



Remote Workers' Compensation

This year, Workers' Compensation has evolved and integrated new laws and rules to adhere to people's needs, specifically remote jobs. Millions of people each year have reported injuries that they sustained as a result of their work. Although many people have started to work remotely this year, there is still a chance of an injury on the job. Therefore, Workers' Compensation has been updated to include injuries that may occur while working remotely. Although often thought to be uncommon, remote-work injuries have drastically increased since the pandemic. The most commonly reported remote-work injuries are slips, falls, pains, strains, etc. In certain cases, individuals who sustained injuries while working remotely were able to receive Workers' Compensation benefits. It is important to be informed on the rights and protections that workers are entitled to, especially as work environments change.



1 Year as O'Connor Law

Practice Areas

- Workers' Compensation
- Social Security Disability
- Personal Injury
- Traffic Violations
- Motorcycle Accidents
- Slip & Fall
- Auto Accidents
- Wills, Estates, & Elder Laws

January 1st, 2021, marked one full year since our name change from Michael J. O'Connor & Associates to O'Connor Law. This change served as a celebration of the addition of Attorney O'Connor's daughter, Mary Kathleen, and son, James, to the firm.

Founded in 1989, O'Connor Law was created on the foundation of helping Pennsylvania's injured workers exercise their rights and obtain the benefits they deserve. For more than 31 years, we have expanded our firm and its practice areas to include Personal Injury, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Social Security Disability and so much more.

While 2020 saw many firsts for our firm, one thing remained the same: our commitment to providing our clients with exceptional legal services. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic ravaging our daily norms, our offices have remained fully-operational. While we did close our physical office doors for a short period of time, our virtual office never wavered. We will continue to conduct business according to the laws and regulations set by the Pennsylvania Government to ensure the safety of all clients, attorneys, and staff. For more information, please visit www.oconnorlaw.com

Attorney Michael J. O'Connor Receives Papal Honors

In February of 2020, Attorney O'Connor had the opportunity to visit Pope Francis at the Vatican. He also was named a Knight to the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvester by Pope Francis which is one of the Catholic Church's highest honors for a layman.



Attorney Kovalcik Named 'Best Law Firm Mentor'

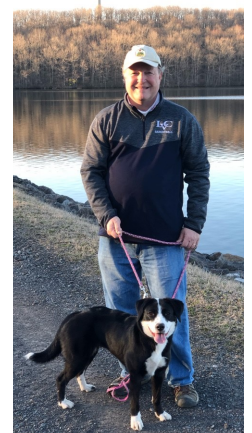
Attorney William A. Kovalcik Jr. has been given the honor of being named a Best Law Firm Mentor by The Legal Intelligencer in 2020. The award, pictured to the left, is a prestigious title bestowed upon few attorneys in the state of Pennsylvania. Recipients must be nominated by a peer and pass extensive evaluations and observations. The Legal Intelligencer prides itself on exceptionally high standards for those named Best Law Firm Mentors for Professional Excellence. Attorney Kovalcik is a Certified Workers' Compensation Specialist Attorney at O'Connor Law.



Attorney O'Connor Adopts Rescue Dog

In March 2020, Attorney Michael J. O'Connor adopted a rescue dog named Molly, a border collie and lab mix who was rescued from a kill shelter in Alabama by the DAWGS Prison Program. As written on their Facebook page, the purpose of the DAWGS Prison Program is to rescue dogs from shelters, place them into a specialized training program, and help them to become adoptable to go to their forever homes. They rescue dogs from crowded shelters in the south, and they also partner with the Villalobos Rescue Center from New Orleans. One local kennel that partners with the DAWGS Prison Program is the Brierwood Kennels from Pottsville, Pennsylvania.

The program also works with inmates at three local prisons. Once dogs are rescued from shelters, they are paired with an inmate who will train and look after them. For 4 to 6 weeks, the dogs will learn basic commands and trainings to help them receive a second chance at life. Once they have successfully completed their training, the dogs are then ready for adoption. The program also writes that the process is a good opportunity for the inmates because they are able to provide the dogs with a positive training experience to help them find their forever homes.



Attorney Michael J. O'Connor with Molly.

Remote Workers' Compensation Cont'd

Workers' Compensation Insurance, commonly referred to as "Workers' Comp", is required by law for the vast majority of employers in Pennsylvania. Workers' Comp enables employees who are injured or suffer from a work-related illness during their time on the clock to potentially receive benefits like financial relief or medical care. This protects both employees and employers in times of crises.

2020 saw a wealth of crises as the world tried to move quickly and efficiently to combat the devastating impacts of COVID-19. For many businesses, including O'Connor Law, this meant re-assessing how business is conducted. Across our country, and our state, a mass exodus of employees occurred. These employees moved from their traditional office space or work setting into a remote or at-home setting to conduct their every-day-business. The change meant that millions of employees would now call their workspace "home".



Work injuries and illnesses are not commonly associated with remote-work, and for good reason. It's not as common to have detrimental accidents occur within the confines of your home, however, the massive remote-work movement seemed to correlate with a spike in reported work injuries by remote-workers. Typically these injuries are slips or falls, strains, and other bodily aggravations. It is important to note that in order for your injury to be considered for Workers' Compensation benefits, it must have occurred while participating in a work-related activity. For instance, if you trip over your computer cord while walking to your printer to obtain printed documents for work, that could be an eligible work injury. However, if you fell chasing your toddler, that could not be eligible, since it isn't within the scope of your job duties. It's always important to contact an attorney with any inquiries into a work injury.



The best way to handle the risk of a work-injury is by doing your best to prevent one! Some tips for formulating a productive and safe remote-work-environment are:

- Define a quiet, spacious, and remote work area within your home
- Make a distinguished effort to organize and maintain your work space to limit potential accidents
- Speak with your employer to clearly define working hours and tasks to ensure that you are emphasizing your work-duties while on the clock
- Develop a safe and efficient routine that works for you



Recipe Corner

Patti's Recipe for Slow-Cooker Cheeseburger Soup

Ingredients

- 2 pounds of ground beef
- 4 cups of chopped onions (3 to 4 medium)
- 2 cans (28 ounces each) of organic fire roasted diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1/2 cup of steak sauce
- 16 ounces of American cheese cut into cubes
- 1 bag (22 ounces) of frozen waffle fries
- 2 cups of shredded lettuce

Directions

Spray a 5 to 6 quart slow cooker with cooking spray. Then, in a 12 inch nonstick skillet, cook beef on medium to high heat. Stir beef frequently until it is brown and then drain it. In the slow cooker, mix in beef, onions, tomatoes, and steak sauce. Cover it and cook on a low heat setting for 8 hours, or on a high heat setting for 4 hours.

Then, stir in cheese and set slow cooker to warm heat setting. Stir occasionally while the fries cook as directed on package.

Serve soup topped with lettuce and waffle fries.



O'CONNOR LAW

P.O. Box 201
608 West Oak Street
Frackville, PA 17931

Phone

570-874-3300

Toll Free

800-518-4529

Fax

570-874-4822

Español

1-888-882-4444

Allentown
1275 Glenlivet Dr #100
Allentown, PA 18106

Bala Cynwyd
2 Bala Plaza #300
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Bloomsburg
24 W Main St
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Chambersburg
550 Cleveland Ave
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Frackville*
608 W Oak St
Frackville, PA 17931

Harrisburg
330 E Park Dr
Harrisburg, PA 17111

Hazleton
1201 N Church St #220
Hazleton, PA 18202

Lancaster
1853 William Penn Way
Lancaster, PA 17601

Lock Haven
333 N Vesper St
Lock Haven, PA 17745

Marlton, NJ
10000 Lincoln Dr E #201
Marlton, NJ 08053

Pittsburgh
301 Grant St #4300
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Reading
606 N 5th St #4
Reading, PA 19601

Scranton
116 N Washington Ave
Scranton, PA 18503

State College
119 S Burrowes St
State College, PA 16801

Stroudsburg
731 Sarah St
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Sunbury
106 Market St
Sunbury, PA 17801

Wilkes-Barre/Kingston
26 Pierce St
Kingston, PA 18704

Williamsport
460 Market St #205
Williamsport, PA 17701

Our Office Locations



*Our principal office.



800—518—4529

Contact Us
Today!

oconnorlaw.com

