

Erica Domen's Injured Worker Horror Story

“I’ve lost my arm, my job, my freedom and my joy in living. I cannot trust workers comp to help me fully recover.”



About Me: My name is Erica Domen, I am 32 years old and live in Modesto.

My Family: I am married to the joy of my life, Matthew Custodio.

My Job and What Happened: I worked at the Hershey’s factory as a Machine Operator/Sanitation relief worker. On March 24, 2007, while cleaning the batter machine that grinds chocolate crumbs to powder, another employee accidentally turned on the power to the machine. The rotating paddle severed my left arm at the shoulder. My life was changed in an instant.

What this has meant to my life: I’ve lost my job. I used to do martial arts and hula dancing, but am unable to do them anymore. I loved to cook, and that is very difficult now. I am very limited in activities and get discouraged very easily. I do not have any help with daily living. The insurance carrier refuses to pay my mother to be my caregiver, and my husband does not qualify as a caregiver. My husband has had to cut his work hours to part time to help me at home and drive me to my numerous medical appointments. I was making \$40,000 and now I am subsisting on \$230 per week. Is that all I am worth?

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers' compensation insurance is supposed to be there for me when an injury occurs. Instead, I have been injured and then thrown into the dirt. How am I supposed survive on \$230.00 a week?

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

For more information, please contact Steve Hopcraft at 916/457-5546 or email to steve@hopcraft.com