

Lambert van Buuren's Injured Worker Horror Story



“I took pride in taking care of my body during 28 years of teaching dance. I loved teaching, but now I can’t even raise my arms above my head. I am living in a friends garage.”

About Me: I am 55 years old and live in Santa Cruz County.

My Family: I am a single woman. I have one grown son who is a middle school teacher.

My Job and What Happened: I taught dance for 25 years and worked as a Technical Analyst. The work stations at my analyst job were not ergonomically correct. My job was to set up channel lines that involved hours of keyboarding. In 2001, after years of doing this, my hands began to go numb. The numbness began traveling up my arms. I had informed my boss of the pain I was experiencing. Later, I was fired for not being able to come into work because my car broke down.

I was initially diagnosed with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Since then my neck has collapsed, causing shooting pain, cramping and numbness in my arms and hands. In 2004, my physical therapy was denied. My neck needed to be fused and the claims adjuster chose to ignore all medical opinions and has repeatedly denied recommended surgery. I finally had the surgery just last month. I settled my case with full medical care, but I’m still being denied necessary treatment.

What this has meant to my life: I have had to move twice due to my financial devastation, and now I’m living in a friend’s garage, with no heat or stove. I can no longer teach dance. I live with pain daily. I can no longer do the things I enjoy, like writing, drawing and working in the yard. I am afraid to drive because the muscles in my neck cramp up. The skin on my hands hurt.

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers compensation insurance was to provide medical care to heal my injuries but the insurance carrier has denied and delayed treatment. I’ve been cut off all physical therapy. The only solutions that have been offered are more pain pills or \$10,000.00 just to go away!

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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