Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor Pamela T. Young, Chair



Bernadine S. Ballance, Commissioner Laura K. Mavretic, Commissioner Danny L. McDonald, Commissioner Staci Meyer, Commissioner Christopher Scott, Commissioner Dianne C. Sellers, Commissioner

North Carolina Industrial Commission

MINUTES

CLARIFICATION OF THE ROLE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS AND TRANSLATORS IN THE NORTH CAROLINA WORKERS COMPENSATION SYSTEM

In an effort to clarify the role of foreign language interpreters and translators who attend medical and vocational appointments with injured workers, the Industrial Commission adopts the following policy statement.

It has come to the attention of the North Carolina Industrial Commission that some interpreters and translators who attend medical and vocational appointments are producing observational summary reports that include, but are not limited to, information regarding conversations that occurred between the injured worker and the medical provider or rehabilitation professionals and information concerning the appearance of the injured worker.

Producing these types of reports, in addition to translating duties, is not appropriate interpreter/translator activity in the workers' compensation forum in this State. It is the position of the North Carolina Industrial Commission that the role of an interpreter/translator in a North Carolina Workers' Compensation case is to interpret, word for word, without editing, commenting or summarizing, what is said between the injured worker and the specific provider with whom the injured worker is meeting.

Further, interpreters and translators should abide by those ethics put forth by their profession, and should refrain from engaging in any activity for which they are not licensed or certified, or that could be construed to constitute a service other than interpreting or translating, such as giving advice or assisting with any function related to the ongoing management of a workers' compensation claim.

This the **30** day of June, 2010.

PAMELA T. YOUNG
CHAIR

BERNADINE S. BALLANCE

BERNADINE S. BALLANCE COMMISSIONER

DANNY L. MCDONALD COMMISSIONER

CHRISTOPHER L. SCOTT COMMISSIONER

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STACI MEYER COMMISSIONER

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