

If You Think It Costs You Money Upfront, Think Again

Hiring a lawyer can be expensive, but if you're injured at work there's something you should know: Hiring an attorney costs you nothing upfront, and an attorney can *only* collect if you win your case.

Surprised?

<Minnesota Statute 176.081 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=176.081>)> deals primarily with attorney's fees in workers' compensation cases, and is the foundation for further statutory provisions. This statute starts with subdivision one, which is an outline of an attorneys limitation of fees, and is very important when discussing how much a workers' compensation case may cost you.

As it points out, while an attorney may be paid, it is a *contingent* fee, in this case contingent on recovery, which means it's a win-win. Attorney's fees are based on a straight twenty-percent of disputed benefits which as of 2013, equates to up to one-hundred and thirty-thousand dollars.

It is also important to note that "all fees for legal services related to the same injury are cumulative and may not exceed \$26,000". While it maybe possible for an attorney to receive more, it is only possible if the court specifies such, and this happens very rarely and usually in unique situations.

Subdivision nine outlines the process for a retainer agreement, but the part of it that is important for our conversation is the "Notice of Maximum Fee" which is twenty-five percent of the first four-thousand dollars of compensation awarded, and twenty-percent of the next sixty-thousand awarded.

This section **MUST** be included in your retainer agreement and what it means is that the employee may not be subject to more than a cumulative maximum fee of twenty-six-thousand dollars.

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