

Permanent Disability Horror Story No. 18 ROBERT HILLARD

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

About Me: My name is Robert Hillard. I am 52 years old, and I live in Ontario.

My Family: I am married, with eleven children, ranging in age from 11 to 29 years old.

My Job and What Happened: I worked as a plumber for almost 30 years, becoming one of the best in our area, and serving as a Service Manager. I was earning more than \$60,000 a year. One day, I was cleaning a pipe to solder it. The pipe had a metal burr, which cut my finger. I applied First Aid, and went back to work, as I've done many times in my career. Soon, my finger began to cause me great pain, and the doctor said it was infected, and on the verge of gangrene. Thus began my nightmare. I've had multiple surgeries, and had cadaver skin implanted, but nothing stopped the pain. My finger was amputated, and another of my fingers was moved into its place. I've had titanium plates inserted, but they break.

What this has meant to my life: I have basically lost my job due to my limitations at work. I can't do much of what a plumber must do: lift equipment, rewire appliances like water heaters, even fitting into a tight space and using my fingers to screw parts on and off. I can't begin to describe what I've lost due to my injury. I can barely lift a gallon of milk, let alone operate a jackhammer or power drill. I can't play golf, or throw a football with my son. I loved to bowl and play cards, but I can't shuffle cards and my left-handed bowling is a sight to see. My work injury has devastated my family's finances. My income is less than \$20,000 a year.



How the Governor's Schedule Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: I will lose hundreds of thousands of dollars over my working life due to my on-the-job injury. My Permanent Disability Compensation is my ONLY compensation for my inability to do my old job, and also for the loss of my freedom, mobility and ability to do many things in my daily life. I am terrified of what the future holds for my family. Even the old benefits were inadequate. The governor's permanent disability schedule is even more devastating to me and my dependents.

BEFORE	AFTER
\$140,000	\$36,520 (Down 74%)

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