

## Notice of Public Hearing and Rule Making

Pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act A.C.A. 25-15-201 et seq., and the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Law codified at A.C.A. 11-9-101 et seq., notice is hereby given that the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission (Commission) is proposing revisions and amendments to existing rules and forms, and proposing to create a new rule and accompanying form. Revisions to existing Rule 099.29 of the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Rules will, among other things, eliminate the requirement that out-of-state insurance carriers and/or self-insured employers maintain a workers' compensation claims office within the borders of the State, thereby eliminating the waiver requirement. In addition, newly proposed Rule 099.39 restates and reestablishes the guidelines for claims filing, report cards, and sanctions, formerly contained in Rule 099.29. Rule 099.05 is amended to reflect the revisions in Rule 099.29, to strike language that specifies and limits types of funds in which the trustee of a group self-insurer may invest trustee, reserve, and surplus funds, and to establish guidelines for annual reporting. Language added to Rule 099.27 is intended to help ensure the filing of essential medical documentation and to further define the Commission's specific needs with regard to medical reports. Form "A" includes language added in order to comply with Act 546 of 2007, and new Form "O" is created to comply with the proposed revisions to Rule 099.29. Enforcement language is added to Rule 099.33 in order to assist the Commission's Medical Cost Containment Division in obtaining medical records with regard to change-of-physician. Finally, proposed changes to Rules 31, 32, and 36 and related forms, are intended to help improve the flow, and to clarify the procedures by which information required by the Health and Safety Division is processed. A public hearing will be held on Monday, September 10, 2007 beginning at 10 a.m. in Hearing Room "A" located on the third floor of the Workers' Compensation Building at 324 Spring Street, Little Rock. Oral and written comments will be considered at the hearing. Written comments may be submitted to the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission, P.O. Box 950, 4<sup>th</sup> & Spring Streets, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0950, or by Fax at 501-682-2786. Copies of the proposed rules and forms may be obtained from the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission, P.O. Box 950, 4<sup>th</sup> & Spring Streets, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0950, telephone 501-682-2607, toll free 1-800-622-4472, or on the Commission website at [www.awcc.state.ar.us](http://www.awcc.state.ar.us).