

KYLE VAN HOUTEN'S Injured Worker's Horror Story



“I lost my leg in a construction accident. I went from being an All-State football player to feeling like less than a whole person. I’ve lost my active youth and now the governor is taking most of my Permanent Disability compensation.”

About Me: My name is Kyle Van Houten. I’m 23 years old and I live in Escalon, near Modesto.

My Family: I’m unmarried and have no children.

My Job and What Happened: I was working construction for Bob Grossi Construction while attending junior college. I loved my job, and had worked construction since I was in high school. I drove the truck for my crew and was working my way up. On July 26, 2004, I was installing trim on a prefabricated metal building. I was standing in a steel basket atop a forklift. I leaned over to pick up a screw gun, and felt the basket moving. The basket should have been fastened to the forklift, but had not been. I fell two stories from the basket, and the basket fell onto my right leg, crushing my femur. My right leg was amputated above the knee a few days later.

What this has meant to my life: I was a young man just getting started on life. I had been an All-League, All-District and All-State selection in football as an Offensive Tackle. Physical activity was central to my life, playing baseball, running most evenings, and playing basketball with my friends. Now, it’s a big effort just to get out of the house. I was making almost \$750 a week, and now I get \$125 a week. I can barely buy gas. I’m depressed and usually don’t even want to leave the house.

BEFORE
\$122,812
plus \$58/wk.
AFTER
\$29,150
TOTAL

How the Governor's Workers' Comp Law Affects Me

How Workers' Comp was supposed to help me: Workers compensation insurance was to heal my injuries, rehabilitate and retrain me for a job I could do and provide temporary and permanent disability compensation. Instead, even my prosthesis was denied. Almost everything I’ve requested for rehabilitation has been denied. The Permanent Disability award is to compensate me for living with one leg the rest of my life.

www.VotersInjuredatWork.org

For more information, please contact Mark Hayes at 714/396-5260 or email to oneinjuredworker@aol.com