

Permanent Partial Disability

What is Permanent Partial Disability (PPD)?

Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) is an award for a specific body part—a sprained ankle, a broken wrist—anything that has been hurt in a workplace injury. It is not a settlement, but rather a cash payout for a specific body part that has been set by the State of Washington for any kind of workplace injury.

The Importance of an Appropriate Rating

It's important to consider Permanent Partial Disability when thinking about the rating. A rating of your injury is set by a doctor and determines the amount of your payout. A rating can often be too low or too high. What's most important is to make sure your rating is appropriate.

Don't Wait to See an Attorney

The only way to make sure your rating is appropriate is to talk to an attorney. Timing is critical. If your claim is ready to close, that means you are going to receive a PPD award. But it's important to talk to an attorney BEFORE you receive the award, because if the award is too low, and you accept it or miss the appeal deadline, you will lose your entitlement to a larger award. An L&I attorney can advise you to accept the award or appeal it for a higher amount. Any lawyer from our team would be pleased to advise you on this important workers' comp issue.

L&I Disability Benefits Schedule

The PPD award is based on a disability benefits schedule set by the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I). Either your doctor or a doctor chosen by the State of Washington will provide you with a rating examination and the State will pay you an award based upon that schedule of benefits. It's important to get the highest rating possible because that directly correlates to the amount of money you receive at the closure of your claim.

Benefits of Attorney Work Product Privilege

Only an attorney can hire a doctor to obtain your rating. An attorney is protected by Attorney Work Product Privilege and can hire a doctor for you. If the report is positive, the attorney can use that in court to get you a higher award. However, if the result is not positive, the attorney does not have to use that report in court. It's important to know you cannot hire a doctor on your own. If an individual tries to obtain their own rating, the doctor may refuse to do it because he or she may be concerned that the injured worker is paying them to obtain a higher rating.

We've Been There—Count on Emery Reddy for the highest Award possible

Injured workers cannot be expected to know how the system works and can easily lose out on the award they deserve simply by not knowing the steps to take and in what order. That's why it's important to contact an attorney right away. Emery Reddy can help you using our qualified team of expert attorneys to secure the highest rating possible so you know, when your claim closes, you're going to get the amount you're entitled to. Give Emery Reddy a call today: **(206) 442-9106**.