

## **SCOTT HAYES' Injured Worker Horror Story**

**“Injured workers have tremendous problems getting insurance companies to provide necessary care on accepted injuries. Insurance companies have shown they are unconcerned with harming legitimately injured workers as long as they can avoid liability.”**



***About Me:*** Scott Hayes lived in Sacramento until his death at 45 in October 2006.

***My Job and What Happened:*** Scott worked for six years as a workers compensation insurance claims examiner. He worked very hard on his job, and in 1999 Scott developed a herniated disk in his back and neck problems as a result of his sitting all day doing his job. Scott filed a workers compensation insurance claim, and was fired that very afternoon. This was the beginning of Scott's horror story, which lasted until his death. Scott was 100% disabled, settled his claim, and was awarded future medical care. Getting the promised medical care became a full-time effort. Scott was repeatedly denied care and filed for more than 40 separate penalties for the denial of care and compensation. Scott lived in tremendous pain - both physical and mental - from his injury. He couldn't sit for long without having to lie down. He took pain medications. Or, just suffered through the pain.

***What this has meant to my life:*** Scott became an advocate for injured workers. “If I, with my knowledge of workers' compensation rules and regulations, have had such a difficult time in getting treatment and benefits, how can the average person with no experience get what they need?” Scott became a founding board member of VotersInjuredatWork.org, helping injured workers get the care and compensation they need. His insurance carrier claimed Scott was now “working,” even though his service was as a volunteer with no compensation. This is a tactic insurers have used against other viaw.org board members.

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

***How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me:*** Scott needed medical care for his continuing pain. He benefited from procedures, like acupuncture, that were routinely denied. Scott had to go to court to force the insurer to pay for a shot to ease his pain. Scott waited one year for that court date. He then had to wait 3 months for the shot. Scott developed brain cancer, which took his life.

**[www.VotersInjuredatWork.org](http://www.VotersInjuredatWork.org)**

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