

## Website Notices 3/20/20

The Worker's Compensation Board is carefully following the direction of Governor Holcomb as details of the outbreak of Covid-19 in Indiana unfold. If the practices set out herein must be changed, a similar notice will be issued.

Continuity of business is a goal, while also taking steps to keep everyone safe. While the Board will honor law firm, employer and insurance carrier directives to their staff to not attend live hearings, only one such continuance will be granted per case at this time. We will expect all professionals to continue to work their cases and make themselves available for telephonic hearings unless a personal condition requires separate consideration.

If hearings in a particular venue cannot be conducted because of a facility closing, the entire docket will be moved to another date with telephonic hearings available for most cases set for final hearing. You should check the website of the location for details, but the Board will send out a notice if the docket is set over. Please do not contact the Board to ask.

If a hearing location is closed and the parties agree a live hearing is necessary, arrangements may be made to conduct the hearing at our office.

Individual hearing districts may have specific directives regarding submission of cases for decision. These will be dispersed to parties in a timely manner. In all districts, if a telephonic hearing is scheduled, the parties must mail or drop off evidentiary documents and the parties' stipulations to the Board's office at least one week before hearing.

At this time, we will accept electronic signatures on settlement agreements. Remember that only settlements are to be sent to the district email boxes. Please read the Notice from March 13th regarding electronic filings. All other pleadings, agreements and forms must still be mailed to the Board.

As stated in our notice of February 21, 2020, the Board will begin monitoring FROI filings beginning in April. However, no determination of a start date for issuing penalties has been made at this time. Please trust we will not do so during this time of flux and without providing advance notice. However, getting payments out to injured workers and insuring they receive necessary medical care must be paramount for all working within the Indiana workers' compensation community.

Thank you for working with the Board. I am convinced you are the best group in the country. Our offices are open and will remain so, with limited staff, unless we are otherwise instructed by the Governor's office.