

Denver Office 1525 Sherman St. Denver, CO 80203

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE COURTS March 24, 2020

Regarding COVID-19 and the Operation of the Office of Administrative Courts for Workers' Compensation Hearings

The OAC remains open and continues to conduct workers' compensation hearings.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency and Mayor Hancock's order concerning the City and County of Denver, all workers' compensation hearings scheduled to be held in person at the Office of Administrative Courts (Denver, Colorado Springs, and Grand Junction) **shall be conducted solely by telephone**, beginning on **March 25, 2020** and for the near future.

The OAC will be utilizing Google Hangouts for the recording of the telephone hearings. Parties will receive a Google Hangout calendar invite on the afternoon prior to their scheduled hearing, with the telephone conference number, as well as a pin number, to join the scheduled hearing. Parties are responsible for telephoning that telephone number on the time and date of the hearing. The parties should also have available the telephone numbers of any witnesses participating in the hearing. The ALJ will conference in the witnesses to the Google Hangout hearing. The parties shall ensure that all witnesses have copies of any exhibits that will be referenced during the telephonic hearing.

In the alternative, if parties prefer to have an in-person hearing, the parties may request a continuance by motion sent to the appropriate email location:

Denver at OAC-DVR@state.co.us
Colorado Springs at OAC-CSP@state.co.us
Grand Junction at OAC-GJT@state.co.us



ALJs will be granting requests to continue and hearings will be rescheduled and set out 60 to 90 days. If the parties agree to a continuance, please send motion and proposed order in Word format to the respective email address. Once an order is granted and served, the parties are responsible for obtaining dates for the reset hearing from our website. Once the parties agree upon a date, a confirmation must be submitted to the OAC email address.

In the event that a litigant or witness cannot participate in a telephone hearing, due to the need of interpretation or ADA accommodation, the party should notify the Office of Administrative Courts and we will insure that either an in-person hearing occurs or that either interpretation or ADA accommodation occur via the telephone hearing within the parameters outlined in this directive.

The health and safety of the public working with Office of Administrative Courts is of paramount importance. To that end, please note that the above procedures are subject to change as the COVID-19 situation evolves. Should additional changes be warranted, you will be updated. In the interim, please note that the OAC is open and prepared to adjudicate the matters before the Court with the above noted modifications. Please feel free to contact any of our offices with questions and/or refer to the OAC website for additional information.

Denver: (303) 866-2000 Colorado Springs: (719) 576-2958 Grand Junction: (970)-248-7340

Sincerely,

Matthew Azer

Director & Chief Administrative Law Judge

