

1 **DLI 2026 workers' compensation legislative proposals**

2 **SECTION 1**

3 **176.081 LEGAL SERVICES OR DISBURSEMENTS; LIEN; REVIEW.**

4 **[For subdivisions 1-8, see M.S.]**

5 **Subd. 9. Retainer agreement.**

6 An attorney who is hired by an employee to provide legal services with respect to a claim for  
7 compensation made pursuant to this chapter shall prepare a retainer agreement in which the provisions  
8 of this section are specifically set out and provide a copy of this agreement to the employee. The retainer  
9 agreement shall provide a space for the signature of the employee. A signed agreement shall raise a  
10 conclusive presumption that the employee has read and understands the statutory fee provisions. No fee  
11 shall be awarded pursuant to this section in the absence of a signed retainer agreement.

12 The retainer agreement shall contain a notice to the employee regarding the maximum fee allowed  
13 under this section in ten-point type, which shall read:

14 **Notice of Maximum Fee**

15 The maximum fee allowed by law for legal services is 20 percent of the first \$~~130,000~~ 275,000 of  
16 compensation awarded to the employee subject to a cumulative maximum fee of \$~~26,000~~ 55,000 for fees  
17 related to the same injury.

18 The employee shall take notice that the employee is under no legal or moral obligation to pay any  
19 fee for legal services in excess of the foregoing maximum fee.

20 **[For subdivisions 10-12, see M.S.]**

21 Effective date. This section is effective for dates of injury on or after October 1, 2024.