

In the Matter of the Compensation of
EMERALD P. MURRELL, Claimant
WCB Case No. 16-05694
ORDER ON REVIEW
Welch Bruun & Green, Claimant Attorneys
Sather Byerly & Holloway, Defense Attorneys

Reviewing Panel: Members Ousey and Curey.

The self-insured employer requests review of Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Kekauoha's order that set aside its denial of claimant's new/omitted condition claim for a left hip condition. On review, the issue is compensability.

We adopt and affirm the ALJ's order.

Claimant's attorney is entitled to an assessed fee for services on review. ORS 656.382(2). After considering the factors set forth in OAR 438-015-0010(4) and applying them to this case, we find that a reasonable fee for claimant's attorney's services on review is \$5,000, payable by the employer. In reaching this conclusion, we have particularly considered the time devoted to the case (as represented by claimant's respondent's brief, her counsel's fee submission, and the employer's response), the complexity of the issue, the value of the interest involved, the risk that claimant's counsel may go uncompensated, and the contingent nature of the practice of workers' compensation law.

Finally, claimant is awarded reasonable expenses and costs for records, expert opinions, and witness fees, if any, incurred in finally prevailing over the denial, to be paid by the employer. *See* ORS 656.386(2); OAR 438-015-0019; *Gary Gettman*, 60 Van Natta 2862 (2008). The procedure for recovering this award, if any, is prescribed in OAR 438-015-0019(3).

ORDER

The ALJ's order dated April 14, 2017 is affirmed. For services on review, claimant's attorney is awarded an assessed fee of \$5,000, payable by the employer. Claimant is awarded reasonable expenses and costs for records, expert opinions, and witness fees, if any, incurred in finally prevailing over the denial, to be paid by the employer.

Entered at Salem, Oregon on October 20, 2017