

● WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW

STATUTORY CITATION: Iowa Code §§ 85.1 – 85.72

GENERAL SUMMARY: The Iowa workers' compensation law requires every employer in the state not specifically exempted to pay weekly cash benefits, medical and rehabilitation expenses, and burial costs for any and all personal injuries sustained by an employee arising out of and in the course of the employment. Employers who secure workers' compensation insurance or equivalent coverage are generally relieved of any liability for damages in the event of an employee's injury or death on the job, and the employee or the employee's beneficiaries are entitled to compensation without regard to the question of negligence and normally without the need for litigation.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE: Farm operators and other agricultural establishments that paid at least \$2,500 in cash wages the previous year are liable in the current year for payment of workers' compensation benefits with respect to the injury or death of any of their employees. Correspondingly, an agricultural worker who, at the time of a job-related injury, was employed by an agricultural employer whose total cash payroll amounted to \$2,500 or more during the preceding calendar year is entitled to workers' compensation benefits; if the injury results in the worker's death, benefits are usually payable to the worker's surviving dependents.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *Division of Workers' Compensation, Iowa Workforce Development, Des Moines, Iowa 50319 (515-725-4120; toll-free 800-645-4583).* This agency is responsible for general administration of the workers' compensation law, and for resolving disputes between employees, employers and workers' compensation insurance carriers regarding liability for payment of benefits. Any worker injured on the job, or a dependent or representative of the worker, should notify the employer of any accident within 90 days of the date of occurrence. Failure to give notice within the 90-day period will nullify any claim for compensation.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *None.*