

## **DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREHEARING AND SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE UNIT**

Prehearing and settlement conferences are conducted by an administrative law judge (ALJ) employed by the Division of Workers' Compensation. The Prehearing Conferences are held to resolve procedural disputes and to resolve or narrow legal issues by agreement or by an order. Settlement Conferences may provide the parties the opportunity to hear a judge's confidential perspective regarding the strengths and weaknesses of their factual and legal arguments and chances of prevailing at hearing.

- ❖ Prehearing Conferences are always scheduled whenever a party requests one.
- ❖ Prehearing Conferences are scheduled per Workers' Compensation Rules of Procedure, Rule 9-2(c).
- ❖ An ALJ or the Director can order parties to attend a Prehearing Conference.
- ❖ Both Prehearing & Settlement Conferences may be held by telephone.
- ❖ Prehearing Conferences can be scheduled regarding written or oral motions.
- ❖ Prehearing judges can make evidentiary rulings on motions in limine.
- ❖ Settlement Conferences are voluntary and may be scheduled only when all parties agree to participate.
- ❖ Settlement Conferences are confidential and information discussed in a settlement conference may not be used as evidence in a hearing.
- ❖ Pro Se Settlement Approvals are conducted by an ALJ.

To request more information or schedule a Prehearing or Settlement Conference call:

Setting Line (for dates & scheduling)	(303)866-5508
Judy Nichols (unit information & information on motions or orders)	(303)866-5527
Prehearing & Settlement Unit Facsimile	(303)866-5588
DOWC Customer Service	(303)318-8700