

ROCKY BLAND'S Injured Worker Horror Story



“I shredded two discs in my back working on a cement truck. AIG has delayed and denied my surgeries and treatments. Now I’ve been cut off temporary disability because two years has passed, even though I’m not healed.”

About Me: My name is Rocky Bland. I live in Bella Vista, near Redding.

My Family: I’m single and have no children.

My Job and What Happened: I worked as a mechanic for Shasta Readymix. I worked repairing cement mixing trucks. On September 7, 2004, I injured my back lifting the hood of a cement truck. I immediately felt as if my back had been hit by a branding iron. I had shredded two discs in my lower back. The doctor recommended surgery to fuse two discs. It took three months of doctors’ and attorney’s letters to get AIG insurance to approve my surgery. Finally, AIG authorized the surgery, but didn’t commit to pay for it! The first surgery failed, so I had to have a second operation.

The insurance company has delayed and denied treatment after treatment. I have had to pay for medical care out of my own pocket and fight to get AIG to reimburse for needed care. I still have medical problems, including complications from surgery.

What this has meant to my life: I haven’t been able to work since my injury. I have had to fight tooth and nail for insurance company approval of needed treatments. The denials have slowed my recovery and complicated my injuries. I used to be very active: skiing, hunting, fishing. I can’t do much of anything anymore.

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers’ Comp was supposed to help me: I was to receive medical treatment to heal my injuries, but I’ve had to fight AIG every step of the way to get what my doctors recommend. I was to receive temporary disability support while I heal, but my disability has been cut off after 24 months, despite my medical complications and ongoing treatment. I still have medical problems, but AIG just wants to me to go away. Is this what a workers comp. “success” looks like?

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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