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Workers' Compensation Issues Affecting Traveling Employees

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In order to have a valid workers' compensation claim, an employee must show that the injury arose out of and in the course of his or her employment. While an employee with a fixed place of employment is generally not covered by workers' compensation for accidents and injuries that occur while traveling to and from work or going through his or her day-to-day activities, an employee with no fixed place of employment, such as a flight attendant, or an employee on a business trip, will be entitled to workers' compensation for [accidents and injuries](#) occurring during day-to-day activities if it was reasonably foreseeable that the activity would be done while traveling. Likewise, an employee that is away from his or her home office on a mandated business trip will also be entitled to workers' compensation for injuries that would typically not be covered if they had happened while at home. Moreover, courts have generally given a very liberal interpretation of what it means to occur "in the course of employment" in the context of a traveling employee.

For example, a [flight attendant](#) that slips on ice in a parking lot while on a layover is likely entitled to workers' compensation because it is reasonably foreseeable that the flight attendant would need to walk outside while on his or her layover. Similarly, a flight attendant on layover that is injured in a hotel or at a restaurant is likely entitled to workers' compensation because it is reasonably foreseeable that the employee would need to eat a meal and stay in a hotel while on layover. On the other hand, an employee that slips on the ice while walking to his or her car following a day in the office or injuries himself at a restaurant while out for lunch would not be entitled to workers' compensation because the activity is not "in the course" of employment.

Flight attendants for [United Airlines](#) and American Airlines are frequently on layovers in Illinois since Chicago is a hub of airline traffic for these airlines. Consequently, flight attendants injured while on layovers in Illinois are covered by Illinois workers' compensation laws. [Katz, Friedman](#) lawyers represent many [flight attendants](#) in cases involving workers' compensation issues.

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