

Permanent Disability Horror Story No. 16 ODILON CALITIS

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

About Me: My name is Odilon Calitis. I am 36 years old, and I live in Pittsburg in the East Bay Area.

My Family: I am married, with two young daughters, ages 7 and 10.

My Job and What Happened: I worked as a truck driver for the Contra Costa Times newspaper. I was injured while loading a cart filled with newspaper bundles into a truck. The cart fell on my left leg, breaking it and tearing the ligament. I had two surgeries, but now walk with a limp. Now I am limited to light duty, so my earnings and job opportunities will be less. I can't drive a truck, because working the clutch or driving for long periods are not possible.

What this has meant to my life: My work injury has hurt me financially and emotionally, as well as physically. My wife now has to work two jobs so we can make our house payments. I can't kneel or squat, and can only walk short distances; stairs are really tough. I used to love to bike, but I can't bend my left knee at all. I have to crawl down the stairs to the car just to take my daughters to school. I can only drive an automatic, because my left knee can't work the clutch. I have trouble sleeping and will never be able to return to my former job.



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 my ONLY compensation for the continuing pain, stress, and my inability to enjoy every-day life. The small compensation will never replace my lost earnings. The governor's schedule would take away almost all of my Permanent Disability compensation.

BEFORE	AFTER
\$71,600	\$16,050 (Down 78%)

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