

DOLORES "DEE" TURNER'S Injured Worker Horror Story



"I've lost my career in law enforcement. I've had four back surgeries and my jaw hinges are disintegrating after 'biting the bullet' in pain for ten years. No treatment for my jaw has been approved, although the approved doctor said workers' comp. must pay for care. I can't eat solids and it's difficult when I speak. I often want to die. Pain controls my every move, word and thought."

About Me: My name is Dolores Turner. Everyone calls me "Dee." I'm 56 years old, and I live in Huntington Beach.

My Family: I'm married; my husband, Russell, and I have two daughters: Morgan, 15; and Sloan, 13.

My Job and What Happened: I was a deputy district attorney, a felony trial prosecutor, for Los Angeles County, assigned to the Long Beach Court. The Court is in disrepair, and soon after I arrived, work was begun on the escalators. The escalators began to suddenly stop when people were on them. Once, the escalator free-fell several feet. Discs were herniated in my neck, and my middle and lower back. I returned to work after two days, not knowing how injured I was. I was told I was "sprained." Months later, a security guard pressed the emergency stop at closing time, with me the only rider. I was yanked left while my right hand remained locked on the rail. My injuries included a massive, sideways spinal curve; a neck bone that splintered, pressing onto my nerves; and a fragmented disc at the sciatic nerve. After four spinal surgeries, 11 of my 24 vertebrae are fused with titanium rods, bolts and a plate in my neck.

What this has meant to my life: I'm in bed 20 hours out of 24. My kids are angry and hurt. I can't meet their needs. My husband and I can't do the things we used to enjoy. Over 50 people were injured on the escalator and I'm the only one who couldn't sue and can't get medical care approved --because I was the only one injured at work.

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: A workers' comp. doctor sent me back to work without an MRI or CT scan. I worked three months as a piece of bone cut into my sciatic nerve, causing damage beyond repair. A year later, another doctor ordered a CT scan, which revealed the damage. My case hasn't been settled or tried; I'm left in limbo. I'm 100% disabled, but the insurance carrier repeatedly denies needed physical therapy and home care. They violate court orders to provide care, and it takes 10 months to get another court order for care.

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