

A. OUTLINE OF BENEFITS

O.C.G.A. §34-9-265: If an EMPLOYEE IS INJURED AT WORK AND DIES AS A RESULT, his or her DEPENDENTS receive:

- Medical expenses for the deceased's last injury.
- Up to \$7,500 for funeral expenses.
- 2/3 of the deceased's average weekly wage with a maximum of \$400 per week for accidents on or after July 1, 2001, and a maximum of \$425 per week for accidents on or after July 1, 2003.
- A minimum of \$42.50 per week, or the actual weekly wage if less than \$42.50 per week.

If the surviving spouse is or becomes the SOLE DEPENDENT within the first year following the death of the employee, the amount of weekly benefits the spouse alone will be entitled to is limited to \$125,000.

Compensation provided by this code section is PAYABLE ONLY TO DEPENDENTS and ONLY DURING DEPENDENCY.

If there is MORE THAN ONE DEPENDENT, weekly benefits will be APPORTIONED AMONG THE DEPENDENTS.

DEFINITION OF DEPENDENT

O.C.G.A. §34-9-13: The following are some of the persons who may receive benefits:

A SURVIVING SPOUSE who had not voluntarily abandoned his/her spouse at the time of the accident resulting in death. Dependency shall terminate upon remarriage or cohabitation in a meretricious relationship.

UNMARRIED CHILDREN (including stepchildren, adopted children, and posthumous children) under 18 years of age (under 22 if a full-time student in a post-secondary institution of higher learning) or incapable of self-support.

PARTIAL DEPENDENTS - Persons partially dependent are eligible only if there are no total dependents.

NO DEPENDENT DEATH CASES

Rule 265: The insurer or self-insurer in no-dependency death cases, shall pay to the State Board of Workers' Compensation the amount set forth in Code Section 34-9-265(b).

B. RIGHT TO HEARING

If your benefits as a dependent have been suspended and you believe that benefits were suspended incorrectly, you should request a hearing by sending Form WC-14 to the State Board of Workers' Compensation at the address below. If you need a Form WC-14, write to the address below and ask for one to be mailed to you, or call 1-800-533-0682 (in Atlanta, (404) 656-3870) for other claim assistance.

**STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION
270 PEACHTREE STREET, N.W.,
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-1299
<http://www.ganet.org/sbwc>**

Willfully making a false statement for the purpose of obtaining or denying benefits is a crime subject to penalties of up to \$10,000.00 per violation (O.C.G.A. §34-9-18 and §34-9-19).