

provide an alternative method for an insurer or self-insurer to make a lump-sum payment in certain cases. It does not provide an alternative, however, since it requires the same approval of the Commission that § 9-729 of this subtitle requires. Consequently, insurers and self-insurers make requests to make lump-sum payments under § 9-729 of this subtitle rather than under this section. The General Assembly may wish to consider modifying or repealing this section.

Defined terms: "Commission" § 9-101

"Compensation" § 9-101

9-731. FEES FOR LEGAL SERVICES, FUNERAL EXPENSES, AND MEDICAL SERVICES, SUPPLIES, OR TREATMENT.

(A) IN GENERAL.

(1) UNLESS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, A PERSON MAY NOT CHARGE OR COLLECT A FEE FOR:

(I) LEGAL SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH A CLAIM UNDER THIS TITLE;

(II) MEDICAL SERVICES, SUPPLIES, OR TREATMENT PROVIDED UNDER SUBTITLE 6, PART IX OF THIS TITLE; OR

(III) FUNERAL EXPENSES UNDER SUBTITLE 6, PART XIII OF THIS TITLE.

(2) WHEN THE COMMISSION APPROVES A FEE, THE FEE IS A LIEN ON THE COMPENSATION AWARDED.

(3) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A FEE SHALL BE PAID FROM AN AWARD OF COMPENSATION ONLY IN THE MANNER SET BY THE COMMISSION.

(B) LUMP-SUM PAYMENT.

(1) THE COMMISSION MAY ORDER THAT A FEE PAYABLE FROM COMPENSATION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION BE PAID IN A LUMP SUM.

(2) IF THE COMMISSION GRANTS A LUMP-SUM PAYMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL:

(I) REDUCE THE WEEKLY RATE OF COMPENSATION UNTIL THE AMOUNT OF THE LUMP SUM WOULD HAVE BEEN PAID IF IT HAD BEEN PAID IN WEEKLY PAYMENTS; AND

(II) STATE IN THE AWARD THE DOLLAR AMOUNT AND THE NUMBER OF WEEKS THAT THE REDUCED RATE SHALL BE PAID BY:

1. THE EMPLOYER OR ITS INSURER; OR