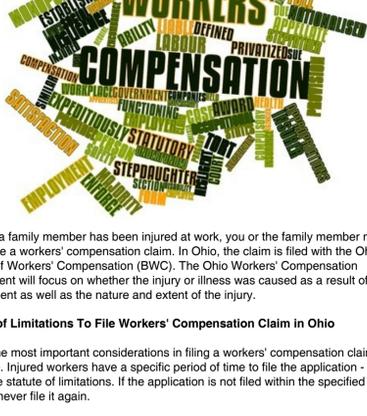




Welcome

Welcome to Heller, Maas, Moro & Magill Newsletter. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new quarterly newsletter, with articles we think you will find of interest. We hope you will enjoy our newsletter and we welcome your comments and feedback.

Statute of Limitations in Ohio Workers' Compensation Claims



If you or a family member has been injured at work, you or the family member may be able to file a workers' compensation claim. In Ohio, the claim is filed with the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC). The Ohio Workers' Compensation assessment will focus on whether the injury or illness was caused as a result of your employment as well as the nature and extent of the injury.

Statute of Limitations To File Workers' Compensation Claim in Ohio

One of the most important considerations in filing a workers' compensation claim is to file it on time. Injured workers have a specific period of time to file the application - this is called the statute of limitations. If the application is not filed within the specified time limit, you can never file it again.

According to Ohio law, the statute of limitations begins on the date of your injury. Most claim applications must be filed within 2 years of the injury date. There are exceptions to this rule.

For an occupational disease, the 2 year time limit begins on:

- The date the you first lost time due to the occupational disease , **or**
- 6 months after a licensed physician diagnosed the disease and informed you of the diagnosis and how it is related to your employment.

Claim applications for a workplace fatality must be filed within 2 years of the date of death.

The Importance of the Statute of Limitations

Even though a worker has 2 years to file a workers' compensation claim in Ohio, if you are injured at work you should:

- Notify your employer immediately. Your employer should be aware of the nature of your injuries and method of injury from the beginning. If at all possible do this in writing.
- When getting medical attention at an emergency room or doctor's office, inform all providers that the injury occurred at the workplace. Try to always explain the facts the same way.
- Make sure that all medical records indicate that the injury was related to the job and happened at work. This will be especially helpful if the claim is contested by your employer.

Note that if your claim is disallowed by the Ohio BWC because it doesn't meet guidelines for allowance, you may file an appeal to the claim denial. The appeal must be filed within 14 days.

When Benefits Are Paid Through an Award or Medical Treatment

If your claim has a date of injury prior to 08/25/2006, your claim will remain open for 10 years from the date of last payment of compensation and/or medical benefits.*

If your claim has a date of injury on or after 08/25/2006, your claim will remain open for 5 years from the date of last payment of compensation and/or medical benefits.*

*If the check being distributed is a full and final settlement, this does not apply as your claim is now closed.

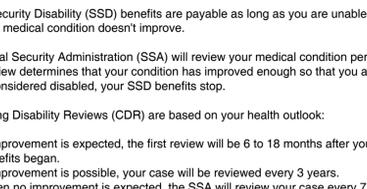
As with many things, there are exceptions to the extension of your Statute of Limitations when you receive payment on your claim. It is in your best interest to keep track of your SOL. Your attorney can help you keep current with the information the BWC has on your claim.

Workers' Comp for Firefighters with Cancer



Governor John Kasich this week signed legislation establishing a presumption that a firefighter diagnosed with cancer has incurred the disease in the course of employment. This is intended to help firefighters qualify for workers' comp benefits or who pursue a disability claim with the firefighters' pension and disability fund. The new law takes effect on about April 5, 2017.

How Long Do Social Security Disability Benefits Last?



Social Security Disability (SSD) benefits are payable as long as you are unable to work **and** your medical condition doesn't improve.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) will review your medical condition periodically. If the review determines that your condition has improved enough so that you are no longer considered disabled, your SSD benefits stop.

Continuing Disability Reviews (CDR) are based on your health outlook:

- If improvement is expected, the first review will be 6 to 18 months after your SSD benefits began.
- If improvement is possible, your case will be reviewed every 3 years.
- When no improvement is expected, the SSA will review your case every 7 years.

When you reach full retirement age as defined by the SSA, your disability benefits change over to Social Security retirement benefits and the reviews stop.

You can read more about CDRs here.

SSD Benefits May Stop if You Return to Work

If you are able to work at a "substantial" level - defined by the SSA in 2017 as monthly gross earnings of \$1,170 (or \$1,950 if you are blind) - your benefits may stop. You can read the complete rules of how working affects your SSD payments in the SSA brochure Working While Disabled - How We Can Help.

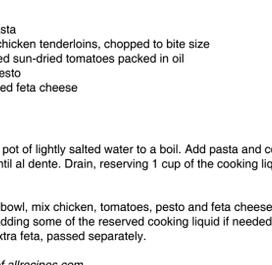
You must pay back any overpayment that may result, but you are entitled to appeal this situation if repayments are problematic.

Relocating To Certain Countries May Affect Your Benefits

Social Security is prohibited from making payments to beneficiaries in a few countries. Check the SSA website on International Programs - Social Security Payments Outside the United States if you are considering relocating outside of the U.S.

If you or a loved one has been denied Workers' Compensation or Social Security Disability (SSD) benefits, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately. Call 1 (800) 589-6611 for your initial, free consultation, either in our office or in the comfort of your own home. Heller, Maas, Moro & Magill, Co., LPA, a workplace injury and Social Security disability law firm located in Youngstown, can help you navigate the application process for the best possible outcome for you and your family.

Recipe of the Month Easy Pesto Chicken Pasta



This dish is perfect for a cold wintery night!

Ingredients

- 1 lb. fusilli pasta
- 3 c. cooked chicken tenderloins, chopped to bite size
- 1 cup chopped sun-dried tomatoes packed in oil
- 1 cup basil pesto
- 1 cup crumbled feta cheese

Directions:

1. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente. Drain, reserving 1 cup of the cooking liquid and return pasta to pot.

2. In a medium bowl, mix chicken, tomatoes, pesto and feta cheese. Pour mixture over pasta, adding some of the reserved cooking liquid if needed; toss to coat. Serve with extra feta, passed separately.

Recipe courtesy of allrecipes.com

What's Happening In Youngstown, Warren, Salem, Ravenna & Akron

- Feb 3**
Toughest Monster Truck Tour
Covelli Centre
Youngstown, OH
<http://youngstown.eventful.com/events/toughest-monster-truck-tour/E0-001-094942625-4>
- Feb 4**
Taylor Hicks
The Kent Stage
Kent, OH
<http://cleveland.eventful.com/events/taylor-hicks/E0-001-093365790-5>
- Feb 9**
Chocolate Festival (Teen)
Akron-Summit County Main Library
Akron, OH
<http://eventful.com/akron/events/chocolate-festival-teen/E0-001-098106359-6>
- Feb 22**
Saturday Night Fever
Akron Civic Theatre
Akron, OH
<http://akroncivictheatre.ticketoffices.com/>
- Mar 3**
Legends in Concert
Akron Civic Theatre
Akron, OH
<http://akroncivic.com/site/page.php?id=422&eventid=2334>
- Mar 13**
Dublin's Irish Tenors & Celtic Ladies
W. D. Packard Music Hall
Warren, OH
<http://youngstown.eventful.com/events/warren-civic-music-presents-dublins-irish-tenors-/E0-001-094183874-5>
- Mar 19**
Bon Jovi
Quicken Loans Arena
Cleveland, OH
<http://cleveland.eventful.com/events/bon-jovi/E0-001-096960300-0>
- Mar 24**
Tadmor Shrine Circus
Canton Memorial Civic Center
Canton, OH
<http://eventful.com/canton/events/tadmor-shrine-circus-/E0-001-099003125-2@2017032415>

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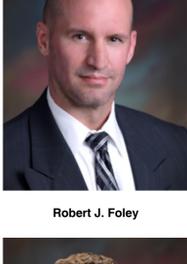
Robert L. Heller



Steven D. Maas



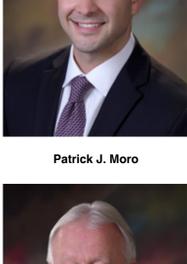
Joseph A. Moro



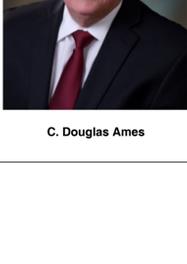
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