

I am here today to share my story about how I fell into a huge loophole in CT State Law.

On July 8, 2009, I was laid off from my full-time job as a Removal Consultant at Junk My Car, LLC in Shelton, CT. Within 24 hours, I was on the phone with the CT Department of Labor to open up an unemployment claim. Upon completion of the call, I was informed that my phone hearing to determine my eligibility would be on July 31, 2009.

During my time as a full-time employee at Junk My Car, I was also employed as a part-time Chauffeur. The income produced by this part-time job was not enough to fully support myself and my family. While actively looking for a new full-time job, during the week of July 13, I had started discussions with the gentleman I drive for about what kind of full-time opportunities might exist, and whether I could make a career from this. Before any full-time opportunity could transpire, on July 17, 2009, while doing work in my front yard standing on a stepladder, it collapsed while I was still on it. The fall resulted in a severely traumatic injury to my right ankle, which required 3 surgeries, and hospitalization from July 17-August 2, 2009. I was especially devastated by this injury as the injury was to my driving foot, leaving the fate of a driving job in peril. Due to this injury, my hearing was rescheduled for August 27, 2009, which proceeded as planned. During this hearing, I advised the administrator of the serious nature of this injury, and that I would be unable to resume my driving job for up to six months. However, I had made the administrator aware that the time between July 8, 2009 and July 17, I was actively looking and able to work. Ultimately, I was denied unemployment dating back to July 5, the week I became unemployed. After carefully reviewing the state's decision and the law, I proceeded to appeal the State's decision and after offering all of the evidence to the appeals officer, was once again denied the full term.

When the second denial came about, I researched the possibility of collecting social security due to the long-term nature of my injury, but because this injury was not going to prevent me from working for one full year, I was denied there as well.

It was at this point that I decided to contact Senator Slossberg because I was in a difficult spot where I was being denied any and all assistance during my time of great need.

At a time when help was needed the most, the law insisted that the state turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to a husband and father of three who had lost all ability to provide for his family.

In conclusion, it seems that the timing of my injury as it related to the timing of the originally scheduled hearing played a major role in the denial of my unemployment claim with the gross assumption that I had been unable to work immediately following my lay-off from Junk My Car. Had this injury occurred after July 31 when the original hearing was scheduled for, I do not believe that unemployment claims for July 5-17 would have been denied.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding this matter.