

ALFREDO PEREZ'S Permanent Disability Horror Story



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

About Me: My name is Alfredo Perez. I'm 42 years old, and I live in La Puente, in LA County.

My Family: I have a daughter, Corina, 22, and a son, Joseph, who is 17.

My Job and What Happened: In 2004, I was working as a heavy equipment operator, helping build a new 4-story student housing building on UCLA's Westwood campus. I loved my job, and have always worked hard. At the time, we were setting frames for balconies, which extended out from the building. I was unloading 18-foot wooden beams from a truck when a helper moved the 1,500 pound load of lumber, which landed on me. I injured both of my knees, my ankles and my hips.

What this has meant to my life: I've had surgery to repair the damaged ligaments in my left knee, but I still have pain. I have even more pain in my right knee. I can't lift more than 25 pounds. I can't jump, run or climb. I can't kneel or squat the way you must in construction work. I can stand for only a limited time. I can't return to my old job. I used to run 5 to 10 miles, but I can't do that anymore. I can't play with my grandkids like I used to. The pain and lack of mobility affected my personal relationship. I'm attending classes to find a new occupation, but my future is very uncertain.

How the Governor's Schedule Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me:

I was making a great wage as a heavy equipment operator. Now, I have no income. My temporary disability has been stopped. The permanent disability award is supposed to compensate me for the loss of earnings and the lessening of the quality of my life. My injury has caused financial and personal hardship to myself and my family. How can the governor leave me with almost so little and call that fair?

BEFORE

\$54,350

AFTER

\$2400

(Down 96%)

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