

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Watkins v. City of Ponderay, Docket No. 49704

This appeal arose from the Idaho Industrial Commission. Michael Watkins, a police officer with the Ponderay Police Department, injured his knee while chasing a suspect. Because Watkins was injured during the performance of his duties as a police officer, he was eligible to receive his full base salary during the period of his disability under the Peace Officer and Detention Officer Temporary Disability Act. Rather than receive payments under the Act, Watkins accepted worker's compensation benefits from the Idaho State Insurance Fund. Nearly a year later, Watkins filed a complaint against the City of Ponderay seeking payment of his full base salary. The Commission fashioned a remedy which required the City to pay Watkins his full base salary, but reduced that amount by the worker's compensation payments Watkins already received. Watkins appealed, arguing the Commission failed to follow the Act and exceeded its authority by ordering that the City receive a credit for benefits Watkins received. The Idaho Supreme Court reversed the Commission's decision and remanded the case for an accurate application of the Peace Officer and Detention Officer Temporary Disability Act. Specifically, the Court instructed the Commission to order the City to pay Watkins his full rate of base salary, and Watkins to remit the worker's compensation benefits he received to the City.

******This summary constitutes no part of the opinion of the Court, but has been prepared by court staff for the convenience of the public.******