

## **ADRIENNE PATTERSON'S Injured Worker Horror Story**



**“My surgery and therapy were denied by the insurer. They cut off my temporary disability. Now, the company has fired me because I can’t do the job. With surgery and therapy, I could!”**

**About Me:** My name is Adrienne Patterson. I’m 39 years old. I was born and raised in the Los Angeles area. I live in Rialto, in San Bernardino County.

**My Job and What Happened:** I worked for Arrowhead Water as a machine operator for 7 years. I worked filling 5 gallon plastic bottles for delivery. I operated a forklift as well. In January 2005, 3 to 4 cases of guava juice fell from an overhead conveyor belt onto my shoulder. I suffered a separated shoulder and a torn rotator cuff. I need surgery, but the company’s insurer refused to approve it. I started on physical therapy, with a robotic chair for shoulder exercises, and an ice machine for my shoulder. The insurance company then came and took those away from me. The company fired me on March 31, 2006.

**What this has meant to my life:** I loved my job, and I made a good living. I used to love to swim and work out. I went on vacations to Jamaica and Mexico. Now I find it hard to even put my clothes on. When the insurance company cut off my temporary disability, I had to go to court to have my employer ordered to resume benefits. The insurance company has fought me the entire way.

## **How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me**

**How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me:** The governor promised I’d get immediate medical treatment for my work injuries. It’s been over a year and I’m still waiting in pain. I deserve temporary disability while I heal, but the insurer cut that off. I need surgery and therapy but they won’t approve them. This has seriously hindered my ability to pay for even basic necessities. Now, I’ve been fired from my job.

**BEFORE  
\$21,010  
AFTER  
\$3,300**

**[www.VotersInjuredatWork.org](http://www.VotersInjuredatWork.org)**

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