

Testimonial

April 30, 2024

To Whom It May Concern
Members of State Legislature

What I have had to endure throughout
my Workers Compensation process for
ten and a half years:

I've been humiliated by a certain judge
at the beginning of my case, time after time,
at hearings, discrediting my work searches,
rolling her eyes, tossing my papers, yelling
and embarrassing me, even with all of my
documentation and suspending my weekly
checks. My attorney appealed these decisions
and the board agreed in my favor several
times. After one of the hearings, I was so
distracted the security guard escorted me
into a private room with my attorney until
I could compose myself after being humiliated
by this female judge.

Being sent to I ME's then reading doctor
reports stating 45 minute exams when in
fact 12 minutes. I started to screen that
time arrival and departure time of the I ME's
and send to my attorney. One psychiatrist
had a 5 hour wait to be seen then

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Said "don't worry my report will get you more money". Then gives me a pile of papers, unbeknownst to her, were her notes from my I ME. I left then received a call 3 days later from First Choice Evaluations that doctor did not have my report and wanted me to go back. I faxed the papers (her notes) to them so a report could be made from her intake notes.

The last orthopedic I ME again inaccurate amount of time I was examined, again I took pictures of clock in my car upon arrival + departure. So many of these reports are inaccurate in so many ways, + make decisions based on a 12 minute I ME versus my own doctor's notes and opinions. My last appeal, the attorney's report stated my spine surgeon "is a liar". My surgeon has a stellar reputation in his field and highly regarded in his profession. How dare an attorney make such inappropriate comments about a doctor's report who has treated me for ten years.

(2)

Why is the compensation carrier paying the IME doctors their fee? Why is the IME doctor's report favored over an injured employee's treating doctor? Is this fair, legal, ethical, appropriate? If I am being treated by a doctor for ten years, five years, whatever amount of years, a specialty doctor, especially, knee surgeon, spine surgeon, etc.; that quickly reads reports as I sitting there and then a quick exam, how can the compensation board make a decision favoring the IME doctor's. It is unacceptable!

I have been thru hell and back these past ten years. I was forced to retire due to not being able to work, lost a percentage of my pension and now have to fight for my 125 per day reimbursement.

I have had to seek therapeutic help due to the anxiety and depression this process has caused me to suffer.

(3)

Thankfully, I have a great attorney who practices with dignity and integrity for his clients (workers compensation clients) and protects his clients.

Something needs to be done to better protect the Workers who are injured. There is no need for any of us to be disrespected, humiliated and treated unfairly by the insurance carriers, their attorneys, judges, etc.

The Workers Compensation process is to protect the injured worker!! The I ME process is not working in the injured workers favor and should not be paid for by the insurance carrier.

Respectfully,

Susan Stanfield

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