

“Dog” File Checklist

I. Determine Present Status

1. Review file – beginning and end
2. Review medical billing – year-to-year cost
3. Outline medical referral chain
4. Surgeries?
5. Doctor – how long treated?

II. Obtain Surveillance

1. Consider weekend/weeknight surveillance
2. Adequate budget
3. Criminal/court records
4. “Telephone” surveillance

III. Gather Updated Medical

1. Obtain medical authorization from claimant
2. Recent medical visits?
3. Consider independent medical examination (IME)
4. Send IME report to present authorized doctor

IV. Fact Finding: IMEs, Medical Conferences, Etc.

1. IME by internist, cardiologist, etc.
2. Medical conference at doctor’s office
3. Canvass medical facilities near claimant’s home
4. Other medical conditions or social problems

V. Investigate Other Sources of Information

1. Contact employer
2. Obtain employer’s file, if necessary
3. Past vocational rehabilitation counselors?
4. Doctor’s office – talk to medical secretary
5. Social security file?

VI. Look at Your Options: Change in Condition, Mediation, Etc.

1. Is vocational rehabilitation realistic? Ask for an updated or initial evaluation
2. Discovery – deposition of claimant, medical request for production of documents
3. Change in condition worth pursuing!
4. SITF fund claim – status/can a claim still be filed?
5. Request change in physicians – consider requesting a mediation

VII. Evaluation for Settlement

1. Look at three-to-five-year exposure
2. Conference with claimant if unrepresented
3. Create an issue: window of opportunity to settle
4. Medicare Set Aside issues?
5. Creative settlement ideas (medical trust with a reversion to the employee)
6. Mediation settlement conferences: valuable tool
7. Consider private mediation, if possible

VIII. Settle?

1. How much leverage do you have?
2. Realistic timetable and plan of attack!

10 Reasons to Close a “Dog” File

1. The claimant loves to chat with you personally – for extended periods of time.
 2. Your co-workers laugh when you mention the name of the file.
 3. The doctor’s nurse curses you when you call.
 4. It takes a hand cart to move the file.
 5. Your defense attorney has retired.
 6. You’ve been promoted, but must keep the file.
 7. The employer’s First Report of Injury has turned yellow.
 8. It’s hard to find a 1977 Code revision.
 9. Vocational rehabilitation hangs up when you call.
 10. Your supervisor wants updates weekly.
-

swift/currie

Having represented clients in Georgia and throughout the country for 60 years, Swift, Currie, McGhee & Hiers, LLP, has evolved into a law firm capable of handling all areas of civil law and litigation. With approximately 170 attorneys, Swift Currie possesses the resources and abilities to tackle the most complex legal problems, while at the same time, providing its clients with individualized, prompt and cost-effective service. Our law firm has a wealth of experience across numerous practice areas, and our depth of legal talent allows us to tailor such strengths to individual cases.

Our firm's philosophy is to provide our clients with creative, aggressive and professional representation of their interests. We also strive to conduct ourselves in a manner consistent with the legacy of our four founding partners.

No matter what the issue is in dispute, Swift Currie has attorneys ready to assist you. We believe we have a well-deserved reputation for high-quality legal services and dedicated attorneys.

Finding creative solutions to complex problems – that is our commitment to our clients.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION PARTNERS

John F. Sacha	404.888.6103	john.sacha@swiftcurrie.com
Robert R. Potter	404.888.6105	robert.potter@swiftcurrie.com
Mark J. Goodman	404.888.6107	mark.goodman@swiftcurrie.com
R. Briggs Peery	404.888.6112	briggs.peery@swiftcurrie.com
Michael Ryder	404.888.6114	mike.ryder@swiftcurrie.com
Debra D. Chambers	404.888.6124	debra.chambers@swiftcurrie.com
Richard A. Watts	404.888.6113	richard.watts@swiftcurrie.com
Lisa A. Wade	404.888.6110	lisa.wade@swiftcurrie.com
Douglas W. Brown, Jr.	404.888.6117	doug.brown@swiftcurrie.com
Timothy C. Lemke	404.888.6125	tim.lemke@swiftcurrie.com
Cristine K. Huffine	404.888.6119	cristine.huffine@swiftcurrie.com
James D. Johnson	404.888.6139	jim.johnson@swiftcurrie.com
Cabell D. Townsend	404.888.6104	cab.townsend@swiftcurrie.com
Todd A. Brooks	404.888.6205	todd.brooks@swiftcurrie.com
Charles E. Harris, IV	404.888.6108	chad.harris@swiftcurrie.com
Michael Rosetti	404.888.6121	michael.rosetti@swiftcurrie.com
S. Elizabeth Wilson	404.888.6211	beth.wilson@swiftcurrie.com
K. Martine Cumbermack	404.888.6224	martine.cumbermack@swiftcurrie.com
R. Alex Ficker	404.888.6215	alex.ficker@swiftcurrie.com
K. Mark Webb	404.888.6217	mark.webb@swiftcurrie.com
Preston D. Holloway	404.888.6229	preston.holloway@swiftcurrie.com
Jeff K. Stinson	404.888.6207	jeff.stinson@swiftcurrie.com
Marion H. Martin	404.888.6143	marion.martin@swiftcurrie.com
Mark E. Irby	404.888.6118	mark.irby@swiftcurrie.com
C. Blake Staten	404.888.6206	blake.staten@swiftcurrie.com
Joanna S. Jang	404.888.6228	joanna.jang@swiftcurrie.com
Jonathan G. Wilson	404.888.6227	jonathan.wilson@swiftcurrie.com
Marc E. Sirotkin	404.888.6129	marc.sirotkin@swiftcurrie.com