

Figure: 28 TAC §276.5(c)

**NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES CONCERNING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN THE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM FROM THE OFFICE OF INJURED EMPLOYEE
COUNSEL**

Have you been injured on the job? As an injured employee in Texas, you have the right to free assistance from the Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC). OIEC is the state agency that assists unrepresented injured employees with their claim in the workers' compensation system. You can contact OIEC by calling its toll-free telephone number: 1-866-393-6432. More information about OIEC and its Ombudsman Program is available at the agency's website (www.oiec.texas.gov).

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

WHAT IS AN OMBUDSMAN? An Ombudsman is an employee of OIEC who can assist you if you have a dispute with your employer's insurance carrier. An Ombudsman's assistance is free of charge. Each Ombudsman has completed a comprehensive training program designed specifically to assist you with your dispute.

An Ombudsman can help you identify and develop the disputed issues in your case and attempt to resolve them. If the issues cannot be resolved, the Ombudsman can help you request a dispute resolution proceeding at the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation. Once a proceeding is scheduled an Ombudsman can:

- Help you prepare for the proceeding (Benefit Review Conference and/or Contested Case Hearing);
- Attend the proceeding with you and communicate on your behalf; and
- Assist you with an appeal or a response to an insurance carrier's appeal, if necessary.