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North Carolina Industrial Commission

Summary of the North Carolina Industrial Commission's Rules for Utilization of Rehabilitation Professionals

A rehabilitation professional (RP) is a medical case manager, coordinator of medical services or vocational rehabilitation professional who works independently with you towards rehabilitation during your workers' compensation claim. Your RP has education and training required by the Industrial Commission (IC) and must act ethically and follow the attached rules.

You must participate in rehabilitation and communicate regularly with your RP. If your RP believes that you are not complying, your RP will detail in writing the actions you are required to take to return to compliance. Your weekly benefits could be stopped if you are ordered to comply with rehabilitation and fail to do so.

You are strongly encouraged to read the attached rules so that you will understand your rights and responsibilities and the role of your RP in your workers' compensation case. If you have questions about the Rules, talk with your RP. However, your RP cannot give legal advice or investigate or settle your case. If you have questions about your RP or the rules, you may also contact the Industrial Commission Information Specialists at (919) 807-2501 or speak with your attorney.

Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals

A vocational rehabilitation professional (VRP) will:

- meet with you to talk about your medical and work situation as well as your specific requests for return to work or retraining and education as appropriate. This is one part of your vocational assessment.
- prepare an individualized written rehabilitation plan with you that makes recommendations to assist you to return to work, train for a new job, or go back to school, based on your education, skills, experience, and abilities
- help you return to work with your current employer or another employer, if needed
- refer you only to suitable jobs
- accurately write job descriptions that list the physical requirements of a job
- stop placement activities if it does not appear that a suitable job can be found for you

This is only a summary of the North Carolina Industrial Commission Rules for Utilization of Rehabilitation Professionals. Nothing in this summary shall alter the meaning of the Workers' Compensation Act or the North Carolina Industrial Commission Rules for Utilization of Rehabilitation Professionals.