

INFORMATION FOR DVR CONSUMERS WITH WORKER'S COMPENSATION (WC) CLAIMS

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PLEASE REVIEW THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) encourages you to work closely with our staff, as a partner, to make informed choices about decisions that impact your vocational rehabilitation.

A plan to return to a job with your former employer or a new employer may be your best choice. Maybe training for a different type of job is a better choice for you. DVR offers services to help you make these decisions and to carry out your plan.

The choices you make in your vocational rehabilitation could affect your Worker's Compensation claim. Some Worker's Compensation insurance carriers may question retraining benefits if they believe that you are able to return to suitable employment without additional training. Before you make a decision to train for a different job, you may want to discuss your plan with the insurance carrier, the Worker's Compensation Division (608-266-1340), and/or an attorney.

DVR cannot provide money for basic costs of living. You may need to work with the employer, the insurance carrier, or other organizations to request assistance to cover your basic costs of living while participating in the vocational rehabilitation program.

If you are placed on the DVR waitlist, you may still receive rehabilitation services from a private provider. To learn more about this, call 608-266-1340 at the Worker's Compensation Division and ask to speak to a specialist.

Consumers With Worker's Compensation Claims Should Know:

- DVR follows the Federal Rehabilitation Act. This is a separate and different law than the Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Law.
- DVR staff are not experts on Worker's Compensation Law. Contact the Worker's Compensation Division at 608-266-1340 if you have questions about your Worker's Compensation claim.
- The Rehabilitation Act **does not** require that you attempt to return to work with your previous employer or to seek a job with other employers before looking at retraining as a part of your vocational plan. The Wisconsin Worker's Compensation Law **does require** that you attempt to return to work before a retraining plan is considered.

- DVR cannot provide money for basic costs of living.
- You are responsible for following the rules of the Worker's Compensation System. Please discuss any concerns about this with DVR staff.
- You have the right to develop your own vocational rehabilitation plan and to participate in the decision making process, including:
 - Your choice of a suitable vocational goal.
 - Making the decision to seek, or not to seek, Worker's Compensation benefits.
 - Reaching agreement about the amount of assistance you will need from DVR to manage your vocational rehabilitation program.
- DVR will collect only information necessary to develop your Individualized Plan for Employment.
- DVR will only provide evaluations as needed for the vocational rehabilitation process. We will not provide an evaluation for the purpose of seeking benefits from other agencies.
- You are responsible for managing your Worker's Compensation claim. You should contact the Worker's Compensation Division, or others involved in your claim, to determine what is needed in your case. These things may include:
 - Documentation that you tried to return to work with your previous employer.
 - Documentation that you tried to find a different job.
 - Communications with your employer, insurance carrier, and Worker's Compensation Division.
 - Obtaining and providing medical records to other parties.
 - Documentation of transportation and other costs resulting from medical and vocational rehabilitation services you have received.

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