

# Permanent Disability Horror Story No. 12 Mark Conroy

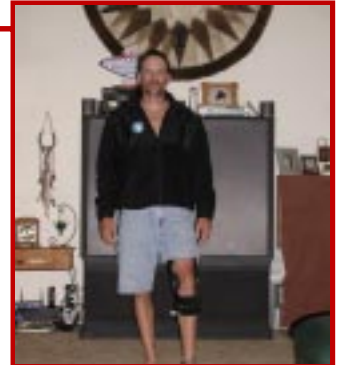
*The Schwarzenegger Administration's Disability Rating Schedule severely cuts benefits to permanently disabled workers.*

**About Me:** My name is Mark Conroy. I am 38 years old, and I live in Rodeo, in the East Bay Area.

**My Family:** I'm married, and have a 5-year-old girl.

**My Job and What Happened:** I worked as a construction foreman for Cabernet Construction and Development in Napa. I had spent 21 years in framing work when I fell into an open utility trench in July of 2004, tearing the ligament in my knee. I had surgery, and spent four weeks in recovery and another month on crutches. The surgery helped, but I still have to use a knee brace nine hours a day. I can't lift anything heavy, or climb a ladder.

**What this has meant to my life:** My injury has harmed my family financially. Before my injury, we were comfortable financially. I have lost almost \$10 per hour in income, and now we are just scraping by. I can no longer kneel or walk on the uneven ground at job sites, so I can't work in construction anymore. I have taken a job as a manager, but I make much less than I did as a framing foreman. I can't surf or snowboard any more nor can I run and play with my daughter.



## How the Governor's Schedule Affects Me

**How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me:**

Workers' compensation is supposed to compensate me for the earnings I will lose over my working life due to my on-the-job injury. My Permanent Disability Compensation is the ONLY compensation I will receive for the chronic pain, mental anguish, and the inability to enjoy outings with friends and family. The compensation is supposed to make up for the loss of my ability to do many of the things I used to do in my daily life. I can't even run and play with my daughter. The governor's schedule would take away more than eighty-percent of my Permanent Partial Disability compensation.

BEFORE	AFTER
\$51,500	\$9,050 (Down 82%)

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