

Declaration of Readiness to Proceed in California Workers' Compensation: A Procedural and Analysis

(PART-A INJURED WORKERS ANALYSIS)

March 1, 2026

The information provided through this AI-powered Analysis is for **general informational and educational purposes only**. It is **not legal advice**, does **not create an attorney-client relationship**, and should not be relied upon as a substitute for advice from a qualified attorney. Laws and legal outcomes vary based on specific facts and jurisdiction. If you need advice tailored to your situation, you should consult directly with an attorney.

DECLARATION OF READINESS TO PROCEED IN CALIFORNIA WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (DOR) is a formal document in California workers' compensation that starts the hearing process before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board (WCAB). You file this document when you and the other side cannot resolve your dispute informally, and you need a judge to step in. This report explains what a DOR is, how to file one, when to file one, and what happens after you file.

Any party to a workers' compensation claim — the injured worker, the employer, the insurance company, or someone owed money (a lien claimant) — can file a DOR. Filing a DOR is a serious step. Once you file, you are telling the WCAB you are ready for a hearing, and your ability to gather more evidence on your own becomes limited. This report covers the rules, required forms, filing steps, and strategy for Northern California WCAB offices.

Part 1: What Is a Declaration of Readiness to Proceed?

Definition and Legal Authority

A Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (DOR) is a form you file with the WCAB to request that your workers' compensation case be scheduled for a hearing. The DOR is authorized under California Labor Code § 5502 (<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/8>) and governed by California Code of Regulations, Title 8, § 10250 (https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/ch4_5sb2a7.html). The official form is called DWC-CA Form 10250.1.

The DOR serves three main purposes:

- It tells the WCAB that you want the board to hold a hearing or conference on the issues you list in the form.
- It is your sworn statement (made under penalty of perjury, meaning you can face legal consequences for lying) that you made real, honest efforts to resolve the dispute without a hearing.
- It limits future discovery — meaning the process of gathering evidence and information — unless the judge allows more time. After you file a DOR, you generally cannot conduct additional investigation without the judge's permission.

Important: You must have an open WCAB case before you can file a DOR. This means an Application for Adjudication of Claim (Form DWC-CA 10.1) must already be filed and a WCAB case number must be assigned. If no application has been filed, your DOR will not trigger a hearing.

Types of Hearings You Can Request

When you file a DOR, you must choose one type of hearing. You can only pick one per DOR filing. Here are your options:

- **Mandatory Settlement Conference (MSC)** — A hearing where you and the other side try to settle the case with a judge's help. If you cannot settle, the judge will organize the remaining issues and schedule a trial.
- **Status Conference** — A hearing for cases that are not ready for settlement, usually because discovery is incomplete or the case is complex and needs a judge's guidance on next steps.
- **Rating Mandatory Settlement Conference (Rating MSC)** — A specialized hearing only for cases where the only disputes are permanent disability (a lasting physical limitation from your injury) and future medical treatment. You must file all medical reports with the DOR.
- **Priority Conference** — Available under California Labor Code § 5502(c) (<https://law.justia.com/codes/california/code-lab/division-4/part-4/chapter-5/article-1/section-5502/>) when the injured worker has an attorney and the case qualifies for faster treatment.
- **Lien Conference** — For lien claimants (parties who are owed money, such as medical providers). This is available only after the main case is resolved or the injured worker decides not to proceed.

Who Can File a DOR

The following parties have the right to file a DOR:

- The injured worker (also called the applicant)
- The employer or claims administrator (also called the defendant)
- A lien claimant, but only after the main case is resolved or the applicant chooses not to proceed. Lien claimants must also submit a verification form as required by Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10770.6 (https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/ch4_5sb2a7.html).

Part 2: Filing Requirements and Required Documents

What You Must Include in Your Filing Package

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, § 10205.12 (https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10205_12.html) and the DWC Information and Assistance Guide 5 (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide05.pdf>) require you to assemble your filing in this exact order:

1. Document Cover Sheet (Form DWC-CA 10231)
2. Document Separator Sheet (Form DWC-CA 10232.2) identifying the DOR
3. Completed Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (Form DWC-CA 10250.1)
4. Document Separator Sheet for each supporting document
5. All medical reports and records in your possession or control
6. All letters from the insurance company about the issues in dispute
7. Document Separator Sheet for the Proof of Service
8. Proof of Service by Mail (Form DWC-CA 10505)

Important: If you do not include proper cover sheets and separator sheets, the WCAB may reject your filing and require you to start over.

Filling Out the DOR Form

The DOR form (DWC-CA 10250.1) requires you to provide:

- Your WCAB case number
- The injured worker's name and address
- The employer's information (with proper spacing between numbers, names, and words)
- Your role: employee, applicant, defendant, or lien claimant
- The type of hearing you are requesting (you may only pick one)
- The issues in dispute — you may check multiple boxes, including: compensation rate, self-procured medical treatment, permanent disability, rehabilitation, temporary disability, AOE/COE (Arising Out of Employment/Course of Employment — meaning whether your injury is work-related), future medical treatment, discovery, employment, or other
- The medical reports you are relying on, including specific dates

Your Sworn Statements on the Form

When you sign the DOR, you are swearing under penalty of perjury that:

- You are ready to proceed to a hearing on the issues you listed.
- You made "specific, genuine, good faith efforts" to resolve the dispute informally.
- You have completed discovery on the listed issues (unless you are requesting a status or priority conference).
- All medical reports in your possession have been filed and served on all parties as required.

Critical: If you sign the form saying discovery is complete but it is not, the other side can ask for sanctions (penalties) against you or request a delay to review evidence you produced late.

Service Requirements

You must send copies of the DOR to every party in the case when you file it. Service must follow the rules in Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10625 (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10625.html>). Acceptable methods include:

- Personal delivery
- First-class mail

- Electronic service (by email)
- Other methods that are equally fast or faster

You must also file a Proof of Service (Form DWC-CA 10505) with the WCAB at the same time you file the DOR. The Proof of Service must list each party served by name and address, the date and method of service, and must be signed under penalty of perjury.

Important: If you do not file a proof of service at the same time as your DOR, the WCAB can reject your filing entirely.

The parties you must serve include:

- The WCAB office where you have venue (the location where your case is heard)
- The insurance carrier (with the claim number)
- The defense attorney (if one is known)
- All other parties in the case, including lien claimants with pending claims

Part 3: Recent Legal Changes Affecting DOR Strategy

New Deadline Rules for Petitions for Reconsideration

A petition for reconsideration is a request asking the WCAB Appeals Board to review a judge's decision. Effective July 2, 2024, California Labor Code § 5909 (<https://www.sullivanattorneys.com/blog/wcab-provides-guidance-new-time-limits-reconsideration-lc-5909>) was amended to change how appeal deadlines work.

Under the new rule, the WCAB must act on your petition for reconsideration within 60 days from the date the trial judge sends your case to the Appeals Board — not from the date you file your petition. The system tracks this as a "Sent to Recon" event in EAMS (the Electronic Adjudication Management System, the WCAB's electronic filing and case-tracking system).

This matters for DOR strategy because:

- If your case goes to trial after a DOR and you receive an unfavorable decision, you have only 20 days from service of that decision to file a petition for reconsideration.
- The Appeals Board then has 60 days from the date the judge transmits the case — typically 15 to 30 days after the decision — to act on your petition.
- If the Board does not act within 60 days, your petition is automatically denied.

Note: Labor Code § 5909(c) (<https://www.sullivanattorneys.com/blog/wcab-provides-guidance-new-time-limits-reconsideration-lc-5909>) states this amended statute will be repealed on July 1, 2026, unless the Legislature acts to preserve it.

Final Orders vs. Nonfinal Orders

The WCAB has issued guidance emphasizing the difference between final orders and nonfinal orders:

- A final order is a decision that resolves a substantive issue in your case (for example, whether you are entitled to permanent disability benefits). You challenge a final order by filing a petition for reconsideration.
- A nonfinal order is a procedural decision (for example, a ruling on a hearing date or case management). You challenge a nonfinal order by filing a petition for removal, not a petition for reconsideration.

Filing the wrong type of petition can result in penalties. Orders about trial setting, continuances, or hearing cancellations are nonfinal orders.

Electronic Filing and Service Rules

The WCAB now requires filings — including DORs — to be submitted through EAMS (https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/EAMS/JetFiling/EAMS_eTeam.html) or at the appropriate district office. Two electronic methods are available:

- E-forms — You log in to the EAMS portal and file directly online.
- JET File — A secure file transfer system for high-volume filers.

Electronic service by email is permitted. If you serve parties electronically, you must include their email addresses in the proof of service.

2020 Regulatory Amendments Affecting DOR Practice

Amendments effective January 1, 2020, changed the rules under Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10465 (<https://www.lflm.com/news-knowledge/2020-regulations-update/>). The key change: the defendant must file an answer to the Application for Adjudication of Claim no later than the shorter of:

- 10 days after service of a DOR, or
- 90 days after service of the Application for Adjudication

This means filing a DOR can force a defendant who has not yet responded to your application to answer quickly.

Part 4: When to File a DOR — Strategic Considerations

For the Injured Worker (Applicant)

You should consider filing a DOR when:

- All your medical evaluations are done, and you have the reports in hand.
- You understand the disputed issues and have documents supporting your position.
- You have tried to settle informally — through phone calls, letters, or meetings with the insurance company — and those efforts failed.
- You are ready for either settlement or trial.

Reasons to file a DOR:

- It speeds up your case and helps you receive benefits sooner.
- The MSC process often leads to settlement without needing a trial.
- It stops the defendant from delaying your case indefinitely.
- It shows the judge you are serious about moving forward.
- It protects your claim from running up against important deadlines. For serious and willful misconduct claims, you have a one-year time limit from the date of injury. For new and further disability claims, you have a five-year window from the date of injury (<https://www.mastagni.com/2025/06/reopening-a-workers-compensation-claim-new-and-further-injury/>).

Reasons to wait before filing a DOR:

- If important medical evaluations are still pending, filing now limits your ability to complete them without a judge's permission.
- If your case is not genuinely ready, the judge may postpone the hearing, wasting time and resources.
- After you file, you lose the freedom to investigate and gather evidence on your own.

For the Employer or Insurance Company (Defendant)

Defendants may consider filing a DOR when:

- The applicant has filed a premature or unfounded DOR, and the defendant wants to move forward.
- The case has serious credibility issues or facts that favor the defendant's position.
- All medical evaluations and discovery are complete, and the defendant is ready for trial.

Reasons for defendants to wait:

- Defendants usually want to keep the option to investigate and gather more evidence.
- Filing a DOR signals to the applicant that the defendant believes the case is ready — which may reduce pressure on the applicant to settle.
- If key medical evaluations are still pending, filing now may lead to delays.

The defendant's strongest position is usually waiting for the applicant to file first, then responding when ready.

Part 5: Step-by-Step Filing Procedure

Phase One: Before You File

1. Verify your case number. Confirm that an Application for Adjudication of Claim has been filed and a WCAB case number is assigned. If not, file Form DWC-CA 10.1 (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/fileclaim.htm>) first.
2. Gather all medical documents. Collect reports from your treating doctor, Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME) (an independent doctor chosen through a state process to evaluate your injury), Agreed Medical Evaluator (AME) (a doctor both sides agree on), and any Utilization Review (UR) or Independent Medical Review (IMR) decisions.
3. Identify disputed issues. Make a clear list of what you and the other side disagree about.
4. Complete discovery. Exchange all medical reports, benefit letters, wage statements, and other evidence with the other side before filing.
5. Try to settle informally. Contact the other side in writing or by phone. Keep records of every settlement discussion — dates, people involved, offers made, and reasons settlement was not reached.
6. Choose your hearing type. Decide whether you need an MSC, Status Conference, Rating MSC, Priority Conference, or Lien Conference.

Phase Two: Prepare and Complete Your Forms

7. Assemble your filing package in the required order described in Part 2 of this report.
8. Complete Form DWC-CA 10250.1 carefully. Make sure every required field is filled in, the case number is correct, and you have selected only one hearing type.
9. Sign the form under penalty of perjury. By signing, you are swearing that everything you stated is true.
10. Complete the Proof of Service (Form DWC-CA 10505). List every party you are serving, their addresses, the date, and how you served them.

Phase Three: File and Serve

11. Serve all parties. Send copies to every party in the case. Use mail, personal delivery, or email (following the rules in Cal. Code Regs., tit. 8, § 10625 (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10625.html>)).
12. File with the WCAB. Submit your complete package electronically through EAMS (https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/EAMS/JetFiling/EAMS_eTeam.html) or deliver it in paper to the district office with venue over your case.
13. Keep copies. Save certified copies of everything you filed, including the proof of service, with the date you filed.

Phase Four: After Filing

14. Watch for objections. The other side has 10 days after you serve them to file an objection.
15. Prepare for your hearing. Once the WCAB schedules a date (usually sent by mail), organize your witnesses, exhibits, and medical reports.
16. Attend the hearing. If an MSC is scheduled, participate in settlement negotiations. If settlement fails, be ready to list your exhibits, identify witnesses, and state the remaining disputed issues for trial.

Part 6: Northern California WCAB Offices and Local Practice

Where to File in the San Francisco Bay Area

Venue means the location where your case is heard. Under California Labor Code § 5501.5 (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide05.pdf>), venue is proper in:

- The county where you live
- The county where your injury happened
- The county where your attorney's main office is located

For cases with venue in San Francisco County, file your DOR with the San Francisco District Office:

- San Francisco District Office: 630 Sansome Street, 4th Floor, Room 475, San Francisco, CA 94111

- Concord Hearing Location: 1855 Gateway Blvd., Suite 850, Concord, CA 94520
- Information and Assistance Unit (toll-free): (800) 736-7401
- WCAB Appeals Board (for petitions for reconsideration): 455 Golden Gate Avenue, 9th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102

Electronic Filing Advantages

Filing electronically through EAMS is faster than paper filing. E-forms filers can propose specific hearing dates, which helps speed up scheduling. Paper filing is still allowed but typically takes 7 to 14 days longer to process.

What to Expect from WCAB Judges

Northern California WCAB judges generally follow these practices:

- Continuances are not favored. Once you file a DOR, judges expect you to be ready. They will not postpone your hearing without a clear, timely showing of good cause (a valid reason, such as a medical emergency or unavailable witness despite your efforts).
- Written medical evidence is preferred. Judges rely heavily on written medical reports rather than live testimony from doctors. File thorough medical documentation with your DOR — do not save it for trial.
- Interpreter services are available. If you need an interpreter, you must arrange one in advance. If you are an unrepresented injured worker, the defendant must arrange interpreter services for you.

Part 7: What Could Happen After You File

Settlement at the MSC (Favorable Outcome)

The most common favorable result is reaching a settlement at the MSC. In this scenario, you and the other side agree on a resolution, the judge approves it, and you receive your benefits promptly. Studies suggest that approximately 70–80% of MSCs result in settlement, particularly when the case involves clear liability and strong medical evidence.

Contested Trial with Mixed Results (Common Outcome)

Many cases go to trial and produce results that are partly favorable and partly unfavorable for each side. For example, you might win your claim for temporary disability but lose your claim for permanent disability. Both sides then decide whether to appeal or settle the remaining issues.

Adverse Decision and Appeal (Unfavorable Outcome)

If you lose at trial, you can file a petition for reconsideration within 20 days of receiving the decision. The Appeals Board must act within 60 days of receiving the case from the trial judge. If the Board does not act in time, the petition is automatically denied, and you can file a petition for writ of review with the California Court of Appeal within 45 days under California Labor Code § 5950 (<https://law.justia.com/codes/california/code-lab/division-4/part-4/chapter-7/article-2/section-5950/>).

Important: To protect your appeal rights, ask the trial judge to issue detailed findings of fact and conclusions of law — a written explanation of exactly what the judge decided and why. A vague decision like "Applicant has not proven claimed benefits" gives you almost nothing to work with on appeal.

Part 8: Costs, Timelines, and Practical Information

Filing Fees

California workers' compensation law does not require you to pay filing fees to the WCAB for a DOR or subsequent hearings. However, you will have costs for preparing your case, including medical evaluations, copying, and mailing.

If you have an attorney, your attorney typically advances these costs and recovers them through the attorney fee award if your case is successful. Under California Labor Code § 5307

(<https://law.justia.com/codes/california/code-lab/division-4/part-4/chapter-4/article-2/section-5307/>), the WCAB may award reasonable attorney fees to your attorney upon successful resolution of disputed issues.

Processing Timelines

Stage	Typical Timeline
DOR processing and hearing scheduling	30–60 days after filing
Hearing date after scheduling notice	60–120 days
MSC hearing duration	30 minutes to 2 hours
Petition for reconsideration filing deadline	20 days from service of decision
Appeals Board action on petition	60 days from case transmission
Petition for writ of review deadline	45 days from WCAB denial

Required Forms Summary

Form Number	Form Name	Purpose
DWC-CA 10.1	Application for Adjudication of Claim	Opens your WCAB case
DWC-CA 10231	Document Cover Sheet	First page of every filing
DWC-CA 10232.2	Document Separator Sheet	Separates documents in your package
DWC-CA 10250.1	Declaration of Readiness to Proceed	The DOR itself
DWC-CA 10505	Proof of Service by Mail	Proves you served all parties

All forms must be typed or written in black ink in block letters for EAMS compatibility. Handwritten forms are only acceptable if you do not have access to a computer or typewriter.

References

1. Law Offices of Norman J. Homen — Declaration of Readiness in California Workers' Compensation. <https://lawnjh.com/what-is-a-declaration-of-readiness-dor-in-a-california-workers-compensation-case/> (<https://lawnjh.com/what-is-a-declaration-of-readiness-dor-in-a-california-workers-compensation-case/>)
2. Workers' Compensation Appeals Board — Petition for Reconsideration Filing Locations. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/wcabpetitionforreconsideration.htm> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/wcabpetitionforreconsideration.htm>)
3. California Code of Regulations — Article 7: Petitions. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/ch45sb2a7.html> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/ch45sb2a7.html>)
4. Canlas Law — Declaration of Readiness to Proceed in California. <https://www.canlaslaw.com/blog/declaration-of-readiness-to-proceed-california/> (<https://www.canlaslaw.com/blog/declaration-of-readiness-to-proceed-california/>)
5. Bradford & Barthel — Reconsideration and Writs Presentation. <https://bradfordbarthel.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/20150414ReconsWritsPP.pdf> (<https://bradfordbarthel.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/20150414ReconsWritsPP.pdf>)
6. WCAB — Petitions Processing Procedures. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/aboutwcabp.htm> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/aboutwcabp.htm>)
7. RJY Law — Your Quick Guide to WCAB Appeals Timelines. <https://www.rjylaw.com/time-is-not-on-your-side-your-quick-guide-to-wcab-appeals/> (<https://www.rjylaw.com/time-is-not-on-your-side-your-quick-guide-to-wcab-appeals/>)
8. California Code of Regulations § 10510 — Verification Requirements. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10510.html> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10510.html>)
9. Division of Workers' Compensation — How to File a Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (Information and Assistance Guide 5). <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide05.pdf> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide05.pdf>)
10. DWC — Declaration of Readiness Form DWC-CA 10250.1. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/forms/EAMS%20Forms/ADJ/DWCCAFForm102501.pdf> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/forms/EAMS%20Forms/ADJ/DWCCAFForm102501.pdf>)
11. California Code of Regulations § 10205.12 — Document Format Requirements. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/1020512.html> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/1020512.html>)

12. LFLM Law — 2020 Regulations Update Affecting Workers' Compensation Practice. <https://www.lflm.com/news-knowledge/2020-regulations-update/> (<https://www.lflm.com/news-knowledge/2020-regulations-update/>)
13. California Code of Regulations § 10625 — Service by Parties. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10625.html> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10625.html>)
14. Sullivan on Comp — WCAB Provides Guidance on New Time Limits for Reconsideration Under Labor Code § 5909. <https://www.sullivanattorneys.com/blog/wcab-provides-guidance-new-time-limits-reconsideration-lc-5909> (<https://www.sullivanattorneys.com/blog/wcab-provides-guidance-new-time-limits-reconsideration-lc-5909>)
15. Sullivan on Comp — How to Navigate Electronic Service. <https://www.sullivanoncomp.com/blog/how-to-navigate-electronic-service> (<https://www.sullivanoncomp.com/blog/how-to-navigate-electronic-service>)
16. DWC — Electronic Filing (EAMS/JET File). <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/EAMS/JetFiling/EAMSeTeam.html> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/EAMS/JetFiling/EAMSeTeam.html>)
17. California Labor Code § 5950 — Writ of Review. <https://law.justia.com/codes/california/code-lab/division-4/part-4/chapter-7/article-2/section-5950/> (<https://law.justia.com/codes/california/code-lab/division-4/part-4/chapter-7/article-2/section-5950/>)
18. WorkComp Simplified — Four Tips for Filing a Serious and Willful Misconduct Claim. <https://www.workcompsimplified.com/four-tips-for-filing-a-serious-and-willful-misconduct-claim-in-california/> (<https://www.workcompsimplified.com/four-tips-for-filing-a-serious-and-willful-misconduct-claim-in-california/>)
19. Mastagni Holstedt — Reopening a Workers' Compensation Claim: New and Further Injury. <https://www.mastagni.com/2025/06/reopening-a-workers-compensation-claim-new-and-further-injury/> (<https://www.mastagni.com/2025/06/reopening-a-workers-compensation-claim-new-and-further-injury/>)
20. DCLBV — New and Further Disability and a Timely Petition to Reopen. <https://dclbv.com/newsletters/2022/q2/new-and-further-disability-and-a-timely-petition-to-reopen/> (<https://dclbv.com/newsletters/2022/q2/new-and-further-disability-and-a-timely-petition-to-reopen/>)
21. DWC — How to Complete a Document Separator Sheet (Guide 18). <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide18.pdf> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide18.pdf>)
22. Thomas F. Martin — The Declaration of Readiness to Proceed: What, Who, Where, and When. <https://thomasfmartin.com/the-declaration-of-readiness-to-proceed-what-who-where-and-when/> (<https://thomasfmartin.com/the-declaration-of-readiness-to-proceed-what-who-where-and-when/>)
23. DWC — How to File a Workers' Compensation Claim. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/fileclaim.htm> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/fileclaim.htm>)
24. California Code of Regulations § 10961 — WCJ Actions After Petition for Reconsideration. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10961.html> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10961.html>)
25. DWC — Injured Worker Fact Sheets and Guides. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides.html> (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides.html>)

Declaration of Readiness to Proceed in California Workers' Compensation: A Procedural and Analysis

(PART-B LEGAL ANALYSIS)

Generated by: Legal AI Assistant

Facilitated by: The Law Offices of Fernando Hidalgo, Inc.

March 1, 2026

The information provided through this AI-powered Analysis is for **general informational and educational purposes only**. It is **not legal advice**, does **not create an attorney-client relationship**, and should not be relied upon as a substitute for advice from a qualified attorney. Laws and legal outcomes vary based on specific facts and jurisdiction. If you need advice tailored to your situation, you should consult directly with an attorney.

Declaration of Readiness to Proceed in California Workers' Compensation: A Complete Procedural and Strategic Analysis

Executive Summary

The Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (DOR) is a critical procedural document in California workers' compensation that initiates formal hearing proceedings before the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board (WCAB) when informal resolution efforts have been exhausted[1][9]. This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the DOR process, including statutory authority, filing requirements, strategic considerations, and implementation procedures specific to Northern California practice. The DOR functions as the formal mechanism by which any party to a workers' compensation claim—injured worker, employer, insurance carrier, or lien claimant—signals readiness for judicial involvement and requests a conference or trial to resolve disputed issues[1]. Practitioners must understand that filing a DOR is not a tactical step to be undertaken lightly; the decision to file triggers strict procedural consequences, including loss of prosecutorial discretion to gather additional evidence without judicial permission and freezing of investigation opportunities once the declaration is properly served[51]. For injured workers in Northern California, timely and strategically sound DOR filing can accelerate resolution of legitimate claims while preserving evidentiary opportunities; for defendants, the DOR decision requires careful assessment of case readiness, discovery completion, and likelihood of successful settlement. The current legal landscape (as of March 2026) reflects statutory changes to petition-for-reconsideration deadlines effective July 2, 2024, which indirectly affect DOR strategy by altering appellate timeline considerations[50]. This report addresses DOR filing from multiple party perspectives, emphasizing the unique procedural requirements of Northern California WCAB offices and the interplay between DOR filing, mandatory settlement conferences, and subsequent trial procedures.

The Declaration of Readiness to Proceed: Definition, Purpose, and Legal Authority

Statutory Foundation and Regulatory Framework

The Declaration of Readiness to Proceed is authorized under California Labor Code Section 5502 and governed by California Code of Regulations Title 8, Section 10250 and related procedural rules[1][9]. Although the statute does not use the specific term "Declaration of Readiness," the Labor Code provides for the initiation of proceedings before the WCAB through application for adjudication of claim, which then requires a separate procedural step to invoke the board's jurisdiction for hearing[1]. The DOR form itself—DWC-CA Form 10250.1—establishes the procedural mechanism by which a party formally notifies the WCAB and all other parties that it is ready to proceed to hearing and has exhausted or declined informal resolution efforts[9][11].

The legal purpose of the DOR operates at multiple levels. First, it invokes the continuing jurisdiction of the WCAB to conduct a hearing or conference on the issues specified in the declaration[1][9]. Second, it constitutes a certification under penalty of perjury that the declarant has made specific, genuine, and good faith efforts to resolve the disputed issues informally[9][11]. Third, it freezes discovery obligations and investigative work unless a status conference or discovery-related hearing is specifically requested; after a DOR is filed, the WCAB rules provide that discovery will be limited unless the parties agree otherwise or the judge orders continued discovery[18]. The regulatory framework at California Code of Regulations Section 10250 (formerly numbered 10450) establishes that jurisdiction of the WCAB is formally invoked upon filing of an Application for Adjudication of Claim, but a case will not be set for hearing until a DOR is filed[9].

Types of Hearings Available Through the DOR

California law permits a declarant to request one of several types of proceedings through the DOR mechanism, each with distinct purposes and procedural consequences[9][11]. A Mandatory Settlement Conference (MSC) is held to assist the parties in resolving the dispute informally; if settlement is not reached at the MSC, the parties should be prepared to frame remaining issues, record stipulations, list exhibits, and identify witnesses for trial[9][11]. A Status Conference is not a mandatory settlement conference but a proceeding for which judicial attention is required; it is appropriate in complex cases where discovery is not complete or the parties need judicial guidance on procedural matters[9]. A Rating MSC is a specialized mandatory settlement conference limited to cases where the only issues are permanent disability and future medical treatment, and all required medical reports (treating physician, QME, and AME reports) must be filed with the DOR[9][11]. A Priority Conference is available under Labor Code Section 5502(c) when the injured worker is represented by an attorney and involves expedited treatment of the case[9]. A Lien Conference may

be requested after the underlying case has been resolved or where the applicant chooses not to proceed; lien claimants must provide verification under California Code of Regulations Section 10770.6 when filing a DOR[9][11].

Who May File a DOR

The parties with standing to file a DOR are clearly defined in the regulatory framework and include the injured worker (applicant), the employer or claims administrator (defendant), and other parties with a recognized interest in the outcome of the claim[1][9]. Lien claimants have restricted DOR filing rights; they may file a DOR only after the underlying case has been resolved or where the applicant chooses not to proceed, and any DOR filed by a lien claimant must be accompanied by the verification required by California Code of Regulations Section 10770.6[9][11]. In Northern California practice, where multiple defendants or cross-liability issues are common (particularly in El Sobrante and Oakland industrial areas with complex employer relationships), the WCAB may have provisions allowing additional parties to invoke DOR proceedings under joinder rules, though careful attention to procedural rules regarding notice and service is required[1][9].

Procedural Requirements and Filing Standards for the Declaration of Readiness to Proceed

Application for Adjudication of Claim as Prerequisite

Before a DOR can be filed, the underlying WCAB case must be properly opened through filing of an Application for Adjudication of Claim (Form DWC-CA 10.1) and a WCAB case number must be assigned[9]. If no prior Application for Adjudication has been filed when the DOR is being filed, the DOR filing will not trigger a hearing unless accompanied by an Application for Adjudication[9]. This prerequisite is frequently overlooked by self-represented workers and requires careful verification when representing clients who may have filed claims informally or who are unsure of their procedural status. In Northern California WCAB offices (San Francisco, Concord, Oakland, and satellite offices), staff will typically verify on the record whether a case number has been assigned before accepting a DOR for processing.

Complete Required Documentation Package

California Code of Regulations Section 10205.12 and WCAB Information and Assistance Guide 5 establish mandatory documentation requirements for all DOR filings[9][42]. The complete filing packet must be submitted in the following order: (1) Document Cover Sheet (form DWC-CA 10231); (2) Document Separator Sheet (form DWC-CA 10232.2) identifying the DOR; (3) the completed Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (form DWC-CA 10250.1); (4) Document Separator Sheet for supporting documents; (5) all relevant medical reports and records in the filer's possession or control; (6) all letters from the insurance company regarding the issues in dispute; (7) Document Separator Sheet for Proof of Service; and (8) Proof of Service by Mail (form DWC-CA 10505)[9]. Failure to include proper document cover sheets and separator sheets can result in the WCAB rejecting the filing or requiring resubmission[9][42].

The Form DWC-CA 10250.1 itself requires completion of mandatory fields including the case number, injured worker's name and address, employer information with specific formatting (spaces required between numbers, names, or words), the declarant's role (employee, applicant, defendant, or lien claimant), the type of hearing requested (only one may be selected), identification of principal issues under dispute (multiple checkboxes permitted for compensation rate, self-procured medical treatment, permanent disability, rehabilitation, temporary disability, AOE/COE, future medical treatment, discovery, employment, or other), and identification of medical reports relied upon with specific dates[9][11]. Completing this form requires careful attention to formatting requirements to ensure EAMS (Electronic Adjudication Management System) compatibility and to avoid OCR (optical character recognition) reading errors that can delay processing[9].

Critical Assertion of Readiness and Good Faith Effort

The declarant must state under penalty of perjury that he or she is "presently ready to proceed to hearing on the issues below and has made the following specific, genuine, good faith efforts to resolve the dispute(s) listed below"[9][11]. This language creates a legal obligation that exceeds mere technical compliance. The WCAB has authority to deny a DOR or impose sanctions if it appears that a declarant has not genuinely attempted informal resolution or is not prepared for the proceedings requested[9]. What constitutes "good faith efforts" depends on the circumstances but generally requires demonstration of settlement discussions,

exchange of medical reports, communication regarding disputed benefits, and documented attempts to resolve issues through letter correspondence, telephone calls, or informal conferences with opposing counsel or the claims administrator[9].

Unless a status or priority conference is specifically requested, the declarant must also certify: "I have completed discovery on the issues listed above, and that all medical reports in my possession or control have been filed and served as required by the rules promulgated by the Court Administrator"[9][11]. This certification carries significant consequences. If discovery has not actually been completed, or if medical reports later surface that should have been disclosed, the opposing party may move for sanctions or request continuance to review late-produced evidence[9].

Service Requirements and Proof of Service

All parties to the workers' compensation case must be served with copies of the DOR at the time of filing[9]. Service must comply with California Code of Regulations Section 10625, which permits service by personal service, electronic service, first class mail, or alternative methods that effect equivalent or more expeditious service[29][26]. Proof of Service (form DWC-CA 10505) must identify by name and address all parties served, state the date and method of service, and be signed under penalty of perjury[9][29].

A critical requirement introduced in recent regulatory amendments is that the Proof of Service itself must be filed with the WCAB at the same time as the DOR[29]. Failure to file a concurrent proof of service constitutes valid grounds for summary dismissal or rejection of the DOR[8][29]. Furthermore, electronic service of the DOR on parties must include their email addresses in the proof of service if service was electronic[26][29].

The parties who must be served include: (1) the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board office with venue; (2) the insurance carrier (with claim number); (3) the defense attorney (if known); and (4) all other parties involved in the case[9]. For lien claimants, all lien claimants with pending claims must be served. In complex multi-party cases common in Northern California, failure to identify and serve all necessary parties can result in jurisdictional defects that may void proceedings.

Jurisdictional and Timing Considerations

The DOR must be filed before any case will be set for hearing at the request of any party[9]. Importantly, once a DOR has been properly filed and served, and if no objection is timely filed, the WCAB will schedule a hearing and notify all parties by mail[9]. The timing of DOR filing is therefore critical because it initiates the hearing scheduling process and triggers the prohibition on unilateral acts by either party. Under California Code of Regulations Section 10961, after a petition for reconsideration is filed, a workers' compensation judge shall not issue any order in the case (except rescission or modification within 15 days) until the Appeals Board has denied or dismissed the petition[47]. While this rule addresses reconsideration specifically, the principle reflects broader WCAB practice: once formal proceedings are invoked, discretionary judicial action is limited pending proper resolution of the procedural questions.

Current Legal Landscape and Recent Procedural Developments

Statutory Amendments to Petition for Reconsideration Deadlines

While not directly addressing the DOR, recent statutory amendments to California Labor Code Section 5909 have significant implications for DOR strategy because they affect appeal deadlines and the calculus of settlement versus litigation at the WCAB level[50][50]. Effective July 2, 2024, Labor Code Section 5909 was amended to provide that a petition for reconsideration is deemed denied by the appeals board unless it is acted upon within 60 days from the date a trial judge transmits a case to the appeals board (not from the date of filing, as was the case under prior law)[50][50]. The statute specifies that transmission is reflected in "Events" in the Electronic Adjudication Management System (EAMS) under the event description "Sent to Recon"[50][50].

This change affects DOR strategy because parties must now recognize that once a case goes to trial following a DOR and receives an unfavorable decision, the window for reconsideration petition review by the Appeals Board is 60 days from transmission to the recon board (typically 15-30 days after the judge's decision is rendered), not 60 days from filing of the petition[50]. This compressed timeline means that preparation for appeal must begin immediately upon receipt of an unfavorable decision following DOR proceedings. Additionally, Labor Code Section 5909(c) specifies that the amended statute will be repealed effective July 1,

2026, creating uncertainty about future deadlines unless the Legislature takes action to preserve or modify the provision[50].

WCAB Guidance on Final Orders and Nonfinal Orders

The WCAB has issued recent panel guidance emphasizing strict adherence to the distinction between final orders (which are properly subject to petition for reconsideration) and nonfinal orders (which require petition for removal, not reconsideration)[50]. This distinction directly affects parties filing DORs because orders regarding trial setting, case management, or continuation/cancellation of hearings are not final orders and therefore cannot be challenged through petition for reconsideration[50]. Practitioners filing DORs must be careful to distinguish between challenging substantive decisions (which require petition for reconsideration) and challenging procedural/nonfinal orders (which require petition for removal)[50].

Electronic Service and EAMS Filing Requirements

Current WCAB practice requires that all filings, including DORs, be submitted through the Electronic Adjudication Management System (EAMS) or with the appropriate district office[28]. Both e-forms and JET File methods are available for high-volume filers[28]. Electronic service via email is now permitted and requires inclusion of email addresses in the proof of service[26][29]. The WCAB has emphasized that strict compliance with proof of service requirements-including concurrent filing of proof of service with the DOR-is mandatory and noncompliance provides grounds for summary rejection[29].

2019 Regulatory Amendments to Pleading and Procedural Rules

Major amendments to WCAB Rules and Practice Procedure effective January 1, 2020, restructured the procedural framework and introduced new requirements affecting DOR practice[18]. Notably, the amendments to California Code of Regulations Section 10465 established that an answer to an Application for Adjudication of Claim must be filed and served no later than the shorter of either (1) 10 days after service of a DOR, or (2) 90 days after service of the Application for Adjudication[18]. This means that filing a DOR can trigger answer deadlines for defendants who have not yet responded to the application, creating potential procedural pitfalls if the timing is not carefully managed.

San Francisco-Specific WCAB Context and Local Practice Considerations

San Francisco Immigration Court Locations and Jurisdiction

While this research brief addresses workers' compensation proceedings (not immigration matters), it is important to note the physical locations of the Northern California WCAB offices within San Francisco and the surrounding region, as venue and jurisdictional issues frequently arise[2][2]. The main Workers' Compensation Appeals Board address is located at 455 Golden Gate Avenue, 9th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94102[2][2]. This office handles petitions for reconsideration and other appellate matters. For initial WCAB district office filings (where DORs are typically filed), the San Francisco District Office maintains multiple locations and processing centers[2][2].

DORs for cases with venue in San Francisco County are filed with the San Francisco District Office. The determination of venue is critical and is governed by California Labor Code Section 5501.5, which provides that venue is proper in: (1) the county of residence of the employee; (2) the county where the injury occurred; or (3) the county of the principal place of business of the employee's attorney[9][9]. In Northern California practice, venue disputes are common when workers commute across county lines or work for employers with multi-county operations (common in the San Francisco Bay Area and surrounding regions).

Known Judicial Preferences and Procedural Tendencies

Information regarding specific judges' preferences and procedural tendencies in the San Francisco WCAB is limited in the provided search results; however, general WCAB practice nationwide provides guidance. The WCAB as an institution has expressed that continuances are not favored and none will be granted after filing of a DOR without clear and timely showing of good cause[9][11][9]. This means that once a DOR is filed, parties should expect that hearing dates will be set and honored, requiring thorough preparation before DOR filing. Additionally, the WCAB favors presentation of medical evidence in written report form rather than through live testimony[9][11][9].

For Northern California practitioners, this preference has practical implications: comprehensive medical documentation should be filed with the DOR, not reserved for trial. Expert witnesses (particularly Qualified Medical Evaluators and Agreed Medical Evaluators) should prepare written reports that thoroughly address the issues in dispute, as judges will rely heavily on written reports rather than requiring live testimony. In complex cases, particularly those involving permanent disability ratings or medical-legal disputes, the Rating Mandatory Settlement Conference procedure (available through the DOR) may be more efficient than traditional MSC or trial procedures because it focuses judicial attention specifically on medical rating issues.

Northern California ICE Enforcement and Workplace Demographics

This report addresses workers' compensation procedure rather than immigration enforcement; however, for practical context regarding Northern California's workforce demographics and workplace injury patterns: the Northern California region (San Francisco, Oakland, El Sobrante, Concord) has a diverse workforce including significant Spanish-speaking populations, recent immigrant workers, and workers in industries with high injury rates (construction, hospitality, retail, healthcare)[1]. Claims involving Spanish-speaking workers or workers from Central America, Mexico, or other non-English-speaking backgrounds may require interpreter services at WCAB hearings; the DOR instructions specify that the party requiring an interpreter must arrange for presence of an interpreter, except that defendants must arrange interpreter services if the injured worker is not represented by an attorney[9][11][9].

Strategic Analysis: When to File a Declaration of Readiness to Proceed

Applicant's (Injured Worker's) Strategic Considerations

From the injured worker's perspective, the decision to file a DOR requires assessment of several factors: (1) readiness of medical evidence and documentary support for claimed benefits; (2) completion of discovery regarding all issues in dispute; (3) likelihood of settlement within the MSC process versus need for trial; and (4) strength of legal positions on disputed issues. An injured worker should file a DOR when the following conditions are satisfied: all relevant medical evaluations have been obtained and are in the worker's possession or served on defendants; the worker understands the key disputed issues and has documentation supporting his or her position; the worker has attempted informal resolution through settlement discussions or meet-and-confers with the claims administrator; and the worker is prepared for either settlement or trial proceeding[1][9].

Arguments favoring early DOR filing by applicant: (1) Accelerates resolution and receipt of benefits; (2) Triggers mandatory settlement conference process which often results in settlement without need for trial; (3) Prevents defendants from indefinitely delaying case resolution; (4) Creates judicial pressure toward settlement by demonstrating applicant's commitment to proceeding; (5) Statute of limitations considerations: for serious and willful misconduct claims, the one-year limitation from date of injury applies, so DOR filing ensures case is on record before the statute expires[21][23]. (6) For new and further disability claims, the five-year window from date of injury applies; early DOR filing preserves this deadline[22][39][36].

Arguments against premature DOR filing by applicant: (1) Freezes discovery unless status conference is requested; if critical medical evaluations are still pending, DOR filing may prevent their completion before hearing[18]; (2) Signals to defendants that applicant is ready to try the case, reducing settlement pressure; (3) If case is not genuinely ready, judge may continue the MSC or grant continuance for good cause, consuming judicial resources and delaying resolution; (4) Once DOR is filed, unilateral investigation and evidence gathering becomes more constrained; applicant must seek judicial permission for activities that would otherwise be permitted in pre-adjudication phase[9].

The applicant's strongest position is filing a DOR only after all medical evaluations are complete, all available documentary evidence has been gathered, and genuine settlement discussions have been attempted but have reached impasse.

Defendant's (Employer/Claims Administrator's) Strategic Considerations

From the employer's and claims administrator's perspective, the decision to file a DOR reflects a different calculus: (1) has the employer/carrier made all required benefit determinations and responses to benefit requests; (2) are all available defenses (e.g., AOE/COE disputes, apportionment, credibility challenges)

adequately documented; (3) is the case defensible at trial or are settlement values preferable; and (4) what is the status of all requested medical evaluations?

Arguments favoring DOR filing by defendant: (1) If applicant has filed a premature or unwarranted DOR, defendants should file their own DOR to move forward and prevent indefinite delays[1][9]; (2) If case presents serious credibility issues or factual disputes favorable to defendant's position, defendant may benefit from moving to trial quickly before applicant has opportunity to gather additional evidence[9]; (3) If defendants have completed all necessary medical evaluations and discovery, filing a defensive DOR signals readiness and may support subsequent sanctions motions if applicant requests improper continuances[9]; (4) In cases involving medical-legal fee disputes or lien issues, DOR filing by defendants can accelerate resolution of ancillary issues that are delaying case closure.

Arguments against premature DOR filing by defendant: (1) Defendants typically want to maintain flexibility to continue investigation and gather additional evidence; DOR filing freezes discovery unless status conference is requested[18]; (2) If critical medical evaluations (QME, AME) are still pending, DOR filing prevents completion of these evaluations before hearing, potentially resulting in continuance[9]; (3) Filing a DOR signals to applicant that defendant believes the case is defensible and ready for trial, which may reduce settlement pressure on applicant and increase likelihood of contested hearing[1]; (4) Premature DOR filing may provide basis for sanctions if discovered party claims defendant was not genuinely ready to proceed[9].

The defendant's strongest position is waiting for applicant to file DOR first, then either acquiescing to the proposed hearing or filing a countervailing DOR only if the applicant's DOR is premature or not accompanied by proper medical evidence.

Timing Considerations and Strategic Options

The optimal timing for DOR filing depends on resolution of these questions: Has discovery been completed? Have all medical evaluations been obtained? Have settlement discussions been attempted? Is one party attempting to delay proceedings unfairly? For applicants in strong positions medically, early DOR filing can create momentum toward settlement. For defendants with solid defenses, patience often yields better results than early DOR filing. In either case, the decision should be coordinated with counsel and should reflect genuine readiness to proceed rather than tactical gamesmanship.

Practical Implementation: Step-by-Step Procedural Roadmap

Phase One: Pre-DOR Preparation and Case Assessment

Step 1: Verify WCAB Case Number and Application Status - Before filing a DOR, confirm that an Application for Adjudication of Claim has been filed and a WCAB case number has been assigned. Contact the appropriate WCAB district office or check EAMS for case status. If no case number exists, file an Application for Adjudication of Claim (Form DWC-CA 10.1) before filing the DOR[9].

Step 2: Conduct Completeness Review of Medical Documentation - Compile all medical reports in possession or control of the filer, including treating physician reports, Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME) reports, Agreed Medical Evaluator (AME) reports, and any independent medical review (IMR) or utilization review (UR) determinations. For Rating MSC hearings, ensure all ratable medical reports (treating physician, QME, AME) are available for filing with the DOR[9][11].

Step 3: Identify All Disputed Issues - Clearly identify which issues are disputed and which are stipulated. The DOR requires selection of principal issues under dispute from the following categories: compensation rate, self-procured medical treatment, permanent disability, rehabilitation/SJDB, temporary disability, AOE/COE, future medical treatment, discovery, employment, or other[9][11]. Do not claim issues are disputed if settlement has been reached or if no genuine dispute exists.

Step 4: Complete Discovery Obligations - Review all discovery rules applicable to the case. Under current WCAB practice, parties should exchange all medical reports, benefit determination letters, wage statements, and other documentary evidence before filing a DOR[9]. If discovery is incomplete, request a status conference rather than MSC to allow continued discovery.

Step 5: Attempt Informal Settlement - Make documented efforts to resolve disputes informally. This may include written settlement demand letters, settlement conferences with opposing counsel, meet-and-confer

telephone calls, or negotiation through insurance adjusters. Document all such efforts because the DOR requires certification of "specific, genuine, good faith efforts to resolve the dispute(s)"[9][11].

Step 6: Select Appropriate Hearing Type - Determine which type of hearing is appropriate: Mandatory Settlement Conference, Status Conference, Rating MSC, Priority Conference, or Lien Conference. Only one type may be selected per DOR[9][11].

Phase Two: Documentation Assembly and Form Completion

Step 7: Prepare Complete Filing Package - Assemble documents in required order: (1) Document Cover Sheet (DWC-CA 10231); (2) Document Separator Sheet (DWC-CA 10232.2) for DOR; (3) Completed DOR (DWC-CA 10250.1); (4) Document Separator Sheets for each supporting document; (5) All medical reports and correspondence; (6) Document Separator Sheet for Proof of Service; (7) Proof of Service (DWC-CA 10505)[9].

Step 8: Complete DOR Form Accurately - Fill out Form DWC-CA 10250.1 with meticulous attention to all mandatory fields. Ensure proper formatting (spaces between numbers and words), accurate case number, correct declarant role, appropriate hearing type selection, and complete identification of principal issues and medical reports relied upon[9][11].

Step 9: Execute Verification - The DOR must be verified under penalty of perjury. The declarant (or attorney if authorized) must sign and date the form, certifying under penalty of perjury that: (1) the declarant is ready to proceed; (2) good faith efforts to resolve have been made; (3) discovery is complete (unless status or priority conference requested); and (4) all medical reports have been filed and served[9][11].

Step 10: Prepare Proof of Service - Complete Proof of Service form identifying all parties served by name and address, the date of service, the method of service (mail, personal, electronic, etc.), and the county from which service was made. The form must be signed under penalty of perjury[9][29].

Phase Three: Filing and Service

Step 11: Serve All Parties - Serve the original DOR and all supporting documents on all parties in the case at least 10 days before filing with the WCAB (to provide time for objections). Service must be by mail, personal delivery, electronic service, or alternative method complying with California Code of Regulations Section 10625[9][29].

Step 12: File with WCAB District Office - File the complete package with the appropriate WCAB district office having venue. Filing may be done electronically via EAMS (e-forms or JET File) or by paper filing at the district office. If filing electronically, ensure EAMS system processes the filing correctly and generates confirmation receipt[9][28].

Step 13: Maintain Copies for Record - Keep certified copies of the DOR, all exhibits, and proof of service for your records. Document the date of filing with the WCAB[9].

Phase Four: Post-Filing and Hearing Scheduling

Step 14: Monitor for Objections - Parties may file objections to the DOR within 10 days after service[9]. If objections are filed, the WCAB will schedule a hearing to address them rather than proceeding immediately to the requested conference type[9].

Step 15: Prepare for Scheduled Hearing - Once the WCAB schedules a hearing date (usually by mail notice), confirm with all parties that they have received notice. Prepare all witnesses, organize exhibits, review medical reports, and brief the judge on key issues[9].

Step 16: Attend Hearing and Participate in Process - Appear at the scheduled hearing. If MSC is scheduled, participate in settlement negotiations. If settlement is not reached, be prepared to frame remaining issues, record stipulations, list exhibits, and identify witnesses for trial[9][11].

Required Forms, Documentation, and Evidentiary Preparation

Complete List of Required Forms

The DOR filing process requires completion and submission of the following official WCAB forms, all of which must conform to strict format and content requirements[9][42][44]:

Document Cover Sheet (DWC-CA 10231) - Required as the first page of each filing. Must identify whether the case is new or existing, indicate companion cases if applicable, and list body part codes and district office codes[9][42][44].

Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (DWC-CA 10250.1) - The primary form. Requires entry of case number, injured worker information, employer information, declarant role selection, hearing type selection, principal issues selection, identification of medical reports relied upon, certification of readiness and good faith efforts, and signature under penalty of perjury[9][11].

Document Separator Sheet (DWC-CA 10232.2) - Required before each document or attachment within the filing package. Identifies the document type, product delivery unit (ADJ for adjudication cases), document date, and author information[9][42].

Proof of Service by Mail (DWC-CA 10505) - Certifies that the DOR and supporting documents were served on all parties. Must identify each party served, the date of service, the method of service, and the county from which service was made. Must be signed under penalty of perjury[9][29].

All forms must be typed or handwritten in black ink in block letters for EAMS compatibility. Handwritten forms are acceptable only for unrepresented parties without ready access to typewriter or computer[9][44].

Medical Documentation and Evidence Requirements

The DOR must be accompanied by all medical reports in the declarant's possession or control[9]. Specifically:

Treating Physician Reports - All reports from the worker's treating physicians documenting diagnosis, treatment provided, work status, and prognosis must be filed with the DOR[9].

Qualified Medical Evaluator (QME) Reports - If a QME examination has been conducted, the QME's report must be included. QME selection and procedures are governed by Labor Code Section 4604 and California Code of Regulations Sections 10800-10865[9].

Agreed Medical Evaluator (AME) Reports - If the parties have agreed on a medical evaluator, the AME's report must be filed[9].

Independent Medical Review (IMR) or Utilization Review (UR) Determinations - Any IMR or UR determinations affecting the case should be filed[9].

Laboratory and Diagnostic Reports - All relevant laboratory results, X-rays, MRI reports, and other diagnostic studies should be included[9].

For a Rating MSC hearing (which addresses only permanent disability and future medical treatment), all ratable medical reports must be filed with the DOR; failure to file all medical reports may result in the WCAB declining to set a Rating MSC[9][11].

Documentary Evidence Supporting Disputed Issues

Beyond medical documentation, the declarant should file all documents supporting the issues in dispute:

For compensation rate disputes: wage statements, payroll records, and documentation of employment status

For temporary disability disputes: benefit payment records, medical evidence of work incapacity, and any medical restrictions

For permanent disability disputes: medical reports addressing work capacity, functional limitations, and vocational factors

For AOE/COE (Arising Out of Employment/Course of Employment) disputes: accident reports, witness statements, and photographic evidence of workplace conditions

For medical treatment disputes: authorization denials, UR determinations, and medical opinion evidence regarding medical necessity

For self-procured medical treatment: bills, receipts, and medical reports from non-authorized providers[9][11]

The WCAB favors presentation of evidence in written form. Live testimony should be reserved for credibility determinations or issues requiring cross-examination[9].

Client Preparation and Credibility Considerations

Preparing the Injured Worker for MSC or Trial Testimony

If the injured worker will testify, thorough preparation is essential. The worker should be counseled on: (1) the importance of truthfulness and consistency with prior statements; (2) the necessity of maintaining composure and avoiding argumentative tone; (3) the judge's role as neutral arbiter, not an advocate; and (4) the legal standards governing various types of claims (burden of proof, causation standards, etc.)[9]. For workers with language barriers, interpreter services should be arranged in advance, and the client should meet with the interpreter before the hearing to discuss terminology and ensure mutual understanding[9].

Documentation of Good Faith Settlement Efforts

The certification in the DOR that "specific, genuine, good faith efforts to resolve the dispute(s)" have been made requires factual support. Practitioners should maintain written records of all settlement discussions, including: dates of telephone calls or meetings, persons present, issues discussed, settlement figures proposed and rejected, and reasons settlement was not reached. This documentation protects against sanctions allegations if the opposing party contends the DOR was filed prematurely or in bad faith[9].

Credibility Factors and Medical Evidence Strategy

Judges assess credibility based on consistency between testimony and documentary evidence, internal consistency of the witness's account, demeanor and responsiveness to questions, and alignment with medical findings. A worker whose testimony conflicts with medical reports or prior deposition testimony will be found less credible. Conversely, a worker whose account is corroborated by medical findings and consistent across all statements will be viewed as more credible[9].

Medical evidence should be organized to support the worker's claimed disability. If the treating physician reports support the worker's claims, those reports should be highlighted and referenced during testimony. If QME or AME reports contain findings favorable to the worker, the worker should be prepared to explain how those findings support the requested relief[9].

Timeline, Costs, and Processing Information

Filing and Processing Timelines

The WCAB typically processes DORs and schedules hearings within 30 to 60 days of receipt, depending on district office workload[9]. In the San Francisco and Oakland district offices, the timeline may be compressed during busy seasons. The WCAB will notify all parties by mail when a hearing is scheduled[9].

Once a hearing is scheduled, it will typically occur within 60 to 120 days, although this varies by district and case complexity[9]. The MSC hearing itself typically lasts 30 minutes to 2 hours, depending on case complexity and settlement posture. If settlement is reached, the case may be resolved immediately. If settlement is not reached, the MSC judge will schedule a trial date, which may occur weeks or months later[9].

For appeals following an unfavorable WCAB decision, the timeline for petition for reconsideration filing is 20 days from service of the decision (with potential mail extensions if service was by mail)[7][25]. The WCAB must act on a petition for reconsideration within 60 days of transmission of the case to the reconsideration board (per the amended Labor Code Section 5909 effective July 2, 2024)[50][50].

Filing Fees and Costs

California workers' compensation law does not require payment of filing fees to the WCAB for DOR filing or subsequent proceedings[9]. However, parties representing themselves or through counsel incur attorney fees and costs related to case preparation, including costs of obtaining medical evaluations, copying, service, and witness preparation.

For injured workers represented by an attorney, the worker's attorney will typically advance case costs and will recoup those costs through the attorney fee award if the case is resolved favorably[9]. Under California Labor Code Section 5307, the WCAB may award reasonable attorney fees to the injured worker's attorney upon successful resolution of disputed issues[9].

For employers and insurers, defense counsel fees and costs (including expert medical evaluations, claims adjusters' time, and trial preparation) are administrative expenses of workers' compensation insurance and are typically borne by the employer or insurer as required by law[9].

USCIS Service Center and Processing Delays

This section is not applicable to workers' compensation proceedings; it addresses immigration matters outside the scope of this report.

Northern California Implementation: San Francisco WCAB District Office Procedures

Venue and Filing Location Determination

For cases with venue in San Francisco County, DORs are filed with the San Francisco District Office of the WCAB. Venue is determined by Labor Code Section 5501.5 and is based on: (1) county of residence of the injured worker; (2) county where the injury occurred; or (3) county of principal place of business of the injured worker's attorney[9][9]. In Northern California, workers frequently reside in one county, are injured in another county, and have attorneys in a third county, creating complex venue determinations. The first applicable venue ground controls; parties cannot "shop" for a preferred venue once the injury is established.

The San Francisco WCAB District Office maintains the following contact and filing information:

San Francisco District Office: 630 Sansome Street, 4th Floor, Room 475, San Francisco, CA 94111

San Francisco District Office - Alternate Location: 100 Montgomery Street, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94104

Concord Hearing Location: 1855 Gateway Blvd., Suite 850, Concord, CA 94520

Information and Assistance Unit: (800) 736-7401

DORs may be filed electronically via EAMS (e-forms or JET File) or by paper delivery to the physical office address[9][28].

Electronic Filing and EAMS Processing

Electronic filing through EAMS is the preferred method and provides faster processing than paper filing. Two electronic filing methods are available: (1) e-forms, which allow direct login and filing through the EAMS portal; and (2) JET File, which uses secure file transfer through state servers and is suited for high-volume filers[28]. Both methods provide automatic confirmation of receipt and notice of any filing errors[28].

For e-forms filers, the WCAB permits selection of preferred hearing dates for DOR filings, which can accelerate scheduling[28]. This is a significant advantage of electronic filing-the filer can propose specific hearing dates within available windows, rather than waiting for WCAB scheduling staff to assign dates[28].

Paper filing is still permitted but requires submission to the district office by mail or personal delivery, with processing delays of 7-14 days[9].

Local Rules and Judge Assignment Procedures

The San Francisco WCAB follows statewide rules and procedures promulgated in California Code of Regulations Title 8[9]. No unique local rules specific to the San Francisco office have been identified in the provided search results. However, the WCAB has expressed through recent panel decisions that it strictly enforces procedural requirements, including proper pleading, timely service, concurrent proof of service filing, and verification under penalty of perjury[50][50].

Judge assignment to DOR cases appears to follow rotation procedures to ensure no fixed composition of judges for particular cases[6]. Parties cannot typically request a specific judge for DOR hearings, though judges are assigned to manage cases from initial DOR through final decision[6].

Motion Practice and Continuance Standards

Once a DOR has been filed, the WCAB rules provide that continuances are not favored and none will be granted after filing of a DOR without clear and timely showing of good cause[9][11]. Good cause for continuance post-DOR includes: unexpected medical developments requiring additional evaluations, unavailability of critical witnesses despite good faith efforts to schedule, or newly discovered evidence that cannot be assimilated by hearing date[9].

Motions practice following DOR filing is limited by rule. Parties seeking to challenge aspects of DOR proceedings must file appropriate petitions (petition for removal for nonfinal orders; petition for reconsideration for final orders post-hearing)[50]. Improper filing of petitions for reconsideration when petitions for removal are appropriate may result in sanctions[50].

Risk Assessment and Strategic Contingencies

Best-Case Scenario: Successful Settlement at MSC

The best-case outcome following DOR filing is successful settlement at the mandatory settlement conference, resulting in prompt resolution of all disputed issues and commencement of benefits if applicable[9]. In this scenario, the parties negotiate a settlement either before the MSC or during the MSC process, and the judge approves the stipulation. The injured worker receives agreed-upon benefits immediately (or after any required regulatory approval), the claims administrator's liability is defined and limited, and all parties avoid trial and appellate proceedings[9].

The likelihood of successful MSC settlement varies by case type and posture. Cases involving clear liability, strong medical evidence, and reasonable damage expectations settle at high rates (70-80% of MSCs result in settlement)[9]. Cases involving questionable liability, conflicting medical evidence, or extreme settlement demands are less likely to settle at MSC[9].

Worst-Case Scenario: Adverse Trial Decision and Appellate Reversal

The worst-case scenario involves an adverse decision at trial, followed by unsuccessful appeal to the WCAB reconsideration board, followed by unsuccessful petition for writ of review to the Court of Appeal[17][50]. This scenario results in: (1) continued denial of benefits claimed; (2) potential liability for penalties, attorney fees, and interest owed by one party to another; (3) appellate opinions establishing adverse precedent; and (4) complete loss of judicial time and attorney fees invested in the matter[17][50].

Mitigation strategies for worst-case scenarios include: preserving appellate issues through proper record-building at trial level; identifying and emphasizing arguments that have precedential support in Ninth Circuit authority (controlling precedent in Northern California); and planning for settlement value reassessment if trial outcomes are adverse[17].

Medium Likelihood: Contested Trial with Partial Success

Many cases result in contested trials with outcomes that are partially favorable to each side. The injured worker may win some benefit claims while losing others; the employer may prevail on some affirmative defenses while others are rejected[9]. In this scenario, both sides may be positioned for appeal, each perceiving victory in the favorable rulings and defeat in the adverse ones. The parties must then decide whether to pursue reconsideration petitions and appeals, or to settle the remaining disputes for acceptable values[50].

Preservation of Arguments and Appeal Strategy

Record-Building at WCAB Level

Even if the DOR-initiated proceedings are unsuccessful at the trial or MSC level, practitioners must preserve arguments for appellate review through proper record-building at the WCAB level[5]. This requires: (1) clear presentation of all disputed issues on the record; (2) detailed factual and legal arguments in opening statements and closing statements; (3) solicitation of detailed findings and conclusions from the judge explaining the judge's reasoning[5]; (4) timely objections to adverse rulings or evidence if those objections preserve the issue for appeal[5].

If a trial results in an adverse decision, practitioners should request that the judge issue detailed findings of fact and conclusions of law addressing each disputed issue, because these findings become the basis for appellate review[5]. A decision with only conclusory language ("Applicant has not proven claimed benefits") provides no basis for meaningful appellate review[5].

Petition for Reconsideration Strategy

Under current law (Labor Code Section 5909, effective July 2, 2024), a petition for reconsideration must be filed within 20 days of service of the trial decision[14][50]. The WCAB must act on the petition within 60 days from the date the case is transmitted to the reconsideration board (not from the filing date)[50][50]. If the WCAB does not act within 60 days, the petition is deemed denied and the petitioner may pursue petition for writ of review to the Court of Appeal[50][50].

Decisions regarding whether to file a petition for reconsideration involve analysis of: (1) strength of appellate arguments based on trial record; (2) likelihood that the WCAB reconsideration panel will reverse or modify the trial decision; (3) risks of establishing adverse precedent through reconsideration briefing; and (4) whether the case is positioned better for settlement during the reconsideration process or should proceed directly to appellate court[5].

Petition for Writ of Review and Federal Appellate Options

If reconsideration is denied or unsuccessful, a petition for writ of review to the appropriate Court of Appeal must be filed within 45 days of the WCAB's decision denying or following reconsideration[17]. The appeal courts reviewing workers' compensation decisions apply standards of review that are deferential to factual findings but permit greater review of legal conclusions[17].

Federal appellate options are limited in workers' compensation cases but may exist if constitutional issues or federal statutory violations are implicated[17]. These are rarely viable except in unusual circumstances involving civil rights, discrimination, or other federally protected interests[17].

Conclusion: Strategic Summary and Recommended Framework for DOR Decisions

The Declaration of Readiness to Proceed is a critical procedural decision point in California workers' compensation litigation that requires careful analysis of case readiness, evidence completeness, settlement posture, and strategic objectives. The DOR should be filed only when the following conditions are substantially satisfied: (1) all material medical evaluations have been completed and obtained; (2) all documentary evidence has been gathered and organized; (3) genuine efforts to resolve disputes informally have been undertaken; (4) the party filing is genuinely prepared to proceed to either settlement or trial; and (5) the procedural timing will not prejudice the filing party's position[1][9].

For injured workers in Northern California, timely DOR filing can accelerate receipt of legitimately earned benefits and create judicial momentum toward settlement. For employers and insurers, strategic patience regarding DOR filing-allowing applicants to file first and demonstrating readiness only when discovery is truly complete-often yields better outcomes[1][9].

The current legal landscape (March 2026) reflects recent statutory amendments affecting petition for reconsideration deadlines and WCAB emphasis on strict procedural compliance[50][50]. Practitioners must stay current with these developments and ensure that DOR filings comply with all electronic filing, service, and verification requirements to avoid jurisdictional defects or procedural dismissals[29][44].

Northern California practitioners serving the San Francisco, Oakland, El Sobrante, and surrounding areas should maintain awareness of venue rules, district office procedures, and the WCAB's preference for written medical evidence and efficiency in hearing procedures[9][28]. Consultation with experienced workers' compensation counsel is strongly advised before DOR filing, particularly in complex cases involving multiple disputed issues, serious credibility questions, or significant benefit values[1][9].

References

[1] Law Offices of Norman J. Homen - Declaration of Readiness (<https://lawnjh.com/what-is-a-declaration-of-readiness-dor-in-a-california-workers-compensation-case/>)

- [2] Workers' Compensation Appeals Board - Petition Filing Locations (https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/wcab_petitionforreconsideration.htm)
- [3] California Code of Regulations - Article 7 Petitions (https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/ch4_5sb2a7.html)
- [4] Canlas Law - Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (<https://www.canlaslaw.com/blog/declaration-of-readiness-to-proceed-california/>)
- [5] Bradford & Barthel - Reconsideration and Writs (https://bradfordbarthel.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/20150414_Recons__Writs_PP.pdf)
- [6] WCAB - Petitions Processing Procedures (https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/about_wcabp.htm)
- [7] RJY Law - WCAB Appeals Timelines (<https://www.rjylaw.com/time-is-not-on-your-side-your-quick-guide-to-wcab-appeals/>)
- [8] California Code of Regulations Section 10510 (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10510.html>)
- [9] DWC - How to File a Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide05.pdf>)
- [2] WCAB - Petition for Reconsideration Filing (https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/wcab_petitionforreconsideration.htm)
- [10] California Code of Regulations Section 10817 - Electronic Testimony (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10817.html>)
- [11] DWC - Declaration of Readiness Form 10250.1 (https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/forms/EAMS%20Forms/ADJ/DWCCAForm10250_1.pdf)
- [12] Employees First Labor Law - Petitions for Reconsideration (<https://employeesfirstlaborlaw.com/labor-code-%C2%A7%C2%A75900-5911-petitions-for-reconsideration/>)
- [2] California Labor Code Section 5903 and 5904 (<https://law.justia.com/codes/california/2007/lab/5900-5911.html>)
- [13] California Code of Regulations Section 10525 - Serious and Willful Misconduct (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10525.html>)
- [14] California Labor Code Section 5903 - Time Limits (<https://law.justia.com/codes/california/2007/lab/5900-5911.html>)
- [15] DWC - How to File a Petition for Reconsideration (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/iwguide12.pdf>)
- [16] DWC - How to File Serious and Willful Misconduct Petition (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide08.pdf>)
- [8] California Code of Regulations Section 10510 - Verification Requirements (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10510.html>)
- [17] California Labor Code Section 5950 - Writ of Review (<https://law.justia.com/codes/california/code-lab/division-4/part-4/chapter-7/article-2/section-5950/>)
- [18] LFLM Law - 2020 Regulations Update (<https://www.lflm.com/news-knowledge/2020-regulations-update/>)
- [19] California Code of Regulations Section 10615 - Document Filing (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10615.html>)
- [2] WCAB - Petition Filing and Service (https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/wcab_petitionforreconsideration.htm)
- [20] California Code of Regulations Section 10955 - Removal Petitions (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10955.html>)

- [21] WorkComp Simplified - Serious and Willful Misconduct Claims (<https://www.workcompsimplified.com/four-tips-for-filing-a-serious-and-willful-misconduct-claim-in-california/>)
- [22] Mastagni Holstedt - Reopening Workers' Compensation Claims (<https://www.mastagni.com/2025/06/reopening-a-workers-compensation-claim-new-and-further-injury/>)
- [12] Employees First Labor Law - Petitions for Reconsideration (<https://employeesfirstlaborlaw.com/labor-code-%C2%A7%C2%A75900-5911-petitions-for-reconsideration/>)
- [23] Plaintiff Magazine - Serious and Willful Claims (<https://plaintiffmagazine.com/recent-issues/item/don-t-get-tripped-up-on-serious-and-willful-claims>)
- [24] California Code of Regulations Section 10536 - New and Further Disability (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10536.html>)
- [25] Sullivan on Comp - Time Extensions for Petitions for Reconsideration (<https://www.sullivanoncomp.com/blog/time-extensions-for-petitions-for-reconsideration>)
- [2] WCAB - Petition Filing Locations (https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/wcab_petitionforreconsideration.htm)
- [26] Sullivan on Comp - Electronic Service Navigation (<https://www.sullivanoncomp.com/blog/how-to-navigate-electronic-service>)
- [27] PI Law - Labor Code 132a Retaliation Claims (<https://www.pi.law/blog/filing-a-labor-code-132a-retaliation-claim-in-california/>)
- [28] DWC - Electronic Filing (EAMS/JET File) (https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/EAMS/JetFiling/EAMS_eTeam.html)
- [29] California Code of Regulations Section 10625 - Service by Parties (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10625.html>)
- [30] Law Offices of Norman J. Homen - Labor Code Section 132a (<https://lawnjh.com/labor-code-section-132a-in-a-workers-compensation-case/>)
- [31] Bradford & Barthel - Proposed LC 5710 Fees Guidelines (<https://bradfordbarthel.com/2026/02/17/things-change-proposed-lc-5710-fees-guidelines/>)
- [20] California Code of Regulations Section 10955 - Removal Petitions (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10955.html>)
- [32] California Code of Regulations Section 10169.1 - Commutation (https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10169_1.html)
- [33] California Code of Regulations Section 10547 - Attorney's Fees LC 5710 (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10547.html>)
- [34] California Code of Regulations Section 10960 - Judge Disqualification (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10960.html>)
- [35] Employees First Labor Law - Labor Code Section 4659 (<https://employeesfirstlaborlaw.com/labor-code-%C2%A7%C2%A74659-100-permanent-disability-life-pension/>)
- [36] DCLBV - New and Further Disability and Petition to Reopen (<https://dclbv.com/newsletters/2022/q2/new-and-further-disability-and-a-timely-petition-to-reopen/>)
- [37] Bradford & Barthel - Deposition Disputes and Emergency Stay Petitions (<https://bradfordbarthel.com/2024/09/13/resolving-disputes-over-sending-the-deposition-to-the-pqme/>)
- [38] Legal Records - Petition to Terminate Temporary Disability (<https://legal-records.us/forms/documents/secure/Petition%20to%20terminate%20liability%20for%20temporary%20disability%20indemnity.pdf>)

- [39] SoCal Workers Comp - Reporting Work Injuries Timeline (<https://www.scworkerscomp.com/blog/how-long-do-i-have-to-report-my-work-related-injury-in-california>)
- [3] California Code of Regulations - Petitions and Forms Overview (https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/ch4_5sb2a7.html)
- [40] DWC - Petition to Terminate Temporary Disability Form 46 (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/forms/EAMS%20Forms/ADJ/DWCForm46.pdf>)
- [12] Employees First Labor Law - Petitions for Reconsideration (<https://employeesfirstlaborlaw.com/labor-code-%C2%A7%C2%A75900-5911-petitions-for-reconsideration/>)
- [41] California Code of Regulations Section 10421 - Sanctions (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10421.html>)
- [42] DWC - How to Complete a Document Separator Sheet (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide18.pdf>)
- [2] WCAB - Petition for Reconsideration Filing (https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/wcab_petitionforreconsideration.htm)
- [43] Pearlman, Brown & Wax - Bad Faith Defense Tactics (<https://www.pbw-law.com/the-11000-mistake-when-active-defense-becomes-bad-faith/>)
- [44] California Code of Regulations Section 10205.12 - Document Format Requirements (https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10205_12.html)
- [45] Bradford & Barthel - Petitions to Set Aside Compromises and Releases (<https://bradfordbarthel.com/2016/06/21/oh-no-i-made-a-mistake-petitions-to-set-aside/>)
- [46] Blanchard v. WCAB - Petition to Reopen Standards (<https://law.justia.com/cases/california/court-of-appeal/3d/53/590.html>)
- [47] California Code of Regulations Section 10961 - WCJ Actions After Petition for Reconsideration (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10961.html>)
- [48] DWC - Document Titles and Types for ADJ Cases (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/FORMS/EAMS%20Forms/ADJ/ADJ-RSU-VOC-DEU-AD%20doc%20titles%20and%20types.pdf>)
- [49] LexisNexis - WCAB Continuing Jurisdiction Overview (https://www.lexisnexis.com/documents/pdf/20091115023237_large.pdf)
- [5] Bradford & Barthel - Reconsideration and Writs Presentation (https://bradfordbarthel.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/20150414_Recons__Writs_PP.pdf)
- [9] DWC - How to File a Declaration of Readiness to Proceed (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide05.pdf>)
- [50] Sullivan on Comp - WCAB Guidance on New Time Limits (<https://www.sullivanattorneys.com/blog/wcab-provides-guidance-new-time-limits-reconsideration-lc-5909>)
- [36] DCLBV - New and Further Disability Continuing Jurisdiction (<https://dclbv.com/newsletters/2022/q2/new-and-further-disability-and-a-timely-petition-to-reopen/>)
- [51] Thomas F. Martin - Declaration of Readiness Procedures (<https://thomasfmartin.com/the-declaration-of-readiness-to-proceed-what-who-where-and-when/>)
- [52] WCAB - June 2025 Panel Decision on Reconsideration (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/Panel-Decisions-2025/June-JONES-ADJ9496892.pdf>)
- [53] DWC - How to File a Petition to Reopen (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide11.pdf>)
- [9] DWC - How to File a Declaration of Readiness (Updated) (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide05.pdf>)

- [7] RJY Law - WCAB Appeals Timeline Guide (<https://www.rjylaw.com/time-is-not-on-your-side-your-quick-guide-to-wcab-appeals/>)
- [54] California Code of Regulations Section 10400 - Attorney Representatives (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/t8/10400.html>)
- [4] Canlas Law - Declaration of Readiness Overview (<https://www.canlaslaw.com/blog/declaration-of-readiness-to-proceed-california/>)
- [50] Sullivan on Comp - WCAB LC 5909 Guidance and Reed Decision (<https://www.sullivanattorneys.com/blog/wcab-provides-guidance-new-time-limits-reconsideration-lc-5909>)
- [55] DWC - Stipulations with Request for Award Form 10214(a) (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/FORMS/EAMS%20Forms/ADJ/DWCForm10214a.pdf>)
- [56] Justia California Labor Code Section 5900 (<https://law.justia.com/codes/california/code-lab/division-4/part-4/chapter-7/article-1/section-5900/>)
- [57] WorkComp Central - Budget Bill Preserves WCAB 60-Day Deadline (<https://www.workcompcentral.com/news/article/id/554aeff55f724d80aae68744ce9e3ad865c01e9e>)
- [58] DWC - How to File a Workers' Compensation Claim (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/fileclaim.htm>)
- [2] WCAB - Petition for Writ of Review Filing (https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/wcab_petitionforreconsideration.htm)
- [59] WCAB - June 2025 Jones Panel Decision (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/Panel-Decisions-2025/June-JONES-ADJ9496892.pdf>)
- [60] DWC - Injured Worker Fact Sheets and Guides (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides.html>)
- [9] DWC - How to File a Declaration of Readiness (Final Link) (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/iwguides/IWGuide05.pdf>)
- [61] Torrez Legal - Appeals Process for Denied Workers' Compensation Claims (<https://torrezlegal.com/blog/the-appeals-process-for-denied-workers-compensation-claims/>)
- [12] Employees First Labor Law - Final Petitions for Reconsideration Resource (<https://employeesfirstlaborlaw.com/labor-code-%C2%A7%C2%A75900-5911-petitions-for-reconsideration/>)
- [4] Canlas Law - Declaration of Readiness Final Reference (<https://www.canlaslaw.com/blog/declaration-of-readiness-to-proceed-california/>)
- [2] WCAB - Final Petition Filing Reference (https://www.dir.ca.gov/wcab/wcab_petitionforreconsideration.htm)
- [62] DWC - Petition for Reconsideration Form (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/forms/petitionofrecon.pdf>)