



PREPARING TO MEET WITH YOUR WORKERS' COMP LAWYER

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ABOUT CAROLE HAYES, PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEY

[Carole Hayes](#) is concerned about QUALITY, not QUANTITY. She provides experienced and aggressive legal representation for people who have been injured.

While Carole began her legal career in 1990, she established Hayes Law Firm in 1993 as a practice that represents people from South Carolina who have been wrongfully injured or killed because of someone else's negligence or carelessness. Hayes Law Firm is committed to getting their clients the compensation that they deserve for their injuries and/or losses.

Legal Notice: Hayes Lawyers of the Upstate, LLC, is a partnership created in 2018 and is owned by both Carole J. Hayes d/b/a Hayes Law Firm and Linda C. Hayes d/b/a Law Offices of Linda C. Hayes. This LLC was created solely for advertising purposes.



THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

The lawyer you hire for your workers' compensation case will make a big difference in getting you the benefits you deserve.

Once you've gone through the process of finding and researching workers' comp attorneys, the next step will be to set up meetings with the lawyers you're considering. Most workers' comp lawyers, such as myself, Carole Hayes, do not charge for initial consultations, which may happen over the phone or at the lawyer's office.

Either way, it's important to be prepared, so that you can get the most out of the meetings.



LEARN WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR CONSULTATION WITH A WORKERS' COMP ATTORNEY AND WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS TO ASK.

Carole Hayes with the Hayes Law Firm has been practicing for almost 30 years and is an aggressive, seasoned attorney in the area of workers' compensation.

"I have never worked for an insurance company and only take cases on behalf of the injured people in South Carolina. I would be honored to review your case with you so that you can make an informed decision regarding whether you need my representation and protection."



GATHER INFORMATION

You should prepare a brief summary of what has happened in your case thus far. Lawyers like to go through events chronologically, so it will help to create a short timeline of the events, including:

- ✓ WHEN YOU WERE HIRED
- ✓ WHERE AND WHEN THE INJURY OCCURRED
- ✓ HOW, WHO AND WHEN YOU NOTIFIED YOUR EMPLOYER ABOUT THE INJURY
- ✓ WHEN AND WHERE YOU FIRST SOUGHT MEDICAL TREATMENT
- ✓ A BRIEF SUMMARY OF YOUR MEDICAL TREATMENT TO DATE

FIND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS & INFORMATION

You should also bring any relevant information you may have such as:

- ✓ Any written reports of your accident or injury
- ✓ A list of any witnesses who saw your accident, with contact information
- ✓ Your medical records
- ✓ Information on any previous injuries you've had to the same part of your body
- ✓ A list of your medical providers and their contact information
- ✓ Correspondence from your employer or its insurance company about your claim; e.g., the claim number
- ✓ Contact information for your employer and its insurance company





PREPARE

Initial consultations are also an opportunity for you to evaluate whether you need to hire a lawyer.

You'll want to get a feel for whether the attorneys you're meeting have the time and experience to handle your case, and whether they're the best fit for you. I have been handling workers compensation cases for 29 years.

My experience most certainly will be of benefit in the proper and aggressive handling of your case. Prepare a list of questions that you would like to ask, including:

Q

How much of your practice is devoted to workers' comp cases, and how much experience do you have?

A

You are looking for a seasoned attorney in workers' comp, so the lawyer should devote a significant portion of the practice to representing injured workers (rather than insurance companies). **"At the Hayes Law Firm, we have never represented an insurance company; we only represent the injured workers of South Carolina. After 30 years of experience, I am not only seasoned; moreover, I have the innate compassion it takes to be aggressive and win."**

Q

Who will be doing the bulk of the work?

A

It's common for lawyers to delegate appropriate tasks to paralegals or even legal assistants within the firm. However, your lawyer should be overseeing everything in your case, doing the high-level work, and keeping you informed on a regular basis. **"I am hands on with each and every case in my office. Nothing happens without my direction or authorization."**

Q

What are the strengths and weaknesses of my case?

A

No attorney can guarantee that you'll receive a certain amount of benefits, so you should be concerned if a lawyer makes big promises about outcomes. **"An experienced workers' comp lawyer, such as myself, will be able to give you a general assessment of your case. You want a confident and aggressive but realistic attorney."**

Q

How often will you or someone from your office communicate with me?

A

Your attorney should keep you informed about any developments in your case. Workers' comp lawyers are often busy juggling many cases at the same time.. But you should expect that your lawyer will respond to your calls and emails within a reasonable amount of time. Ask if someone from the office, like a paralegal or assistant, will give you updates and answer basic questions about the status of your case. **"When you call the Hayes Law Firm, your call will be returned in a timely fashion. Period."**

Q

What are your fees?

A

Workers' comp attorneys usually work on a contingency fee basis, which means that they take a certain percentage of your settlement or award. In South Carolina, the standard charge is 33.33% and the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Act requires that the Commission approve all attorney fees and costs. Make sure the lawyer fully explains the fees and the cap in your state.

Q

How will you handle costs?

A

There are other costs involved in pursuing workers' comp cases; such as medical records and witness fees. **"At the Hayes Law Firm we will put these costs up for the client and deduct the same exact amount at the time the case gets resolved. If we do not secure compensation for you, there is no fee and we do not collect the costs."** Ask if the lawyer will advance these expenses and deduct them from your settlement or award, and whether you will have to reimburse the lawyer if you lose your case.

FREE ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS

Make sure you take notes during your meeting and notice whether the lawyer listens well and explains things in a way that's both understandable and thorough.

My goal at the Hayes Law Firm is to ensure that when you leave my office, you will have a basic understanding regarding how the South Carolina Workers' Compensation Act works and what benefits you may be entitled to under the Act.

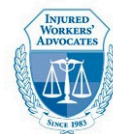
One of the things that sets the Hayes Law Firm apart from others, is that I do not handle cases in a "vacuum." In other words, I assess what needs to be done under the Act and I also consider peripheral issues such as whether you have Short Term Disability Benefits? Long Term Disability Benefits? or any other policies that I need to look into for you.

I assess the claim based upon the client and what the client's specific needs are and truly understand that every single case is different beginning with the client.

I would welcome you to come in and have a free consultation with me personally so that you may make an educated decision regarding whether you need the representation of an attorney.

– Carole Hayes, Attorney





GET IN TOUCH

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