

SARAH'S (alias) Injured Worker

Horror Story “I helped Microsoft and my country respond to the September 11 attacks. Now I’ve been discarded. I’ve lost my health, my job, my home and years of pay. We fall behind on our bills each month. The care I need has been delayed or denied.

About Me: I can’t disclose my true name, due to security concerns related to my work at my former job. Call me Sarah. I live in California.

My Family: I have been married for 35 years. My husband and I met in 7th grade. We have been together for several decades, and have 4 children and 6 beautiful grandchildren.

My Job and What Happened: I worked as a Manager for Microsoft corporation. I traveled all over the U.S. on my job. On July 16, 2001, I was a passenger in a small airplane flying 10,000 feet over Colorado. A tornado struck another part of the state, but our sky was clear and appeared safe. Suddenly, our plane dropped precipitously, banging my head on the plane ceiling. We then hit a wind pocket that felt like cement. We bounced hard 3 times, which blew out a disc in my back. Half of the disc has since been surgically removed. The accident caused other injuries, including Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, bladder, bowel and sexual problems. After surgery, I returned to work on Sept. 10, 2001, but the pain continued and was unbearable. On Sept. 11, I went to work in a body brace to resign my job due to the pain. But after that day’s terrorist attack, I stayed on the job as there were only two of us there with a top secret security clearance. I felt I had to stay for the good of my country. I worked several days in a body brace and was in great pain. I kept that up for months. When they finally got other people security clearances, I left my job.

What this has meant to my life: I’ve lost my health, my job, my home and my health insurance. I lost years of good pay since my injury. We had to move from our home of 27 years to a completely new city where the cost of living is lower. I cannot get medical care for many of my injuries. The insurance carrier denies care my nurse recommends, other than medications. The insurance carrier has denied psychiatric counseling and a specialist. I can’t walk the way I used to, must use a cane and can hardly go up stairs. I fall often and have broken a bone in one fall. Social Security has declared me to be completely disabled, but the insurance company delays and denies - or most often, just ignores - needed care. Our family has been torn apart. I gave my all for my company and country and have been discounted and discarded.

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers compensation insurance was supposed to provide medical care to heal my injuries. Five-and-a-half years later, I’m still not healed, just ignored. The WC insurance company denies my doctor’s recommendations for a pain clinic and back specialist. I’m still in a great deal of pain and I’ve lost my job, my home and my health. We have no health insurance and my husband has heart problems. We fall behind on our bills each month.

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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