

Sunny's (alias) Injured Worker Horror Story

“I enjoyed my job and worked hard. Before my work injury, I was in great shape. If the insurer had followed medical recommendations, I would’ve been healed and back to work. Due to delays and denials of care, my entire life has been devastated - financially, physically and emotionally.”

About Me: Call me Sunny. I live in San Diego.

My Family: As a single woman, I created a very nice, comfortable life for myself, which also included a wonderful dog and cat, whom I loved like children. After insurer delays caused financial and physical hardships, I can no longer take care of my pets, nor even keep my home. Insurance carrier denial of needed medical care has taken away my former life.

My Job and What Happened: I worked for two major area employers. While carrying heavy items for a customer in the spring of 2004, I injured my right shoulder and neck. Within 24 hours, I was flat on my back, unable to move without pain. This was a relatively minor injury, but one that needed prompt medical treatment. I informed my employer and was placed on modified duty with no weight restriction and a request for physical therapy. During modified duty I reshelved items. My hands also started to deteriorate while I waited for approval of treatment. Physical therapy was finally granted after three requests & three months of waiting. By then, I had lost the use of both of my hands. With the amount of time that had passed and the repetitive movement I was doing, my hands started looking like folded tacos. I’ve had nine surgeries on my hands and had to have surgery to fix a frozen shoulder.

What this has meant to my life: I’ve lost not only my animals and my home, but my good credit has been ruined after a hospital turned my bill over to a collection agency because the insurer hadn’t paid it. I was expected to live on \$615.00 per month, which I could have easily done for a few months, but not year after year. Just to survive, I have gone through all my assets, sold almost all my personal items and used up my savings.

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers compensation insurance was supposed to help me get better and provide temporary support. The delays in treatment have made things worse. I’ve lost everything I worked so hard to build up. My injuries could have been healed with prompt physical therapy. Insurer delays made me so much worse.

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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