

DIANNE FITZPATRICK'S Injured Worker Horror Story



The insurer denied medical care, cut off temporary disability, and cut my disability compensation nearly in half due to low bone density that all middle-aged women have.

About Me: My name is Dianne Fitzpatrick. I'm 64 years old and I live in Placerville, east of Sacramento.

My Family: My husband, now deceased, and I have one son, who is now an adult.

My Job and What Happened: I was a schoolteacher for many years. I loved my job. There is no better feeling than having a positive impact on children and seeing them respond and grow. But in December 2001, I was trying to remove a disruptive student from the class. I stretched out my hands to the student, who grabbed my hands and pulled me straight down towards the floor. I felt immediate sharp back pain, shooting up my spine, down both hips and into my knees. As I was falling forward, I grabbed onto a cabinet, but I landed hard on the floor anyway. I suffered multiple compression fractures in my back.

What this has meant to my life: I've lost my job. The insurance company has denied needed medical treatment. And now they are penalizing me for a medical condition that has never caused a single sick day in my life, or any symptoms. The insurance company says I have low bone density (osteopenia), a condition common among middle-aged women. The pain from my back is absolutely brutal. It wakes me up at night. I have to use a walker to get around. I can't stand, sit, walk or bend over without pain.

BEFORE
\$163,582

AFTER
\$69,742

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers compensation insurance was supposed to provide medical treatment, pay temporary disability, and compensate me for my permanent injuries. Instead, they cut off my temporary disability compensation, denied needed treatment and surgery, and are reducing my permanent disability compensation for no medical reason, simply for my being a middle-aged woman.

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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