

Lifetime Income Benefits (LIBs)

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Information for Injured Workers from the Division of Workers' Compensation

Income benefits replace a portion of wages you lose because of a work-related injury or illness. There are four types of income benefits:

- temporary income benefits (TIBs);
- impairment income benefits (IIBs);
- supplemental income benefits (SIBs); and
- lifetime income benefits (LIBs).

Income benefits may not exceed the maximum weekly amount set by state law. Temporary income benefits, impairment income benefits, and lifetime income benefits are also subject to a minimum amount set by state law. The maximum and minimum benefit amounts are based on the state average weekly wage.



You must report any income (other than workers' compensation benefits you may be receiving) to the Division and the insurance carrier so an adjustment can be made to your income benefit payments. You may be fined and/or charged with fraud if you receive temporary income benefits and supplemental income benefits while also receiving wages from an employer without informing the Division and the insurance carrier.

Income benefits are no longer payable following the death of an injured worker. The injured worker's beneficiaries may be eligible to apply and receive death benefits if the injured worker's death was due to the work-related injury or illness.

Lifetime Income Benefits (LIBs)

[Sections 408.161 – 408.162, Rules 131.1 – 131.4]

Certain work-related injuries may result in a condition for which you are entitled to income benefits for your lifetime.

Lifetime Income Benefits are paid if you incur:

- total and permanent loss of sight in both eyes;
- loss of both feet at or above the ankle;
- loss of both hands at or above the wrist;
- loss of one foot at or above the ankle and the loss of one hand, at or above the wrist;

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- an injury to the spine that results in permanent and complete paralysis of both arms, both legs, or one arm and one leg;
- a physically traumatic injury to the brain resulting in incurable insanity or imbecility; or
- third degree burns that cover at least 40 percent of the body and require grafting, or third degree burns covering the majority of either both hands or one hand and the face.

Amount of Lifetime Income Benefits

Lifetime income benefits equal 75 percent of your average weekly wage, with a 3 percent increase each year.

For example, if your average weekly wage is \$500, your lifetime income benefits would be \$375 a week:

75 percent of \$500 (.75 x 500) equals \$375

There is a maximum and minimum rate for LIBs. For example, if your average weekly wage is \$1000, your lifetime income benefits would not be \$750 a week because the maximum rate is \$539. The maximum and minimum rate changes each year based on the state average weekly wage.

When Lifetime Income Benefits Begin

Lifetime income benefits are paid from the time it is determined that your injury has resulted in a condition that meets one of the qualifying conditions for lifetime income benefits. If there is a dispute over eligibility for lifetime income benefits, the issue is addressed through the dispute resolution process.

When Lifetime Income Benefits End

You will receive Lifetime Income Benefits for the rest of your life.

For further assistance, call

1-800-252-7031

or visit

www.tdi.state.tx.us