

BEFORE THE ARKANSAS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

CLAIM NO. H504229

BRENDA ARNOLD,
EMPLOYEE

CLAIMANT

OSCEOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
EMPLOYER

RESPONDENT

ARKANSAS SCHOOL BOARDS ASSN.,
INSURANCE CARRIER/TPA

RESPONDENT

OPINION FILED JULY 9, 2026

Upon review before the FULL COMMISSION in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

Claimant appeared *pro se*.

Respondents represented by the HONORABLE MELISSA WOOD, Attorney at Law, Little Rock, Arkansas.

ORDER

The claimant, now *pro se*, moves for more time to submit her brief.

The Full Commission grants the claimant's motion.

An administrative law judge filed an opinion on March 24, 2026. The administrative law judge found that the claimant did not prove she sustained a compensable injury. The claimant filed a timely notice of appeal to the Full Commission, and the Clerk of the Commission established a briefing schedule. On or about April 20, 2026, a Legal Support Specialist granted the claimant "a 30-day extension to file initial brief." On April 30, 2026, the Full Commission granted a motion to withdraw filed by the claimant's attorney.

According to the extended briefing schedule, the *pro se* claimant's brief was due on May 22, 2026. The claimant has now filed a motion for extension of time. The claimant states, "The brief was sent by FedEx prior to the May 22, 2026 deadline. At this time FedEx has not delivered the brief to Mrs. Melissa Wood due to looking for her in residential areas and her brief is not in Little Rock. I sent a brief to Mrs. Melissa Wood and a brief to Mrs. Tanita Taylor. FedEx has lost Mrs. Tanita's brief." The respondents object to late submission of the claimant's brief and request that a new deadline be established for submission of the respondents' brief.

The Workers' Compensation Commission shall not be bound by technical or formal rules of procedure, but may make such investigation or inquiry in a manner as will best ascertain the rights of the parties. Ark. Code Ann. §11-9-705(a)(1)(Repl. 2012). In the present matter, the Full Commission grants the claimant's motion for an extension of time. We note that the claimant filed her initial brief on June 3, 2026. The Full Commission therefore directs the Clerk of the Commission to establish a final briefing schedule in order to allow the respondents to file a brief. The claimant may then file a reply brief, if desired, strictly in accordance with the final briefing schedule set forth by the Clerk of the Commission.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

SCOTTY DALE DOUTHIT, Chairman

M. SCOTT WILLHITE, Commissioner

MICHAEL R. MAYTON, Commissioner