

11 NCAC 23A .0405 REINSTATEMENT OF COMPENSATION

(a) In a claim in which the employer, carrier, or administrator has admitted liability, when an employee seeks reinstatement of compensation pursuant to G.S. 97-18(k), the employee may notify the employer, carrier, or administrator and the employer's, carrier's, or administrator's attorney of record on a Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* or by the filing of a Form 33 *Request that Claim be Assigned for Hearing*.

(b) When reinstatement is sought by the filing of a Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation*, the original Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* and the attached documents shall be filed with the Commission in accordance with Rule .0108 of this Subchapter, and a copy of the Form 23 and attached documents shall contemporaneously be sent to the employer, carrier, or administrator and the employer's, carrier's, or administrator's attorney of record. The employee shall specify the grounds and the alleged facts supporting the application and shall complete the blank space in the "Important Notice to Employer" portion of Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* by inserting a date 17 days from the date the employee serves the completed Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* on the employer, carrier, or administrator and the attorney of record, if any. The Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* shall specify the number of pages of documents attached that are to be considered by the Commission. Within 17 days from the date the employee serves the completed Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* on the employer, carrier, or administrator and the attorney of record, if any, the employer, carrier, or administrator shall complete Section B of the Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* and file it with the Commission in accordance with Rule .0108 of this Subchapter and send a copy contemporaneously to the employee or the employee's attorney of record.

(c) If the employer, carrier, or administrator does not object within the time allowed, the Commission shall review the Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* and the attached documentation and, without an informal hearing, issue an Administrative Decision and Order as to whether there is sufficient basis under the Workers' Compensation Act to reinstate compensation. This Administrative Decision and Order shall be issued within five days of the expiration of the time within which the employer, carrier, or administrator could have filed a response to the Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation*. Either party may seek review of the Administrative Decision and Order as provided by Rule .0702 of this Subchapter.

(d) If the employer, carrier, or administrator timely objects to the Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation*, the Commission shall conduct an informal hearing within 25 days of the receipt by the Commission of the Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* unless the time is extended for good cause shown. The informal hearing may be conducted with the parties or their attorneys of record personally present with the Commission. The Commission shall make arrangements for the informal hearing with a view toward conducting the hearing in the most expeditious manner. The informal hearing shall be no more than 30 minutes, with each side being given 10 minutes to present its case and five minutes for rebuttal. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the employee may waive the right to an informal hearing and proceed to a formal hearing by filing a request for hearing on a Form 33 *Request that Claim be Assigned for Hearing*. Either party may appeal the Administrative Decision and Order of the Commission as provided by Rule .0702 of this Subchapter. A Deputy Commissioner shall conduct a hearing which shall be a hearing de novo. The hearing shall be peremptorily set and shall not require a Form 33 *Request that Claim be Assigned for Hearing*. The employee has the burden of producing evidence on the issue of the employee's application to reinstate compensation. If the Deputy Commissioner reverses an order previously granting a Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* motion, the employer shall promptly terminate compensation or otherwise comply with the Deputy Commissioner's decision, notwithstanding any appeal or application for review to the Full Commission under G.S. 97-85.

(e) If the Commission is unable to render a decision after the informal hearing, the Commission shall issue an order to that effect, which shall be in lieu of a Form 33 *Request that Claim be Assigned for Hearing*, and the case shall be placed on the formal hearing docket. If additional issues are to be addressed, the employee, employer, carrier, or administrator shall file a Form 33 *Request that Claim be Assigned for Hearing* or notify the Commission that a formal hearing is not currently necessary within 30 days of the date of the Administrative Decision or Order. The effect of placing the case on the docket shall be the same as if the Form 23 *Application to Reinstate Payment of Disability Compensation* was denied, and compensation shall not be reinstated until such time as the case is decided by a Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner following a formal hearing.

History Note: Authority G.S. 97-18(k); 97-80(a);
Eff. January 1, 1990;

*Amended Eff. February 1, 2016; November 1, 2014;
Recodified from 04 NCAC 10A .0405 Eff. June 1, 2018.*