

GLORIA NAVARRO'S Injured Worker Horror Story

I worked as a home health aide. I fell from a new client's patio when a board came loose. I landed face-first on a glass table, and fell to the ground. I broke my ankle, injured my hip and my face. I'll never work again, but am to receive just \$2,940 for my permanent disabilities and lost wages.



About Me: My name is Gloria Navarro. I am 55 years old and I live in Santa Rosa. I've lived in Santa Rosa for the past 45 years.

My Family: I am a widow. My husband died 9 years ago. I have three children: David, 34; Gary, 25; and Rosie, 22. I have grandchildren as well.

My Job and What Happened: I worked as a Nurse's Aide, providing home support to people with disabilities. I began this work taking care of my husband during his illness, and then my brother. I enjoyed my work and felt valuable in helping sick individuals navigate their homes and live more fully. On Sept. 23, 2002, I was on the first day helping a new client, Linda, a diabetic. We were on her back patio and I stepped on a loose board that caused me to fall off the patio. I landed face first on a glass table, and then fell to the ground. I hit my head, my teeth, my hips and legs. I tore a tendon and ligament. I broke the bone in my left ankle, chipped a tooth and injured my hip and leg. Had the glass in the table broken, it likely would have severed my neck. I have been in pain ever since. I couldn't move my toes. I've had surgery on my ankle twice.

What this has meant to my life: I've lost my job, and won't be able to return to home health care. I won't be able to work again, as I don't get around very well. I walk with a cane and can't stand for very long. I used to go places with my kids and grandkids - to the beach, the city, even just shopping. I can't do that anymore. I have no money and I am depressed much of the time. I won't be able to support myself anymore and I don't know how I'll get along.

BEFORE
\$68,383

AFTER
\$2,940

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 and Permanent Disability compensation for my lost wages due to my work injury. They took away 95% of my Permanent Disability Compensation. The governor's cuts have reduced my Permanent Disability Compensation from 67% to just 7%. How am I supposed to live on \$2,940 with no ability to earn an income?

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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