

NEW REQUIREMENT FOR EMPLOYERS

Texas Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC)

As you may already be aware, pursuant to a newly adopted administrative rule by the Texas Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) all employers participating in the workers compensation system are required to post the form "Employers Notification of Ombudsman Program to Employees."

The Rule (Section 276.5 of the Texas Administrative Code) reads as follows:

§276.5. The Employer's Notification of the Ombudsman Program to Employees.

- (a) All employers participating in the workers' compensation system shall post notice of the Office of Injured Employee Counsel's (OIEC) Ombudsman Program. This notice shall be posted in the personnel office, if the employer has a personnel office, and in the workplace where each employee is likely to see the notice on a regular basis.
- (b) This notice of the Ombudsman Program shall be publicly posted in English, Spanish, and any other language that is common to the employer's employees.
- (c) This notice shall be the text provided by OIEC without any additional words or changes and may be obtained by:
 - (1) Downloading the form on OIEC's website at: <http://www.oiec.state.tx.us/>; or
 - (2) Requesting the notice by calling OIEC's toll-free telephone number at: 1-866-EZE-OIEC (1-866-393-6432).

The provisions of §276.5 are adopted to be effective December 20, 2006, 31 TexReg 8616.

For your convenience, a PDF file containing the most recent notice promulgated by the OIEC (**Ombudsman Required Posting. PDF**) is attached to this message. This notice may also be obtained directly from the OIEC's website, as referenced in the above Rule.

Please note that while we are not required by law to provide you with this information, we hope that you will find this message and the attached notice helpful in achieving compliance with the Rule.

DISCLAIMER: This communication does not create any duty to provide such information and we expressly disclaim any duty to update any information set forth herein. This message should not be interpreted as legal advice or a legal opinion. Do not act or rely on law-related information in this message without seeking the advice of an attorney.