

2023 Kansas Statutes

44-5,125. Workers compensation fraud and other acts or practices constituting crimes; penalties; repayment of certain amounts, interest; cause of action, certain monetary damages.

(a) (1) Any person who obtains or attempts to obtain workers compensation benefits for such person or another, or who denies or attempts to deny the obligation to make any payment of workers compensation benefits by knowingly or intentionally: (A) Making a false or misleading statement, (B) misrepresenting or concealing a material fact, (C) fabricating, altering, concealing or destroying a document; (D) receiving temporary total disability benefits or permanent total disability benefits to which they are not entitled, while employed, or (E) conspiring with another person to commit any act described by paragraph (1) of this subsection (a), shall be guilty of:

- (i) A class A nonperson misdemeanor, if the amount received as a benefit or other payment under the workers compensation act as a result of such act or the amount that the person otherwise benefited monetarily as a result of a violation of this subsection (a) is \$1,000 or less;
- (ii) a severity level 9, nonperson felony, if such amount is more than \$1,000, but less than \$25,000;
- (iii) a severity level 7, nonperson felony, if the amount is more than \$25,000, but less than \$50,000;
- (iv) a severity level 6, nonperson felony if the amount is more than \$50,000, but less than \$100,000; or
- (v) a severity level 5, nonperson felony if the amount is more than \$100,000.

(b) Any person who knowingly and intentionally presents a false certificate of insurance that purports that the presenter is insured under the workers compensation act, shall be guilty of a level 8, nonperson felony.

(c) A health care provider under the workers compensation act who knowingly and intentionally submits a charge for health care that was not furnished, shall be guilty of a level 9, nonperson felony.

(d) Any person who obtains or attempts to obtain a more favorable workers compensation insurance premium rate than that to which the person is entitled, who prevents, reduces, avoids or attempts to prevent, reduce or avoid the payment of any compensation under the workers compensation act, or who fails to communicate a settlement offer or similar information to a claimant under the workers compensation act, by, in any such case knowingly or intentionally: (1) Making a false or misleading statement; (2) misrepresenting or concealing a material fact; (3) fabricating, concealing or destroying a document; or (4) conspiring with another person or persons to commit the acts described in clause (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection shall be guilty of a level 9, nonperson felony.

(e) Any person who has received any amount of money as a benefit or other payment under the workers compensation act as a result of a violation of subsection (a) or (c) and any person who has otherwise benefited monetarily as a result of a violation of subsection (a) or (c) shall be liable to repay an amount equal to the amount so received by such person or the amount by which such person has benefited monetarily, with interest thereon. Any such amount, plus any accrued interest thereon, shall bear interest at the current rate of interest prescribed by law for judgments under subsection (e)(1) of K.S.A. 16-204, and amendments thereto, per month or fraction of a month until repayment of such amount, plus any accrued interest thereon. The interest shall accrue from the date of overpayment or erroneous payment of any such amount or the date such person benefited monetarily.

(f) Any person aggrieved by a violation of subsection (a), (b), (c) or (d) shall have a cause of action against any other person to recover any amounts of money erroneously paid as benefits or any other amounts of money paid under the workers compensation act, and to seek relief for other monetary damages, for which liability has accrued under this section against such other person. Relief under this subsection is to be predicated upon exhaustion of administrative remedies available in K.S.A. 44-5,120, and amendments thereto.

(g) Nothing in this section shall prohibit an employer from exercising a right to reimbursement under K.S.A. 44-534a, 44-556 or 44-569a, and amendments thereto.

(h) Prosecution for any crime under this section shall be commenced within five years subject to the time period set forth in subsection (8) of K.S.A. 21-3106, prior to its repeal, or subsection (e) of K.S.A. 21-5107, and amendments thereto.

History: L. 1993, ch. 286, § 6; L. 1994, ch. 291, § 75; L. 1996, ch. 79, § 16; L. 1997, ch. 125, § 20; L. 1998, ch. 114, § 8; L. 2000, ch. 160, § 24; L. 2006, ch. 194, § 31; L. 2011, ch. 30, § 186; July 1.