

JOE BAKER'S Injured Worker Horror Story

SCIF drove my husband, Joe, to shoot himself in despair after suffering delays and denials of care. SCIF denied Joe's pain medication and Joe could not live with the pain anymore.

SCIF took my husband and best friend.

**Permanent
Disability
Award**

\$23,000

About Joe: My name is Desi Baker, and this is the story of my beloved, now-deceased, husband, Joe. Joe, 45 at the time of his death on June 29, 2008, was born in Woodland, raised in Oroville and died in Durham, California.

Joe's Family: Joe was a wonderful man, husband, father and sportsman. He was a hard worker, and helped to raise his stepdaughter and stepson.

Joe's Job and What Happened: Joe worked for 25 years as a welder, and also learned to be a machinist. Two decades of lifting and bending heavy steel wore out two discs in Joe's back. Joe was in constant pain and became deeply depressed. It was SCIF's denial of Joe's treatment and his pain and sleep medications that eventually drove Joe to suicide. We had to seek care under our personal insurance because of SCIF constantly denying medical treatment for Joe's injury. That insurance required 20% copayment for Joe's back surgery and his medications. That burden ultimately forced us to sell the home we had just purchased after so many years of hard work. Had we not sold it, we would have lost it to foreclosure. SCIF finally accepted Joe's injury as work-related, but by then we were so deep in a financial hole there was no climbing out. I would go to the pharmacy in tears and come home to find Joe crying. What were we to do?

What this has meant to my life: After his injury, Joe couldn't sleep, fish, or barely eat. He was 6' 2" but weighed just 135 lbs. He slept 1 or 2 hours a night in the garage. I've lost my husband and my best friend.

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers compensation insurance was to provide medical care and support. Instead, they denied medications and treatment, driving us into financial, physical and emotional ruin. SCIF broke Joe's hope and drove him to suicide.

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

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