

U.S. Department of Labor

Employment Standards Administration  
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs  
Division of Federal Employees' Compensation  
Washington, D.C. 20210

M-01527



APR - 6 2004

File Number:

Mr. Jim Williams  
Executive Vice President  
National Association of Letter Carriers  
100 Indiana Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20001-2144

Dear Mr. Williams,

I am writing in reply to your letter of March 8, 2004, regarding visits by postal inspectors to the homes of injured workers and to their physicians. You ask for an opinion from the Division of Federal Employees' Compensation on this issue.

In accordance with 20 C.F.R. 10.506, the only authorized contact between an employee of the agency and the injured worker's physician is written communication "concerning the work limitations imposed by the effects of the injury and possible job assignments". The employer shall provide copies of any such correspondence as well as the physician's response to OWCP and the employee. This section of the regulations specifically prohibits the agency from contacting the physician's office for any reason by telephone or personal visit. The only situation where a postal inspector would be allowed to contact the attending physician of an injured worker would be as part of an established fraud investigation.

There is no authority provided under the FECA for personal visits to employees' homes by persons representing the employing agency. I trust that the guidance provided will assist you in your efforts to represent injured postal employees.

Sincerely,

EDWARD G. DUNCAN  
Deputy Director for  
Federal Employees' Compensation

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EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
N.A.L.C. HDQRTS., WASHINGTON, D.C.