

## HOW MUCH WILL HIRING A WORKERS' COMPENSATION ATTORNEY COST ME?

As with all aspects of a workers' compensation claim, the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (the state agency governing workers' compensation claims) oversees attorney fees. The Commission **MUST** approve all attorney fees. There are several ways an attorney **may** get paid in a workers' compensation matter.

If we assist you in getting a workers' compensation award, the Commission may award an attorney fee in the range of \$300 - \$500. We **NEVER** request a fee for filing the initial claim for benefits or other agreement forms but the Commission may enter an Order requiring you to pay this fee. Usually, the fee is deducted from your weekly workers' compensation check in the amount of \$25 per week.

If we go to a hearing on your behalf or enter a Stipulated Order, I **DO** request a fee. Usually, it is twenty percent (20%) of the lost wages you are claiming or about \$750. This, too, is usually deducted from your weekly workers' compensation check in the amount of \$25 a week. Sometimes, it comes out of the back benefits that are due.

If we assist you in getting permanent partial disability benefits, the Commission usually awards an attorney fee of fifteen percent (15%) of the benefits.

If we assist you in settling your workers' compensation claim, the Commission usually awards an attorney fee of twenty percent (20%) of the lump sum.

Potentially, we could get paid all four (4) ways or not at all. We would not get paid at all if we were attempting to settle your workers' compensation claim and the insurance company refused to settle for a fair price.

However, you will always (win or lose) be responsible for our advanced costs – what others charge this law firm to successfully pursue your claim. The most common expense is medical providers who charge us for copies of your medical records. We have attached a chart for some examples of costs and our attorney fee agreement.

