

apply the same to the use of the several beneficiaries thereof according to their respective claims upon the decedent for support, in compliance with the findings and direction of the Commission.

(9) (a) When as the result of an injury, an employee is disabled from performing work for which he was previously qualified, he shall be entitled to vocational rehabilitation as reasonably necessary to restore him to suitable employment. The employer and insurer shall pay the expenses of the vocational rehabilitation. The Commission shall refer the employee to an appropriate rehabilitation evaluation agency for evaluation of the practicability of, need for, and type of training necessary and appropriate to render the employee fit for a remunerative occupation. Vocational rehabilitation training shall not extend for a period of more than twenty-four (24) months.

(b) The Commission, upon receiving a report from the rehabilitation evaluation agency, shall promptly notify all parties of the contents of the report. Any party in interest may within ten (10) days from the date of issuance of the report, request a hearing to controvert the report. At the hearing, the parties may present additional evidence as necessary. Following the hearing, the Commission shall make a decision accepting or rejecting in whole or in part the vocational rehabilitation agency report and issue an appropriate order regarding vocational rehabilitation of the employee.

(c) During the period an employee is undergoing vocational rehabilitation training, he shall be entitled to compensation as if he were temporarily totally disabled.

(d) Any employee undergoing vocational rehabilitation training in the course of which he is required to live at a location other than his home, shall also be entitled to receive in addition to the temporary total compensation provided for herein, sufficient funds to adequately maintain himself during the period of vocational rehabilitation training, but in no case to exceed forty dollars per week. The maintenance so provided shall be at the expense of the employer and insurer.

(e) Transportation costs to and from the place of training are not reimbursable to a claimant residing at home during vocational rehabilitation training, except that the Commission may allow reasonable transportation costs in unusual cases.

(f) If an employee refuses to accept vocational rehabilitation training, pursuant to an order of the Commission, and the Commission determines the refusal to be unreasonable, all payments of compensation for temporary total disability shall be forfeited during the period of refusal.