## Workers' Compensation Benefits Missouri 2022

### Disability, Body as a Whole

**Arm at Shoulder**: 232 weeks

**Arm Between Shoulder and Elbow Joint**: 222 weeks

**Arm at Elbow Joint**: 210 weeks

**Arm Between Elbow Joint and Wrist**: 200 weeks

**Hand at Wrist Joint**: 175 weeks

**Thumb at Proximal Joint**: 60 weeks

**Thumb at Distal Joint**: 45 weeks

**Index Finger at Proximal Joint**: 45 weeks

**Index Finger at Second Joint**: 35 weeks

**Index Finger at Distal Joint**: 30 weeks

**Middle or Ring Finger at Proximal Joint**: 35 weeks

**Middle or Ring Finger at Second Joint**: 30 weeks

**Middle or Ring Finger at Distal Joint**: 26 weeks

**Little Finger at Proximal Joint**: 22 weeks

**Little Finger at Second Joint**: 20 weeks

**Little Finger at Distal Joint**: 16 weeks

**One Leg at Hip Joint**: 207 weeks

**One Leg at or above Knee**: 160 weeks

**One Leg at or above Ankle and below Knee**: 155 weeks

**One Foot at Tarsus**: 150 weeks

**One Foot at Metatarsus**: 110 weeks

**Great Toe of One Foot at Proximal Joint**: 40 weeks

**Great Toe of One Foot at Distal Joint**: 22 weeks

**Any other Toe at Proximal Joint**: 14 weeks

**Any other Toe at Second Joint**: 10 weeks

**Any other Toe at Distal Joint**: 8 weeks

**Complete Deafness in Both Ears**: 180 weeks

**Complete Deafness in One Ear**: 49 weeks

**Complete Loss of Sight in One Eye**: 140 weeks

### Maximum Weekly Benefits

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<th>PPD</th>
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COMPENSABILITY

ACCIDENT OR INJURY

An injury is defined as one which has risen out of and in the course and scope of employment. An injury by accident is compensable only if the accident was the prevailing factor in causing both the resulting medical condition and disability.

An injury shall be deemed to arise out of and in the course and scope of employment only if:

- It is reasonably apparent, upon consideration of all the circumstances, that the accident is the prevailing factor in causing the injuries.
- It does not come from a hazard or risk unrelated to the employment to which the employee would have been equally exposed to outside of and unrelated to the employment in the normal course of life.
- An injury resulting directly or indirectly from idiopathic causes is not compensable.
- A cardiovascular, pulmonary, respiratory, or other disease, suffered by an employee is an injury only if the accident is the prevailing factor in causing the resulting medical condition.

An injury is not compensable because the employment was a triggering or precipitating factor.

CALCULATING BENEFITS

The basis for most benefits in the Missouri Workers’ Compensation system is the compensation rate. The compensation rate is a function of the employee’s Average Weekly Wage (“AWW”), pursuant to Mo. Rev. Stat. § 287.250. Specifically, the AWW is calculated based on the thirteen (13) weeks of wages prior to the date of injury. All of the employee’s wages earned during the thirteen (13) week period are totaled and then divided by thirteen (13) to determine the employee’s AWW.

As a general rule, the compensation rate is two-thirds (2/3) of the employee’s AWW as of the date of injury up to the statutory maximum amount, which is adjusted each year, and is variable based on the type of benefit the employee may be entitled to.

TYPES OF BENEFITS

TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABILITY

Temporary Total Disability (“TTD”) benefits are those paid to an employee during the “healing period” when the employee is unable to return to work. TTD benefits are not payable unless the employee has been unable to work for three (3) or more days. After the three-day waiting period, TTD benefits are payable until the employee returns to work or reaches Maximum Medical Improvement (“MMI”).

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- An employee is not entitled to TTD benefits if the employee is receiving unemployment benefits.
- There is a three-day waiting period with benefits paid for those three (3) days if the employee is off work for fourteen (14) days.

PERMANENT TOTAL DISABILITY

Under Missouri Workers’ Compensation Law, the term “total disability” means that an employee is unable to return to “any employment” and not merely the employment in which the employee was engaged in at the time of the accident.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Permanent Total Disability (“PTD”) is owed to the employee for life, paid on a weekly basis.
- Missouri Workers’ Compensation Law allows lump sum settlement agreements based on a present value of a permanent total award.
- If the Permanent Total Disability (“PTD”) is the result of the work-related accident and a pre-existing condition, rather than the work accident alone, the Second Injury Fund would be liable for the permanent total award.

PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY

Permanent Partial Disability (“PPD”) is a disability that is permanent in nature and partial in degree. This disability must be demonstrated and certified by a physician, and based upon a reasonable degree of medical certainty.

Permanent Partial Disability (“PPD”) is calculated in Missouri using a three-variable equation:

\[
\text{[Percentage of Disability]} = \frac{\text{[Compensation Rate]} \times \text{[Number of Weeks for Body Part Affected]} \times \text{[Percentage of Disability]}}{\text{Total Award of Permanent Partial Disability Benefits}}
\]

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- For minor injuries, the Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) may allow settlement without a formal rating report.
- Part-time employees must use “same or similar” full-time employee wages (for PPD only).
- No credit for Temporary Total Disability (“TTD”) benefits paid.

DEATH BENEFITS

ELIGIBILITY FOR DEATH BENEFITS

After the death of an employee who suffered a work-related injury, the employee’s surviving spouse, and/or dependent children may be entitled to benefits. A surviving spouse and/or dependent children can claim a benefit under the following circumstances:

- If the employee dies because of the work-related injury.
- If the employee is still employable after the work-related injury but then suffers a Permanent Partial Disability (“PPD”) while at work and subsequently dies from a cause unrelated to the work injury.
- The employee suffers Permanent Total Disability (“PTD”) from a work-related injury and then dies from a cause unrelated to the work injury.

THE EXTENT OF DEATH BENEFITS

In typical situations, a surviving spouse is entitled to a weekly benefit for his or her lifetime, or until he or she remarries, at which time he or she will also receive a lump-sum equal to two (2) years of benefits.

A dependent child receives benefits until he or she reaches eighteen (18) years of age, unless he or she is a full-time student, benefits may continue until the child is age twenty-two (22). Other factors may also affect the duration of death benefit payments, such as physical or mental incapacity.

The employer is also responsible to pay reasonable funeral expenses up to $5,000.00.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

- Weekly benefits are the preferred method of payment when an employee dies because of a work-related accident or illness.
- Missouri allows lump-sum settlements in certain limited circumstances.