

GARY WOODFORD'S Injured Worker Horror Story



“After 20 years installing propellers, I hurt my back. The company wanted me to pretend it happened off the job. The company fired me, cutting off my medical insurance. Now, the insurance company wants to keep almost all my permanent disability compensation.”

About Me: My name is Gary Woodford. I’m 49, and I live in Burbank in Los Angeles County.

My Family: I’m single, and I have no children.

My Job and What Happened: I worked for 26 years for C&S Propellers in Glendale. I worked assembling and installing propellers on military and civilian aircraft. My job required me to lift propeller assemblies that weighed over 100 pounds. On April 4, 2004, I was lifting a propeller assembly dome, weighing 125 to 150 pounds, for a C 130 military plane into place so I could install it. I felt a sharp pain in my back and had to stop. I called my coworker for help. I had injured two discs, which were pressing on my spinal cord. My life hasn’t been the same since.

What this has meant to my life: The company manager told me to go see my own doctor because “it must be a football injury.” I haven’t played football competitively since high school! My doctor told me to rest my back for a month and then return to work. When I did return to work I was put on light duty, but then fired from my job. I’ve lost my apartment because it took months to get my temporary disability benefits. I moved into a motel, but was evicted because the motel cost more than I could afford. I was cut off from medical care. I can’t hike, camp, run or do anything active.

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| BEFORE |
| \$40,000 |
| AFTER |
| \$12,000 |

How the Governor’s Workers’ Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers’ Comp was supposed to help me: I was promised immediate medical treatment. I was promised temporary disability benefits until I could heal my injuries and return to work. The insurance company failed to pay me, and two of their checks bounced. So I was evicted. Now, the insurance company is billing me more than \$10,000 for back benefits. I probably can’t return to my old job. The insurance company wants to keep almost all of my \$12,000 permanent disability award.

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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