

Fabian Ramirez's Permanent Disability Horror Story



The Schwarzenegger Administration's Disability Rating Schedule severely cuts benefits to permanently disabled workers.

About Me: My name is Fabian Ramirez. I am 44 years old and I live in Carson.

My Family: My wife and I have 4 children: Ariana, 22; Erica, 19; Fabian, Jr., 15; and, Stephanie, 10.

My Job and What Happened: I worked 18 years for an aerospace industry company, BodyCote International. We provided metal services to airlines like Boeing and Northrop. We provided heat treatments, hot pressing, metal coatings and testing services for parts. We reshaped metal with heat or bending. We pushed, pulled and bent the metal to match the shape of the part that needed fixing. In August 2004, I was driving a forklift, moving parts from one area to another, when I suddenly felt sharp pain and burning in my left leg. I tried to ignore the pain, but it kept getting worse, until I could barely get out of the forklift. I went to the doctor, who found 6 damaged disks in my back - 4 of them herniated. After many years working with heavy parts and equipment, my back wore out.

What this has meant to my life: I live in pain that wakes me up 10 times a night. I find it hard to get out of bed in the morning. I had a great job with a good wage, and took care of my family. Now I'm disabled and depressed. I used to drive a forklift, now I can barely ride in a car. I can't return to my job, nor earn any income. I can't do what I used to do for my children, and am afraid for our future.

How the Governor's Schedule Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: The California Constitution guarantees injured workers medical care to cure and relieve their injuries and pain, and compensation for lost earnings. Permanent disability benefits are a worker's sole compensation for the lifetime consequences of their disabling work injury. How can I meet my financial obligations to my family on the compensation that is so low?

BEFORE

AFTER

\$86,000

\$12,050

(Down 86 %)

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For more information, please contact Mark Hayes at 714/396-5260 or email to oneinjuredworker@aol.com