GREY & GREY, PLLC

YOUR GUIDE TO

Occupational Hearing Loss



What is Occupational Hearing Loss?

Occupational hearing loss is damage to the inner ear from noise or vibrations due to certain types of jobs, or exposure to loud noise while at work. Workers whose jobs involve regular exposure to loud noise often suffer from occupational hearing loss — the most common work-related injury in the United States — with approximately 22 million workers exposed to hazardous noise.

What Benefits are Available?

The Workers' Compensation law provides financial awards for occupational hearing loss if:

- Workers were employed in a noise-exposed occupation for more than 90 days;
- The hearing loss is within the range covered by the law; and
- The hearing loss is greater than typical age-related hearing loss.

Grey & Grey can tell if you are owed compensation for hearing loss by talking to you about your work history and reviewing results of a hearing test (audiogram). The amount of an award for occupational hearing loss depends on your salary, when you file the claim, and the extent of the loss. In some cases, awards can be tens of thousands of dollars. Hearing aids are also covered.

When Should I File?

The general rule is that you cannot file a claim for occupational hearing loss while you are still working in a noise-exposed job. You must be removed from occupational noise exposure for three months before filing. At the end of that three-month period, you must file a claim within two years.

You can be removed from occupational noise exposure as a result of:

- Retirement;
- Transfer to a non-noise-exposed job;
- The employer providing you with effective hearing protection;
- Any other event that ends your exposure to occupational noise for at least three months.

There are some limited situations in which a claim can be filed more than 27 months after removal from occupational noise exposure, but it is best to get legal advice at the time you retire or leave the noisy environment.

How Can We Help?

Grey & Grey will make sure you get all the benefits to which you are entitled. We will review your audiogram, file your claim, advise you what medical proof is needed, and represent you at the Workers' Compensation Board.

For a **FREE CONSULTATION** about occupational hearing loss or other work-related injuries, contact us.

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