

February 21, 2006

John Shilts, Director
Department of Consumer and Business Services
Workers' Compensation Division
PO Box 14480
Salem, OR 97309-0405

Dear Mr. Shilts:

I am writing to you as an experienced board-certified neurosurgeon who has worked in Portland for approximately the last 30 years. I have served as the President of the Medical Staff at St. Vincent Hospital in Portland, and I am currently the Chairman of the Regional Executive Committee of the Sisters of Providence in Portland, overseeing the clinical performance of the medical staff at the St. Vincent/Providence and Providence/Milwaukie. I consider myself an experienced physician and surgeon and have been actively involved in the medical affairs of the facilities for which I have worked.

Recently, I have felt the need to perform independent medical evaluations, drawing on my experience. However, I am reconsidering that position because of the requirement that reports be produced within seven days of an examination, with sanctions to apply if not.

I have come to appreciate the complexity of independent medical evaluation and the need to be thorough and comprehensive. I am strongly of the opinion that the seven day restriction will inhibit my capacity to perform a thoughtful, comprehensive, and fair evaluation of all material that pertains to the case of any given injured worker. I would strongly suggest that this requirement be dropped or otherwise modified to give examining physicians sufficient time to do a proper job. If I do not believe that I can consistently be fair and impartial and produce a report within a short timeframe, I will withdraw from performing independent medical evaluations, which in the final analysis would be a detriment to injured workers and their employers.

Respectfully submitted,



Frederick T. Waller, M.D.
Neurosurgeon

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