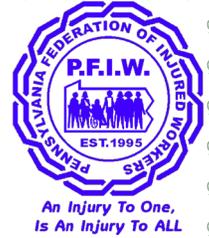


PA Federation of Injured Workers

Funded Employment



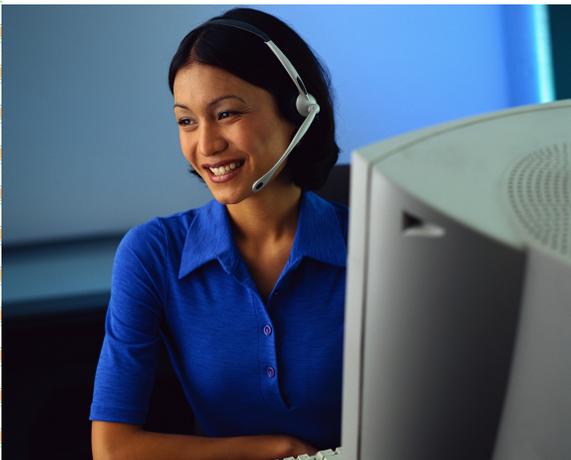
As part of the 1996 workers' compensation reform package, an understood provision, for workers compensation insurers/self-insured employers to create temporary "funded employment" jobs. These jobs are typically menial tasks to which injured workers are assigned, often through a vocational rehabilitation agency. These jobs are made available with no regard to whether or not the injured worker has the ability to perform the job. Some injured workers may not be good communicating with customers such as a telemarketer job requires, so that job may not suit them. An injured worker, that suffered a brain injury and may lack the hand eye coordination, to assemble products, such as fishing lures. What ever the reason, if they refuse to accept those jobs, a workers compensation judge can order a stop to workers compensation benefits.

The practice, which began in Pittsburgh in 1992 and since has spread across the state, has become contested because some claimants say they are too incapacitated to perform even simple tasks. Senate hearings were held on this issue but were shut down by the majority Legislative Leadership before enough attention was brought to bare on this unethical policy.

Gainful employment must be turned down to lose worker's compensation benefits, in Pennsylvania. There is no definition for Gainful Employment in the Pennsylvania Worker's Compensation Act. Injured worker attorneys argue that funded employment does not meet the criteria for gainful employment because it is only temporary and pays very little.

Funded Employment Scams

A company called Expediter is one such company that gets its clients because they claim they can get an injured worker, no matter how badly disabled, back to work and on partial disability. Many workers compensation insurers/self-insured employers look for companies such as Expediter to reduce their payout of workers compensation benefits. Once a company like Expediter finds/sets up employment for an injured worker working for a company such as a telemarketing home based job and it is turned down, worker's compensation benefits can be terminated.



They offer very little training and the screening done to see if an injured worker has the ability to perform this job is lacking in legitimacy and credibility. A good attorney can protect an injured worker from such employment scams. It is important that seriously injured workers, whom will not be able to return to their pre-injury job, make sure the attorney they hire for their workers compensation claim knows how to deal with this sort of situation.

This is important because once the injured worker is put on partial disability a time limit of 500 weeks begins the count down until the claim is terminated. Once a partial disability rating is in place it is very hard to reverse.



Tuttle Tackle is another funded employment scam that is used to manufacture fishing lures at an injured workers home or a close by location the funded employment scammers can use as a manufacturing site. This job lasts only long enough for the injured worker to get fed up and quite thus allowing the workers compensation insurer/self-insured employer to request the termination of benefits.

Injured workers who have stuck with the job and fulfilled the required manufacturing quota have found that the job will go away. The funders of the employment get tired of putting up the money and not getting the injured worker to quit, thus being able to request a benefit termination.

No matter how silly, it is important to persevere so your workers compensation benefits are protected.