



PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

State of New Jersey

ROBERT ASARO-ANGELO
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lieutenant Governor

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
P.O. BOX 381, TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0381

MEMORANDUM August 20, 2024

To: Notice to All Workers' Compensation Judges and Members of the Bar

From: Maria Del Valle-Koch
Director and Chief Judge of Compensation

Subject: Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century Responders Protection Act
Reporting Requirements

Governor Phil Murphy signed into law the "Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century Responders Protection Act." This legislation was enacted to modernize the workers' compensation system in this State to ensure that all public safety workers' critical needs are met and assure that these workers are not denied a level of support which is commensurate to the sacrifices they and their families make for the safety and well-being of the citizens of this State and nation. Public safety workers are New Jersey's first line of defense in the event of catastrophic emergencies, epidemics and terrorist attacks. If a public safety worker can demonstrate that in the course of his or her employment, the worker is exposed to excretions, secretions, blood or other bodily fluids or airborne exposure to a serious communicable disease or any pathogen or biological toxin then all care or treatment of the public safety workers is compensable pursuant to NJSA 34:15-1, et seq. The employer has the right to rebut this allegation by a preponderance of the evidence showing that the exposure is not linked to the occurrence of the disease.

Pursuant to NJSA 34:15-31.10, the NJ Division of Workers' Compensation is required to report the following information on an annual basis to the NJ Legislature: a. the number of claim petitions with respect to which a determination was rendered by the Division of Workers' Compensation during the previous calendar year that an injury or illness falls in this category and is compensable and b. the total amount of workers' compensation benefits awarded by the Division of Workers' Compensation for the claim petitions counted under subsection a. of this section, including medical benefits, temporary total disability benefits, permanent partial benefits, and permanent total benefits. Due to the reporting requirements, when a case pursuant to this act concludes, it is the responsibility of the petitioner's attorney to complete the Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century First Respondent Protection Act Addendum (WC-156) and submit along with the settlement/judgment order for the Judge of Compensation's signature. The addendum is attached to this memorandum and can also be found on the Division's website.



WORKERS'
COMPENSATION

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AD-18.14 (9/23)

State of New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION WC-156 (R. 8/20/24)	Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century First Responders Protection Act ADDENDUM	CASE NO'S.: VICINAGE:
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Petitioner: _____ **Respondent:** _____

IT IS ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, _____, HEREBY DETERMINED
that the injury or illness that Petitioner has sustained was compensable as an enumerated injury or illness
within Sections 4 through 7 of P.L.2019, c.156 (C.34:15-31.2 et seq.)

WE HEREBY CONSENT TO THE ENTRY AND
FORM OF THIS ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGE A COPY

PETITIONER'S ATTORNEY

JUDGE OF COMPENSATION DATE

RESPONDENT ATTORNEY

JUDGE'S NAME

PETITIONER (where applicable)

**THE ORIGINAL OF THIS DOCUMENT, SIGNED BY THE JUDGE OF
COMPENSATION, WILL BE MAINTAINED ON FILE IN THE
DIVISION OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.
34:15-121 et. seq.**