



“At a Glance”

The Federal Employers Liability Act (FELA) & BMWED Designated Legal Counsel (DLC)

The **Federal Employers Liability Act** (45 U.S.C § 51 et seq.), also known as **FELA**, governs the right of railroad employees or their families to compensation when workers are injured, sickened, or killed on the job. FELA requires that employees or their families who seek damages prove the railroad is liable for the injury, illness, or death. This happens through filing suit for compensation in court.

FELA differs from the Workers' Compensation laws in many states, where an employee can seek compensation through an administrative system and costs are covered under an insurance program.

FELA compensation can be significantly greater than coverage for similar injuries under Workers' Compensation, but requires the employee or their representative to prove liability in court.

Why should I care?

If you are hurt, get sick, or get killed while on the job, **FELA** governs your rights or your family's rights to get fairly compensated for the loss you suffered.

Where should I go to learn more?

Contacting our **BMWED Designated Legal Counsel (DLC)** will connect you with law firms approved to handle FELA cases for BMWED members as well as receive guidance or support for other issues related to rail employees' legal rights under laws like FELA, FRSA, ADA, FMLA, and others. You can find a list of BMWED Designated Legal Counsel at bmwe.org, under the **Member Benefits/FELA** tab.

What is important for me and my family to remember?

If you are hurt, get sick, or suffer from some disability, **YOU HAVE LEGAL RIGHTS!** Your railroad may not give you all the information you have a right to receive, so it is important to contact our **BMWED Designated Legal Counsel** for guidance and support in preserving your legal rights.

What else should I know?

Railroads maintain large teams of experts dedicated to limiting their costs and liability for losses employees like us suffer while working at our jobs. Whether through your supervisor, a claims department, a medical department, or some other person, your railroad will often try to influence your ability to exercise your rights under **FELA** and other laws.

You also have a team standing with you! Your Union and our **BMWED Designated Legal Counsel** can help you to make sure that you don't give up your rights under the law or your ability to be fairly treated and fairly compensated as you navigate your way back to health and safety.

My BMWED Designated Legal Counsel is :

Phone Number :

Learn more by visiting the BMWED website at <https://www.bmwe.org>