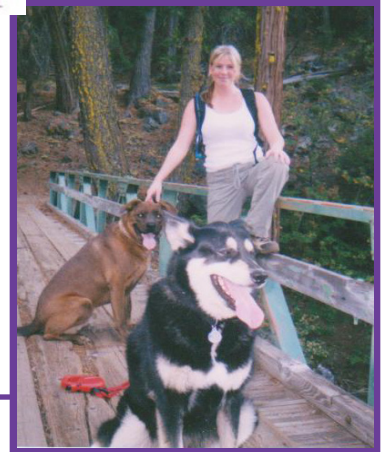


Cari Cole's Injured Worker Horror Story

“I was hit by a truck at 50 mph on the freeway while testing a motorcycle at work. The insurer has denied and delayed my medical care. I’m not healed, but the insurer is cutting off my Temporary Disability citing a 2-year cap.”



About Me: My name is Cari Cole. I live in Harbor City, in Los Angeles.

My Family: I have a very supportive family who came and stayed with me for many months at the beginning of my recovery. I could not have done it without them.

My Job and What Happened: I was working my dream job as a Motorcycle Technician. One day, in the course of my work, I was running a test of a new motorcycle. As I was riding on the freeway, a truck swerved and hit me. I was going 50 mph and went head-first into the guardrail. I suffered a traumatic brain injury. My face was shattered from my jaw on up. My nose was gone, and my eye orbitals were crushed. I broke my right humerus, which is the bone in my upper arm, and severed seven centimeters of my radial nerve. I also injured my shoulder, neck & upper back. I have had three surgeries on my arm and three tendon transfers. I have trouble with my memory. I am in constant pain. Surgery to reconstruct my face has been delayed. Despite the recommendation of an Agreed Medical Examiner, I had not had *any* cognitive therapy until recently. It took a whole year before I was approved to see an ophthalmologist. I have lost part of my peripheral vision in my right eye. My occupational therapy was stopped because the insurer has failed to pay for it. I have now lost most of the range of motion in my right arm. My in-home health care is regularly delayed, which includes ride service. I then cannot get to any of my medical appointments because I can no longer drive. Every therapy session I miss just sets my recovery back one more step.

What this has meant to my life: I can't begin to express how gravely this has affected me. I used to be a very athletic person. Now, I have a difficult time just remembering which day or week it is. I have a hard time keeping track of all the requests from Workers Comp. I won't be able to return to my dream job. I only hope that I may be able to return to the same field.

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers compensation insurance was to provide me with the means to heal and return to work. I feel I've been taken advantage of due to my brain injury. I am far from healed and my temporary disability will be cut off due to the two year rule. How is that supposed to help me?

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