

A Selection of Case Studies on Inefficiencies & Issues Associated with Current FECA Claims

- Arizona: A worker's back pay was delayed from July 2024 until April 2025 after a successful claim due to OWCP's inability to get pay rate information from the employing agency and then information regarding the workers annuity from OPM.
- Arizona: A FECA claimant with physical and psychological conditions cannot find a treating physician after his previous physician retired.
- California: A worker claimant's OWCP benefits have been delayed since December and continue to be delayed due to OWCP's inability to coordinate with OPM.
- California: It took OWCP 8 months to transfer information on OWCP benefits to OPM following successful claim for compensation, thereby delaying benefits.
- California: In a survivor claim, OWCP determined there was a conflict in medical evidence. They have been unable to locate a doctor to resolve the conflict despite having allegedly contacted 473 different doctors.
- California: A worker had a FECA claim approved in July 2023. The claimant has been unable to access their benefits to date because the election of benefits issues has not been resolved by OWCP.
- California: OWCP took four years to process an acknowledged underpayment of benefits to a worker. No interest is payable on back pay or underpayments.
- Florida: OWCP took from July of 2024 to February 2025 to schedule a second opinion examination after a worker's claim was remanded from the Branch of Hearings and Review. The second opinion supported the claim, finding that the claimant's injury was work related. However, the claim still has not been approved almost a full year after the remand.
- Florida: A Department of Defense worker was diagnosed with PTSD in 2019 and had to stop working. His claim was accepted by OWCP in 2023 after multiple appeals. The worker claimant still has not been paid back-wages from 2019 to 2024 because OWCP is not able to get information from OPM.
- Georgia: A worker claimant, who is a USPS employee, had a cervical fusion approved in 2008 for a neck injury. The worker claimant re-injured their neck at work in 2019. His neurosurgeon advised he needed revision surgery. It took from 2019 until 2024 for OWCP to award benefits.
- Maryland: A Special Agent with an accepted brain injury and Parkinson's disease cannot get OWCP to provide the worker or their counsel with a copy of or access to the file for approximately two years. OWCP intermittently denies payment to claimant's residential care.
- Minnesota: A worker has multiple accepted claims but cannot find any treating physicians within 100 miles.
- Missouri: The widow of an injured worker was unable to get scheduled cancer surgery because of the severity of her work injury. She then died of cancer and was never able to receive a decision on her claim for survivor benefits before she herself passed. The claim for survivor benefits was filed in December 2023.
- Nevada: A federal worker has an accepted claim for a work related injury or illness. OWCP cannot find an ear nose and throat doctor that will take OWCP insurance. OWCP sent two referrals for doctors in California and Arizona. Neither of the referrals will take OWCP patients.
- Nevada: A worker had to travel to California to get a second opinion because there were no closer options that work with FECA.

- North Carolina: The worker claimant is a rural mail carrier for the USPS. She has established a claim for the recurrence of an earlier injury and had a second opinion that echoed the first claim. OWCP has taken no action despite the second opinion, and she has received no benefits for over six months.
- Rhode Island: OWCP determined the worker claimant's temporary position was not suitable for her based on a second-opinion doctor's determination of her work restrictions. When she filed for compensation, OWCP demanded she prove that she was disabled from that same job, delaying her receipt of compensation.
- Virginia: A FECA claimant's doctor ordered a CPAP machine. It took OWCP 8 months to approve the CPAP machine. The claimant had a stroke a week before he got the CPAP machine, which the treating physician has said would likely have been avoided if he had access to the CPAP machine earlier.
- Virginia: A Department of Defense worker claimant had a FECA claim accepted for aggravation of fibromyalgia, but for 10 years her treating doctor asked for PTSD, anxiety and depression to be added. Instead of adding on, OWCP terminated the claim in 2020. Claimant went homeless before OWCP finally added PTSD, anxiety and depression in 2024 and placed claimant back on wage-loss benefits.