

ZADROGA HEALTH & COMPENSATION ACT REAUTHORIZED

WHAT ALL THOSE IN THE 9/11 COMMUNITY NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE LAW AND YOUR FUTURE RIGHTS.



On December 18, 2015, Congress reauthorized and extended both the health care and compensation available to 9/11 first responders. The new law is entitled the "Zadroga Health & Compensation Reauthorization Act". Here are the highlights:

HEALTH CARE



- Medical care for 9/11 first responders and local residents and workers has been extended 75 years.
- Active and retired firefighters have the right to free health care for WTC-certified illnesses from the FDNY's Bureau of Health Services and the WTC Health Program (which has clinics throughout the country).
- Make sure that you take advantage of this free exam and go to your annual WTC physical, including skin screening.

VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND (VCF)



- A total of \$7.3 billion has been made available to fully compensate claimants who have pending claims, as well as future claimants diagnosed with certified WTC illnesses.



- Claimants with awards letters dated prior to December 18, 2015 will receive 100% payment of their VCF awards by June, 2016 -- rather than just 40% at the end of 2017, which is what they would have received had the VCF not been reauthorized by Congress.
- The VCF has been extended 5 years, to December 18, 2020.
- VCF claimants with pending claims, and those who have already received awards, have the right to amend their claims if their duty status changes as a result of their 9/11 illnesses and/or if they are diagnosed with new WTC-certified cancers.
- New cancer claims MUST be registered within 2 years of the date of certification by the World Trade Center Health Program.
- VCF awards range from \$125,000-\$250,000 for certified cancers, and more for economic loss if the claimant has been found disabled by a WTC illness. All VCF awards are tax free.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ZADROGA REAUTHORIZATION ACT, OR YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THE VICTIM COMPENSATION FUND, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT US AT:

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