Disability Benefits For Employees

1. If you are unable to work because of an illness or injury, not work-related, you may be entitled to receive weekly benefits from your employer, his or her insurance carrier, or from the Special Fund for Disability Benefits.

2. To claim benefits you must file a claim form within 30 days from the first date of your disability, but in no event more than 26 weeks from such date.

3. Complete claim form DB-450 (Notice and Proof of Claim for Disability Benefits)
   You may obtain the form from your employer, his or her insurance carrier, your health provider, any Unemployment Insurance Office, the Workers’ Compensation Board’s website (www.wcb.ny.gov) or any office of the Board.
   IMPORTANT: Before filing your claim, your health provider must complete the "Health Care Provider's Statement" on the form showing your period of disability.
   • If you are employed, or have been unemployed for four weeks or less when your disability begins, send the completed form to your employer or the insurance carrier named below.
   • If you have been unemployed more than four weeks when your disability begins, send the completed form to the Workers’ Compensation Board, Disability Benefits Bureau, 328 State Street, Schenectady, New York 12305.

4. You are entitled to be treated by any physician, chiropractor, dentist, nurse-midwife, podiatrist or psychologist of your choice. However, unlike workers’ compensation, your medical bills will not be paid unless your employer and/or union provide for the payment of such bills under a Disability Benefits Plan or Agreement.

5. If you are ill or injured during the time you are receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits, file a claim for Disability Benefits as soon as you sustain the injury or illness, by following the instructions outlined above.

6. If you are out of work in excess of seven days, your employer is required to send you a Disability Benefits Statement of Rights (Form DB-271S).

7. You may not take disability benefits at the same time as paid family leave benefits. The total amount of disability and paid family leave in a 52 week period cannot exceed 26 weeks.

8. Other information about disability benefits may be obtained by writing or calling the Workers’ Compensation Board.