



JOHN WILSON'S Injured Worker Horror Story

“My work injury has put me in the poor house. I lost my home. Before my injury, I had a great job, a home and was engaged to be married. Now, I have none of that.”

About Me: My name is John Wilson. I’m 46. I live in Riverside.

My Family: I have a 20-year-old son, who lives and works in Riverside.

My Job and What Happened: I was the Assistant Manager for Parts and Service for Empire Marine, a boating sales and supplies company. I was transferring boats from the dealership to a storage yard. A boat hitch got stuck on the ball that holds it to the truck for towing. I pulled on the hitch to release it, and herniated 2 disks in my back.

What this has meant to my life: I had major back pain from the injury. It took almost a year for the insurance company to approve surgery. I had back fusion surgery in April 2004. That’s all the surgery they can do on my back, but it hasn’t healed my injury. Since my injury I have constant pain every day. I have pain pills, but they make me groggy, so I only take them at night and when I can’t stand the pain. I have numbness and I can’t sit for very long. I tried to return to work, driving a truck. But I can’t sit and drive for long hours, as is required. Before my injury I had a great job that I loved. I used to waterski and ride horses, and loved the outdoors. Now, I can’t do any of that anymore, and I can’t return to work.

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers’ compensation insurance is supposed to provide prompt medical treatment to heal my injury and help me return to work. I spent a year in pain trying to get approval for back surgery that was clearly needed. This injury has ruined me financially. I’ve lost my house and accumulated debts. I don’t know when, or if, I’ll be able to return to work.

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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