

## **Permanent Disability Horror Story No. 5 Sheila Sether-Dischner**

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

**About Me:** My name is Sheila Sether-Dischner. I am 55 years old and I live in Riverside.

**My Family:** I have one grown son.

**My Job and What Happened:** I worked for 5 years at the non-profit Inland AIDS Project helping people living with AIDS in the Inland Empire. I loved my job, part of which was taking in donations that arrived in large boxes. On August 19, 2004, I injured my left shoulder while lifting a heavy donation box. My shoulder pops now when I use it (which I do rarely) because my scapular muscle has moved more than an inch away from my spine.

**What this has meant to my life:** My work injury, and the workers compensation system, have caused great physical and financial hardship for me. I've lost the use of my shoulder, which still causes pain. I have lost most of my left hand strength and grip. I have had to depend upon family and friends for financial support. I have lost an entire year of income. My employer told me I can't return to my old job, because I can't lift heavy boxes anymore, and my permanent disabilities now restrict my work. I don't know what's going to happen or how I'm going to support myself.



### **How the Governor's Schedule Affects Me**

**How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me:**

The Permanent Disability Compensation is my SOLE replacement for my lost future earnings due to my work injury's long-term effects. It is also my ONLY compensation for the chronic pain, mental anguish, inability to do normal daily life activities, take walks, or enjoy and participate fully in family gatherings.

<b>BEFORE</b>	<b>AFTER</b>
\$19,050	\$00.00 (Zip, nada!)

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