BEFORE THE IOWA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER

IN THE MATTER OF CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 IMPACT ON HEARINGS FROM NOVEMBER 21, 2020, THROUGH MARCH 19, 2021	ORDER

FILED
OCT 12 2020
WORKERS' COMPENSATION

1. The Iowa Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is monitoring the situation regarding the novel coronavirus/COVID-19.

2. On March 13, 2020, in an effort to help mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus/COVID-19, the Commissioner issued an order suspending in-person hearings in regular procedure contested case proceedings before the agency from March 16, 2020, through at least June 16, 2020. The Commissioner's March 13, 2020, Order remains in full effect.

3. On June 1, 2020, the Commissioner issued an order extending the suspension of in-person hearings in regular procedure contested case proceedings before the agency through at least September 14, 2020. The Commissioner's June 1, 2020, order remains in full effect.

4. On August 14, 2020, the Commissioner issued an order extending the suspension of in-person hearings in regular procedure contested case proceedings before the agency through at least November 20, 2020. The Commissioner's August 14, 2020, order remains in full effect.

5. The Commissioner hereby extends the suspension of in-person hearings in regular procedure contested case proceedings before the agency from November 21, 2020, through at least March 19, 2021.

6. All hearing assignment orders that schedule an in-person hearing to occur during the time period identified in Paragraph 5 of this Order are hereby amended with respect to the method of holding the hearing.

7. All in-person hearings before the agency scheduled for the time period identified in Paragraph 5 of this Order shall be held by Internet-based video, using CourtCall, unless the agency grants a continuance under rule 876 IAC 4.23.

8. If, after the date of this Order, the agency grants a continuance under rule 876 IAC 4.23 of an in-person hearing that was scheduled to occur during the time period identified in Paragraph 5 of this Order, the agency shall reschedule the continued hearing to occur:

a. Between April 26, 2021, and October 25, 2021; and

b. In Des Moines, Iowa.

9. DWC shall pay all fees associated with conducting a hearing using CourtCall for the time period identified in Paragraph 5 of this Order.

10. For more information about participating in a hearing using CourtCall, please visit: www.iowaworkcomp.gov/courtcall.

11. This Order does not amend any hearing assignment order for a telephone hearing concerning an application for alternate medical care, independent medical examination (IME), etc. Agency procedures regarding these hearings remain unchanged. They will continue to take place via telephone. However, if a party requests an in-person hearing instead of a telephone hearing to take place during the time period identified in Paragraph 5 of this Order, the hearing will be held via Internet-based video, using CourtCall.

12. As circumstances change, this Order may be updated.

Signed and filed this 12th day of October, 2020.

Joseph S. Cortese II

JOSEPH S. CORTESE II
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER