of neurological symptoms among printing workers in Hong Kong. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, 46(4), 323-330. [jstor.org.proxy.cc.uic.edu/stable/44996579](https://www.jstor.org/proxy.cc.uic.edu/stable/44996579)

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¹⁸Minnesota Department of Health. (2025). Work-related Injuries and Illnesses. Retrieved from health.state.mn.us/communities/occhealth/data/injury.html

¹⁹Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry. Retrieved from <https://dli.mn.gov/business/workers-compensation/work-comp-campus-hub>

²⁰Daniell WE, Claypoole KH, Checkoway H, et al. Neuropsychological function in retired workers with previous long-term occupational exposure to solvents. *Occupational and environmental medicine (London, England)*. 1999;56(2):93-105. doi:10.1136/oem.56.2.93

²¹Kim Y, Kim JW. Toxic Encephalopathy. *Safety and health at work*. 2012;3(4):243-256. doi:10.5491/SHAW.2012.3.4.243

²²Van der Laan G, Sainio M. Chronic solvent induced encephalopathy: A step forward. *Neurotoxicology (Park Forest South)*. 2012;33(4):897-901. doi:10.1016/j.neuro.2012.04.012

²³Tsai CJ, Mao IF, Ting JY, Young CH, Lin JS, Li WL. Quality of chemical safety information in printing industry. *The Annals of occupational hygiene*. 2016;60(3):361-370. doi:10.1093/annhyg/mev079



WCRI report compares Minnesota with 17 other states

The Workers' Compensation Research Institute's (WCRI's) most recent report for Minnesota, *CompScope Benchmarks for Minnesota, 2026 Edition*, was released in April. This report uses insurer claim files to compare Minnesota's medical payments, indemnity benefits and insurer expenses with those of 17 other states, including Iowa and Wisconsin, from 2018 to 2024. The report is available for purchase on the [WCRI website](#). Here are some of the major findings.



- Average costs for non-COVID-19 claims with more than seven days of lost time at three years' average maturity (2022 claims measured in 2025) were 12% lower in Minnesota than the median state. Medical payments (-19%), indemnity benefits (-16%) and benefit delivery expenses (-15%) were all below the median.
- Among non-COVID-19 claims in Minnesota with more than seven days of lost time at one-year maturity, total costs per claim were stable in 2025 after increasing 12% a year from 2022 to 2024.
 - Indemnity benefits per claim were stable in 2025 after growing 12% per year from 2022 to 2024.
 - Medical benefits per claim were stable in 2025 after increasing 6% annually from 2022 to 2024.
 - Benefit delivery expenses per claim grew 11% annually from 2022 to 2024, but were stable in 2025.
- Among non-COVID-19 claims in Minnesota with more than seven days of lost time at one-year maturity, temporary disability duration increased by more than one week a year, on average, from 2022 to 2024, but was stable in 2025.
- In 2025, among non-COVID-19 claims with more than seven days of lost time at one-year maturity (2024 injuries evaluated in 2025), Minnesota's average temporary disability benefits per claim were \$7,904 – lower than Iowa (\$8,118), Michigan (\$8,166) and Illinois (\$11,772), but higher than Wisconsin (\$7,392).
- At three-year maturity (2022 claims, evaluated in 2025), Minnesota had higher average weekly temporary disability benefits (\$676) than Iowa (\$664) and Michigan (\$607), and similar to Wisconsin (\$671).
- Among non-COVID-19 claims with more than seven days of lost time at one-year maturity (2024 claims evaluated in 2025), Minnesota had the lowest percentage of claims with permanent partial or lump-sum payments among states with similar permanent partial disability benefit systems. However, the average payment per claim at three-year maturity was higher than the median state in that group. The lower percentage of such payments was driven by less frequent settlements, while the higher average payment was driven by higher average settlement amounts per claim.

Training opportunities: Orientation; provider update

Registration to open soon for QRC intern, vendor, supervisor orientation

Registration will open soon for orientation and refresher training for qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC) interns, vendors and supervisors.

- **When:** Monday, Aug. 10, 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.
- **Where:** Minnesota Room, Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul MN
- **What:** This in-person orientation and refresher training is for QRC interns, QRC intern supervisors, newly registered job-placement vendors, rehabilitation providers re-entering the field, registered rehabilitation providers interested in refreshing their skills and rehabilitation administrative staff members who would like to learn more about the rehabilitation process.
- **Topics to be covered:** Workers' compensation 101; working as a rehabilitation provider; medical aspects; rehabilitation consultation and ethics; registration, renewal and completion of internship; and more.



QRC interns must complete this training within one year of starting their intern cycle. CRC and CDMS continuing education unit credits will be available for individuals participating in the training.

More information, registration

For more information, visit the "[WC training for rehabilitation providers](#)" webpage or contact Jordan Trumbo at 651-284-5153 or jordan.trumbo@state.mn.us. Registration for this event will be open July 1 through 24.

Save the date for the DLI 2026 provider update

The next Rehabilitation Provider Update Conference has been scheduled as a virtual event Monday, Sept. 14, 2026.

Attendance and participation in the Rehabilitation Provider Update Conference session is required of all individuals who provide rehabilitation services to injured employees. Nonparticipation in the provider update may result in professional conduct and accountability discipline and may affect annual registration renewal with the Department of Labor and Industry.

More information, registration

Additional information about the conference regarding registration, agenda and available CEUs will be announced later and be available the "[Rehabilitation provider update conference](#)" webpage. Registration for this event will be open Aug. 1 through 31.

For more information, contact Jordan Trumbo at 651-284-5153 or jordan.trumbo@state.mn.us.

Be a part of Workplace Rights Week 2026

The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) has started planning for the third annual Workplace Rights Week, Sept. 13 through 19, 2026. Workplace Rights Week in Minnesota is an opportunity to educate workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities in the Workplace. Safe and healthy workplaces are what make our economy and communities strong, and it is important Minnesotans understand their workplace rights and are empowered to assert those rights.



We invite you to join us in this effort. DLI is looking to partner with organizations to host webinars, distribute educational materials or host other events. If are interested in participating in educational or outreach activities with DLI or hosting your own event during Workplace Rights Week 2026, email Diana Salas at diana.salas@state.mn.us.

To see what is already planned, visit the [Workplace Rights Week webpage](#).

Workers' compensation events calendar

Note: Event dates may change. Always check the [online calendar](#).

July 2026

- July 9 [Rehabilitation Review Panel](#)
- July 16 [Medical Services Review Board](#)

August 2026

- Aug. 10 [Training: QRC intern, vendor, supervisor orientation and refresher](#)

September 2026

- Sept. 13-19 [Workplace Rights Week 2026](#)
- Sept. 14 [Training: Rehabilitation provider update conference](#)
- Sept. 16 [Workers' Compensation Insurers' Task Force](#)

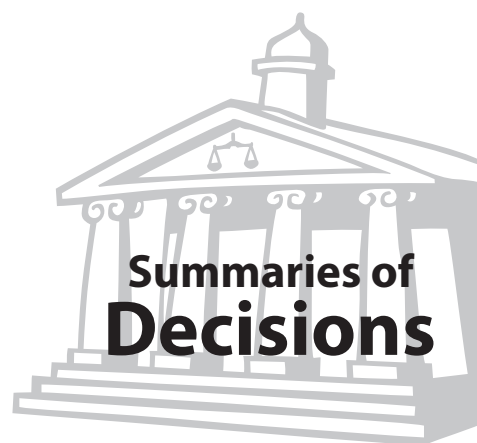
October 2026

- Oct. 1 [Rehabilitation Review Panel](#)
- Oct. 15 [Medical Services Review Board](#)
- Oct. 22 [2026 Workers' Compensation Summit](#)

Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals summaries of decisions: February through April 2026

Case summaries published are those prepared by the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

Hawa Florkiah v. Five Star Senior Living, Feb. 27, 2026



Arising Out Of And In The Course Of

The compensation judge's failure to apply the balancing test in *Bohlin v. St. Louis Cnty.*, 61 W.C.D. 69 (W.C.C.A. 2000), aff'd without opinion, 621 N.W.2d 459 (Minn. 2001), does not constitute an error of law as that doctrine was expressly rejected by the Minnesota Supreme Court in *Dykhoff v. Xcel Energy*, 840 N.W.2d 821, 73 W.C.D. 865 (Minn. 2013).

Evidence – Expert Medical Opinion

An expert medical opinion disagreeing with the employee's theory of compensability does not demonstrate inadequate foundation of that opinion, nor is a compensation judge precluded from relying on that opinion.

Causation – Substantial Evidence

Substantial evidence, including a history of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis predating employment and adequately founded expert medical opinions, supports the compensation judge's findings that the employee's claimed injuries were not causally related to the employee's work injury.

Practice and Procedure – Record

Where the employee requested admission to the record of her narrative evidence in lieu of the opportunity to testify, the employee cannot assert that procedural error results from the compensation judge's grant of the request and admission of that evidence.

Affirmed.

Charlie Anderson v. Country Sun Farm and Greenhouses, March 25, 2026

Employment Relationship

An employee, who, at the direction of the employer or superior to whose orders the employee is subject, performs services outside of the duties of his usual employment and performs them in consequence of the existence of the relationship of employer and employee as incidental to the employment, is within the protection of the Workers' Compensation Act, and not excluded employment under Minnesota Statutes § 176.041, subdivision 1(11).

Arising Out Of And In The Course Of

A causal connection occurs when the work environment peculiarly exposes the employee to an external hazard, such as a special hazard, an unsafe condition, or a neutral condition with circumstances originating on the premises as part of

the working environment, which subjects him to a different and greater risk than if he had been pursuing his ordinary personal affairs.

Arising Out Of And In The Course Of

An employee who was engaged in a work activity on the employer's premises at the instruction of the employer at the time of injury is within the course of his employment with the employer.

Affirmed.

Wayne Quinones v. General Security Services Corp. d/b/a Midwest Patrol, April 3, 2026

Evidence – Admission

The compensation judge did not abuse her discretion and commit reversible error by admitting into evidence an exhibit inadvertently offered by the employee and which was not used in the compensation judge's denial of the employee's claims.

Evidence – Expert Medical Opinion

Where the medical expert had enough facts to form a reasonable opinion, and his opinion is not based upon speculation or conjecture, that opinion is adequately founded and can be relied upon by the compensation judge.

Evidence – Admission Appeals – Scope of Review

Where the employee offered no objection at hearing with regard to the report of the employer and insurer's medical expert, the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals will not consider the issue for the first time on appeal.

Affirmed.

Sara Dutton v. Clinical Benefits Group/Home Health Care, Inc., April 10, 2026

Vacation of Award – Mutual Mistake

The failure by all parties to take into consideration additional hours and wages earned by the employee in the 26 weeks preceding her date of injury, and the ongoing reliance on the incorrect AWW, constitutes a mutual mistake of fact warranting the vacation of an award on stipulation limited only to the stipulated AWW, and the vacation of a findings and order, and amended findings and order, limited only to the stipulated AWW.

Petition to vacate granted.

John David Searle v. Legacy Restoration Holdings, LLC, April 16, 2026

Arising Out Of And In The Course Of – Traveling Employee

Where the employee regularly traveled for work and, at the time of the injury was on the same route he would have taken had he been traveling from his home to the worksite, substantial evidence supports the compensation judge's determination that the location of the employee's injury was in the area of the employer's business and therefore occurred in the course of his employment.

Arising Out Of And In The Course Of – Prohibited Act

Where the employer and insurer failed to show that there was a prohibition of a specific act, that the prohibition was clearly and unequivocally communicated to the employee, that the employer enforced the prohibition, that the employee nevertheless committed the prohibited act, and that the commission of this act may have caused the work injury, the employee was not barred from workers' compensation benefits under the prohibited act defense.

Arising Out Of And In The Course Of – Prohibited Act

Where an employee is engaged in a permissible act performed in an impermissible manner, the prohibited act defense is not applicable under the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act.

Wages – Contract

Where the employee fails to demonstrate, through evidence or testimony, that commissions were owed or earned prior to the date of injury, those amounts cannot be used in calculating the employee's average weekly wage.

Penalties – Frivolous Defence

Where the compensation judge found that the employer and insurer presented reasonable, colorable and good faith defenses to the employee's claims, the compensation judge did not err in denying penalties under Minnesota Statutes § 176.225, subdivision 1.

Affirmed as modified.

Kristopher Humble v. North Central Service, Inc., April 23, 2026

Vacation Of Award – Void Or Voidable Award

Where a settlement and award on stipulation extinguished the rights of another state and out-of-state providers of whom provided workers' compensation benefits for the same work-related injury as the employee received benefits for in the state of Minnesota, the award is voidable and does not conform with the provisions of the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act.

Petition to vacate granted.

Ronald Brand v. United Road Service Midwest, April 29, 2026

Jurisdiction – Out-of-state Injury Statute Construed – Minnesota Statutes § 176.041

There is no Minnesota jurisdiction for the injury of an over-the-road truck driver who is injured outside of Minnesota, because the duties performed by the employee in Minnesota were merely incidental duties, and not primary duties of his employment under the intent of Minnesota Statutes § 176.041, subdivision 2.

Reversed.

Minnesota Supreme Court workers' compensation decisions: February through April 2026

Case summaries published are those prepared by the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals

Cindy Ludwig v. Dakota County, April 22, 2026

The Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals did not make an impermissible factual finding when it applied the special-errand exception because the finding and its supporting inference were not manifestly contrary to the evidence.

The Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals did not err as a matter of law by concluding that the employee's injury was compensable under the special-errand exception to the general rule that an employee's injury that occurs while commuting to and from work is not compensable.

Affirmed.



Workers' Compensation Decisions