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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

When I hurt my back on the job in July 2005, I was not the least bit concerned that it would be accepted and covered by Worker's Compensation. After all, this was my 4th back injury and everything had always gone well before.


My first problem was finding a doctor that would treat me under Federal Worker's Compensation. Doctors would look at my latest MRI and that coupled with Federal Worker's Comp, they would decline. Some doctors said they would treat on a limited basis but I never found one of those. I learned over the next few months, that nobody and I mean nobody, wants to deal with Federal Worker's Compensation. Then in September 2005 I was notified by the Dept of Labor that my Worker's Comp claim was denied. Part of that reason was I could not find a doctor that would evaluate me even if I agreed to pay for charges myself. I later realized I could have used my health insurance to cover the doctor's fees even though it was a work related injury. That day in Sept 05 was about the darkest day of my life. Here I was in my mid-40s, completely unable to do anything to support my family, and my claim had been denied by the Dept of Labor. Now I was a wreck emotionally as well as physically. I realized at this moment that I needed legal representation.

That was the third challenge. If you think doctors don't want to deal with the Dept of Labor, try to find an attorney that will take them on. Through numerous phone calls, we stumbled upon Mr. Paul Felser, Attorney at Law, in Savannah GA. We visited his web site and that gave us lots of hope. Having an attorney in Savannah GA with me living in NW Florida, seemed unworkable. However, we set up a telephone consultation which lasted nearly an hour, but my family and I immediately felt better. We knew we were no longer in this alone and we had a legal advocate in our corner.

Don't expect immediate results. Working with federal agencies is a slow process. The entire Worker's Compensation program seems designed to discourage claimants. But Mr. Felser knows his business. This is all he does and he knows exactly who to contact and when to contact them – he knows the procedures – something the average person does not know. And trust me, not knowing can be detrimental to your case. Even though you must pay for your services as rendered (Federal government is very picky even about the amount of his fees plus he is prohibited from representing you on a contingency basis) he makes it as easy for you as possible. If you run out of funds, your case takes longer to resolve. But if you can come up with a few hundred dollars every now and then, he can keep the ball in their court.

It took a little over a year for my case to be accepted by Worker's Compensation and I was surprised by that amount of expediency. Prior to that I did have to go to Atlanta for an oral hearing and traveling to Atlanta seemed almost impossible for me. But with the help of my family and a lot of pain on my part, we did manage. That was the only time I met Mr. Felser in person. I already knew he was very competent but watching and seeing him in action at the oral hearing, you knew you had the best representation that money could buy. And we also had the knowledge that we had done everything in our power to get compensation for my injury, so if we failed, we had given it our best.

It seems an injustice to have to have legal representation to get compensation for an injury that clearly happened on the job. But the federal agencies involved do not seem to care about your situation and they certainly don't offer any assistance or compassion. I tell people now that working for the federal government was a wonderful career but don't expect an extended hand if you get hurt on the job. You can, however, expect the most professional and competent assistance available in Mr. Paul Felser. I recommend him to anyone who is ever in my predicament. He becomes your friend over the months and at times he will seem like the only friend you have.



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