

STEVEN BROWN'S Injured Worker Horror Story

I went from being a highly-paid hi-tech engineer to losing our home and having to leave the state to afford to live. I can't get the care I need to do the simplest daily activities - like personal hygiene. The lack of care has taken my mental health and my family's quality of life.



About Me: My name is Steven Brown. I'm 55 years old.

My Family: I am married to Karen, and we used to live in Thousand Oaks. We now live in Arizona. I had to leave California after losing my job, our home and life savings. I have a daughter, Krista, and a son, Wes.

My Job and What Happened: I worked as a Senior Technical Consultant for Toyota, managing Oracle databases. I loved my job and was in the top 3% of wage earners in the US. I hurt my neck and left shoulder from many years of pulling computer cables and keyboard work. I had a cervical fusion in October 2003, and returned to work. I was supposed to be on light duty, but the company kept piling on the work. Eventually, I couldn't take the stress of not being able to complete the assignments I'd been given. I broke down from the stress in 2005. By now I'd injured my rotator cuff and was overwhelmed with work and worry. One morning, I couldn't force myself to go to work. My nerves were shot. I broke down crying and it has been a downward spiral ever since. My condition has been worsened by the insurer's repeated denials of needed care. I've had two medical management companies, eleven adjusters, four nurse case managers, and some of them have resigned from my case in frustration at the insurer's denials of care. I can't even get bathroom support bars.

What this has meant to my life: I lost my job, career, home and my normal life. I need psychiatric care. My memory is shot. I can't even remember coaching my son's baseball team. I'm afraid to leave home, and can't be left alone. I twitch and shake from essential tremors and Restless Leg Syndrome. I can't drive a car. I'm sedated all the time. The insurer has driven my family into poverty and out of state. They won't pay for doctor visits or provide recommended treatment.

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 treatment. The insurer has denied and delayed care for years. My daughter is getting married soon and unless I get care I won't even be able to walk her down the aisle. Workers compensation has broken my spirit, my will and my confidence. It has taken my kids' father from them and forced us to sell our home. Now, even that money is gone.

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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