## **OKLAHOMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION**



1915 N STILES AVE STE 231 · OKC, OK · 73105 · (405) 522-3222 · WCC.OK.GOV Tulsa office · 212 Kerr State Office Building · 440 South Houston · Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127 · (918) 295-3732 Chairman Mark Liotta · Commissioner Jordan Russell · Commissioner Megan Tilly Executive Director Hopper Smith

March 24, 2020

## Process for Approval of Joint Petition Settlements to Begin Monday, March 30, 2020

To allow settlements to proceed during this heightened concern with COVID-19, alternative procedures shall be followed to effectuate approval of Joint Petition settlements beginning Monday, March 30, 2020, and continuing until further notice from the Commission.

Parties who desire to settle a workers' compensation claim by Joint Petition shall submit an EMAIL to the assigned ALJ, or if there is no assigned ALJ, to the Chief ALJ, requesting approval of the Joint Petition Settlement by Interrogatories. Settlements will ONLY be reviewed by emailed interrogatories at this time. If a party's case has special circumstances where this cannot be accomplished, please email the Chief ALJ for direction.

The settlement interrogatories must contain question(s) and answers which memorialize claimant's waiver of personal appearance and request for approval of joint petition by interrogatories to avoid potential exposure to COVID-19.

All documents, Joint Petition, Interrogatories, and supporting medical must be attached in PDF format.

Upon receipt and after review, the ALJ will send an email reply that the settlement has been approved. All parties must be copied on the original email as to receive the confirmed reply. The parties will receive a "filed" copy via email at a later date. The filed copy may be delayed based on limitations of staffing during this time.