

Workers Comp Public Hearing
January 30th, 2007
Penny Ross
Formerly employee of Department of Revenue Services
25 Sigourney St.
Hartford, Ct
Page 1 of 2

I can relate to the people who are not getting a workmen's comp check.

The first time I applied for workmen's comp it took six months to get a check.

I was packing my house because I couldn't pay another month's mortgage. I used up all my savings and am a sole provider. Someone told me to call Senator Colapietro. I explained my situation and he got me my 1st check. What an awful feeling that was to have to be packing!

Later because of a medical evaluation of a workmen's comp doctor to get a check I had to apply for a job everyday. Many days I was in bed and later had to try to catch up on job searches to get a check. The thing is Dr. Storey had me apply for retirement disability and my doctors did their paperwork. I asked why I have to do job searches while I am waiting for a response on my disability. It takes 2 years for the review to be completed. Nothing made sense. Finally someone from the state look into the matter and I no longer had to do job searches. I hated the way I was treated after being an employee for so many years. When, my paperwork was done it was for 30 years of service. The truth of the matter is I got sick from the job and if I worked there one year and got sick on the job then the State needed to take responsibility.

Another topic discussed was the amount of hearings people had. I have had many workmen's comp hearings and still it continues. I couldn't guess how many. I would have to look back at all my appointment books for the years. I was told mine was a complicated case. Now I go for A IME evaluation, the doctor sees me for a whole ten minutes and says I am not sick. I had to bring all my cat scans even from the archive. He didn't have time to look at that. Now it affects me. Also he says my being sensitized is a physiological phenomenon. I heard sensitized from my doctors because they saw it with me and other coworkers. Ok now let's blame the cats etc. I have allergies to a lot of things now. They did a study at work many people had the same allergies. Gee I am allergic to trees now do I go around cutting them down. But yet a doctor can put a pile horse manure on a piece of paper, sign it and it effects me. Later my check gets stopped again as I am still waiting to hear on disability retirement. Now do I want to sign for a non service connected retirement so I at least get a check? NO! Some people signed. Now ok no money I have bills including my medical insurance. Later I get my disability. I had a workmen's comp nurse who came to my appointments. I had to ok that. There was nothing to hide I was sick. She worked with my doctors to see what I needed. Now with an IME my needs are not met. Ok so now lets have another IME evaluation. Now I am having a situation with my medications. My insurance has me flagged for what they feel is work related. On 12/28/05 a few medications workmen's comp paid for went

out to a bill collector. On one of the medications after denying it and sending it to collections workmen's comp pays a six month supply. They had never paid a six month supply at one time before on anything. In the meantime the collector is calling me to pay the denied one. After the six months workmen's comp pays another 6 months. Someone from the state is researching this. I had to send copies because now workmen's comp couldn't see this happening. I paid the collectors because they said it would only affect me no one else. They were right. I was holding out for the principle of things but do I want my interest to be affecting my FICA score no. I paid and I want my money back.

I would also like to see more alternative methods used to help people. I have gone for physical therapy, accupunture, natural meds, some form of exercise, Reiki, tai chi, colonics, detox massages etc. I have paid a lot out of my pocket and will continue to try to find a way to get better.

I could go on and on. I am not going to. I feel you already know what goes on because there are enough people in these situations and worse. My question is what is going to be done and changed or are these hearings to try to pacify people for awhile. The state sent me to UCONN when I got sick now what they say isn't good enough lets have another evaluation. My others doctors are also on the workmen's comp doctors list. They treat me what about what they say. What is going on???? I feel after seeing myself and coworkers go through things that the idea here is to put as much pressure on people so they can get rid of them one by one and clean up this mess. Instead of saying what can we get you to help you can as better as you can.