

## **HENRIETTE BARCLAY'S Injured Worker Horror Story**



**“I tore my rotator cuff at work. The insurance carrier denied needed surgery, then cut off temporary disability benefits after twenty-four months. How can they delay recovery and take away disability as a result of their denial of needed care?”**

**About Me:** My name is Henriette Barclay. I’m 60 years old, and I live in Hercules, in Contra Costa County.

**My Family:** I am married. My husband, Harlan, and I have no children.

**My Job and What Happened:** I worked for Rite-Aid as a shift supervisor, stocker and pretty much anything else that was needed. On April 26, 2004, I was helping to unload a truck. When I picked up one of the crates, I heard a pop in my right shoulder. After 15 minutes, I couldn’t move. I was in extreme pain. I had torn my rotator cuff. I have had three surgeries, and my injury is still not corrected. The last MRI showed a tear that had been there all along, but had not been repaired. The workers’ compensation insurer denied the latest recommended surgery.

**What this has meant to my life:** I’ve lost three years of income, as I’m unable to work because of my shoulder injury. My shoulder is getting worse, instead of better. I used to love to do Country Dancing, but I can’t reach my arm over my head any long. I used to knit and crochet, but now I get so frustrated that I usually end up crying. I can no longer reach, pick up anything over 1 pound, do the laundry, or even blow dry my hair.

## **How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me**

**How Workers’ Comp was supposed to help me:** Workers compensation insurance promised medical care to heal my injury. Then they denied surgery that all three of my doctors said I need. I was promised temporary disability benefits while I heal. But the insurance carrier denied surgery, and cut off temporary disability after two years.

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