

North Carolina
Industrial Commission
MINUTES


CLARIFICATION OF ROLE OF "TASK ASSIGNMENTS" FOR REHABILITATION
PROFESSIONALS IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM

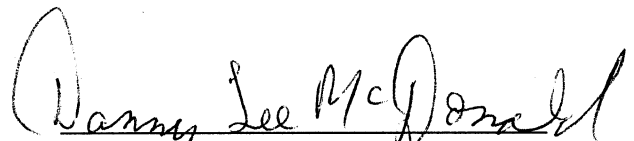
In an effort to clarify the role of rehabilitation professionals who are given one-time or "task" assignments in workers' compensation claims, the Industrial Commission adopts the following definition and policy statement concerning "task assignments:"

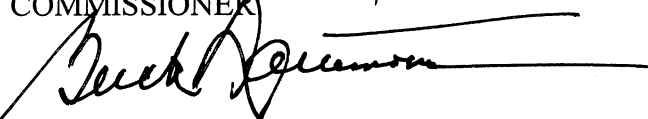
The long-standing position of the Industrial Commission has been that rehabilitation professionals ("RPs") who are given one-time "task" assignments do not have the privilege and protection afforded them under the NCIC Rehabilitation Rules because one-time assignments do not meet the definition of medical or vocational "rehabilitation." The use of Forms 25N or 25C are not appropriate. Therefore, prior to any one-time "task" activity that involves contact with the injured worker or his/her providers, the RP must first obtain legal consent from the injured worker or, if represented, the injured worker's attorney. Additionally, in those situations where one-time "task" assignments are appropriate to facilitate the medical and vocational process, the RP who performs the assignment is bound by the laws governing confidentiality as well as the ethical standards of his/her profession, professional organization, or professional association. These ethical standards are available on the NCIC website at <http://www.comp.state.nc.us/ncic/pages/rehab.htm>.

This 22 day of February, 2008.



PAMELA T. YOUNG
CHAIR



BERNADINE S. BALLANCE
COMMISSIONER


DANNY LEE MCDONALD
COMMISSIONER


BUCK LATTIMORE
COMMISSIONER


LAURA KRANFELD MAVRETIC
COMMISSIONER


CHRISTOPHER SCOTT
COMMISSIONER


DIANNE C. SELLERS
COMMISSIONER