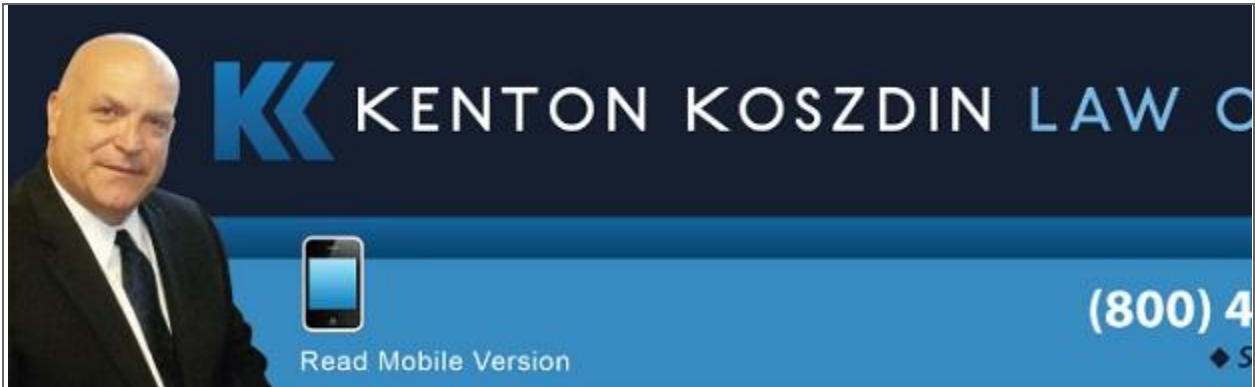


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May 2014

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Advice for Successfully Handling Workers' Compensation Disputes



If you or a loved one has been injured on the job, or has suffered a job-related illness, you may be eligible for California Workers' Compensation benefits.

The type of financial benefits you may receive depends on your compensation before you were injured and the extent of damages you have suffered as a result of the injury or illness. Financial benefits

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can include compensation to replace lost wages as well as coverage for related medical treatments.

Sometimes claims for Workers' Compensation benefits are disputed. Read on for common types of claim disputes:

Eligibility Disputes. If you have received a letter stating that your injury is not covered by Workers' Compensation, it is important to act quickly because of time limitations. You must file an [Application for Adjudication of Claim](#) at one of California's 24 Workers' Compensation offices throughout the state *and* request a hearing.

At this point it is critical to consult with a [qualified attorney](#) who can help you navigate the complex California Workers' Compensation system for the best possible outcome for you and your family.

Permanent or Temporary Disability? If you can't work because you are recovering from your injury and unable to do your usual job, you may be eligible for [temporary disability benefits](#). If, however, your condition does not improve, your doctor will send a report to the claims administrator stating that you are [permanently disabled](#). At that time, the Workers' Compensation system will assign you a permanent disability rating to be used (along with date of injury and pre-injury wages) in a formula that will determine the amount of benefits you will receive.

If you don't agree with the doctor or the permanent disability rating, you can request more information and an examination by a [Qualified Medical Evaluator](#). At this point, if you have not retained an attorney, you

should consider consulting with [an attorney experienced in California Workers' Compensation Law](#) to get the maximum benefits that you have earned.

Get More Information

The California Department of Industrial Relations' publication [Workers' Compensation in California: A Guidebook for Injured Workers](#) has information on temporary and permanent disability benefits and the claims process.

Are Social Security Disability Benefits Taxable?



Some beneficiaries receiving Social Security Disability (SSDI) benefits must pay federal taxes on monies received.

Generally, up to 50% of your SSDI benefits may be taxable, although up to 85% of your benefits may be taxable under certain circumstances.

To determine the taxable amount of your benefits, add 50% of your SSDI benefits to all other income, including tax-exempt interest. Any part of this total that is in excess above “base amounts” based on your federal tax filing status is taxable.

Base amounts for determining the taxability of SSDI benefits are:

- \$25,000 if you file as single, head of household, or as a qualifying widow(er),
- \$25,000 if you are married filing separately and lived apart from your spouse for the entire tax year,
- \$32,000 if you are married filing jointly, and
- \$-0- if you are married filing separately and live with your spouse at any time during the tax year.

Social Security Disability or Pension benefits are not taxable in the [state of California](#).

For more guidance, visit the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [Help page on Regular & Disability Benefits](#) and their [Publication 915: Social Security and Equivalent Railroad Retirement Benefits](#).

The Social Security Administration (SSA) offers a helpful brochure online on [What You Need To Know When You Get Social Security Disability Benefits](#) that explains everything about SSDI benefits, including taxability.

Note: if you are eligible for [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) payments](#), these are ***not taxable***.

If you or a loved one has been denied Workers' Compensation benefits after being injured on the job, it's important to get an attorney experienced in these types of cases involved immediately.

Call **800-438-7734** for your initial free consultation, either in our office or in the comfort of your own home. The Kenton Koszdin Law Office, [Workers Compensation attorney in Van Nuys](#), can help you navigate the [Workers Compensation application process](#) for the best possible outcome for you and

your family.

Recipe of the Month: Squash and Orzo Salad



Here's a great recipe for a summer salad to share with family and friends.

Ingredients

- Zucchini, chopped
- Yellow squash, chopped
- Scallions
- Olive oil
- ½ pound orzo, cooked and drained
- Parsley
- Dill
- Goat cheese
- Salt and pepper
- Fresh lemon juice

Directions:

Sauté zucchini, yellow squash and scallions in olive oil until tender. Toss with cooked orzo, parsley, dill, goat cheese, salt and pepper. Add fresh lemon

juice to taste.

What's Happening in Southern California

May 30 – June 1, 2014

Comedy Ninja Film & Screenplay Festival
Japanese American National Museum,
Los Angeles

June 1, 2014

Rock 'N' Roll Marathon
San Diego Convention Center, San
Diego

June 1 – 3, 2014

LCAD Master of Fine Art Exhibition II
Arena I Gallery, Santa Monica

June 1 – 30, 2014

Long Beach Sea Festival
Long Beach Coast

June 4, 2014

“Thais” – Opera
Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Los Angeles

June 6 – 8, 2014

Ink–N–Iron Festival
Queen Mary, Long Beach

June 7, 2014

James Taylor – Concert

June 14, 2014

The Huntington Beach Pier Swim
Huntington Beach

June 14, 2014

Drink: Eat: Play, Wine Festival
Santa Monica Pier

June 21, 2014

When Harry Met Sally movie
event
Santa Monica High School, Santa
Monica

June 22, 2014

The 14th Annual SOULstice
Benefit
Main Street, Santa Monica

June 22, 2014

Janelle Monae – Concert
Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles

June 24, 2014

Steve Winwood – Concert
Pantages Theatre, Los Angeles

June 27, 2014

Gem Fair

Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles

Scottish Rite Center, San Diego

June 7, 2014

Santa Monica Pier Paddleboard Race &
Ocean Festival
Santa Monica Pier

June 28, 2014

Mariachi USA Festival
Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles

June 7 – July 7, 2014

The San Diego Country Fair
Del Mar Fairgrounds, San Diego

June 28 – 29, 2014

Pirates Invasion of the Belmont
Pier
Belmont Pier, Long Beach

June 12 – 19, 2014

Hollywood Fringe Fest
Various locations throughout Los
Angeles

June 29, 2014

2014 BET Experience – Concert
Staples Center, Los Angeles



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