

Dear Worker's Compensation Community,

I regret to report that under the Governor's new orders, Lake and Tippecanoe County venues will not meet again in-person until after June 14<sup>th</sup>. I understand that this has been a difficult time and appreciate the efforts that everyone is making to continue to move their cases forward. We have lost many hearing dates and I know there are matters that need to be heard. While we wait to move forward, I am available for teleconference by request. You can contact Laurie Krieger via e-mail ([lkrieger@wcb.in.gov](mailto:lkrieger@wcb.in.gov)) to schedule a teleconference. You may still also have any issues decided upon written submission, with or without scheduled telephonic arguments. You can submit the entire case or just a single issue if that is all that is needed at this time. You can contact Laurie Krieger to make these arrangements.

**LAKE COUNTY:** For the time being, there is only one Lake County setting before the summer -June 18<sup>th</sup>. At this time, we are going to continue **everything** that is currently set on this date. This date will be reserved for emergency hearings and you **must request** to be put on this docket by contacting Laurie Krieger. In your request, please briefly indicate the reason the matter needs to be heard right away as opposed to a later date. I am asking for this information in the event there are too many requests and we cannot hear them all on this single day. If that occurs, the various requests will be prioritized in terms of necessity and be scheduled accordingly. If you are scheduled on this date but matters of higher priority cause the date to become too full, your case may be continued so please recognize this as a possibility and I apologize in advance if that happens. We are contacting Lake County to reserve the venue for additional dates over the summer and anticipate that anyone requesting a hearing will be able to have one by the end of the summer. We will announce those dates once they are confirmed. Any dates added over the summer will be for hearing only and will be **by request only**. We will not be automatically scheduling cases over these dates as a matter of course. Please note that these hearings are not confined to final dispositions but can also be for singular issues that require a hearing in order to move forward. There will be no pre-trial conferences scheduled over these summer dates, but the parties are all highly encouraged and expected to keep in regular contact regarding the status of their cases. By the time we convene in the fall, I am hopeful that we will be back on track to our regular routines and caseloads.

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY:** I recognize that we are only in Tippecanoe County four times a year so losing a hearing date has different effects than it may have in Lake County. The entire May 21<sup>st</sup> docket will be continued to a date TBA sometime over the summer. We are in the process of contacting the venue and the date will be announced asap. If you have a pre-trial conference or hearing that can wait until our fall dates, please contact Laurie Krieger to ask her to continue such matters to the fall.

Thank you for all working together to keep your cases moving forward. I apologize for all the continuances and inconveniences that have occurred during this unprecedented time. I hope that you, your staff, and your families are all doing well!! I look forward to seeing you all again in the very near future. Please make sure to regularly check your e-mail for updates from the Board for future dates, procedural updates/changes, and any other information that we share.

Sandra O'Brien  
Hearing Member, Indiana Workers' Compensation Board