

Lonzo Vann (303-915-3615, 1990 Rosemary St., Denver, CO 80220)

Attachment K

Employer: MWI Veterinary Supply Co.

Private Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield

Workers Comp: Concentra Medical Center

**DESIRED OUTCOMES:**

-Credit restored

-Compensation for pain and suffering

-Compensation for medical bills

-Be on full time disability (without having to be unemployed for 6 months) and have enough for car insurance, mortgage payments, food, health care (doctor visits, medication, tests, bone scans, etc.)

**STORY:**

Up until I started my job in 1999, I was a very healthy person.

As a result of different things that happened to me at work, I now have carpal tunnel, occupational disease in the wrists, asthma, COPD, lung disease, chemical affects on my skin and nails, and problems with my knee and hip.

For the last 7 to 8 years I have been trying to get better and get healthy, but because of the health care system and the worker comp system, I am getting worse and not better.

I have seen over 30 or 40 doctors for all these problems. My workers comp doctor said that this wasn't their problem and my doctor at Blue Cross Blue Shield said the health problems were because of work and so they wouldn't cover it either. But I do have documentation from many doctors who have all done every test you could think of to prove it was work related.

So even with health insurance at Blue Cross Blue Shield I have paid over \$10,000 out of pocket. My house was in foreclosure and my car was towed away because of how much I had to pay for health care costs. I also had to take out 8 pay day loans. I still have \$30,000-\$40,000 in outstanding doctor bills.

Because I was sick and asking workers comp to cover my injuries, OSHA and my boss threatened that they would fire me or kick me off the job.

Because of all this and having to pay these bills, I have had to keep working at this job and continue to be exposed to dangerous chemicals and pesticides that caused these problems and make them worse and worse.

***More detailed information available if needed.***

## TIMELINE OF INJURIES

- June 2000: I opened up a box at work and hit a metal bar and lost feeling in both of my hands. I informed my supervisor.
- 6/28/00: I saw a worker comp doctor and they said to go back to work and that it was fine and would get better on its own. They didn't even put me on light duty.
- 4/16/01: visit to Hand Surgery Associates: "I have advised Mr. Vann that his persistent right wrist tenderness which has been present since a lifting injury in October 2001 is consistent with extensor carpi ulnaris tendinitis versus traumatic subluxation of the tendon"
- 2002: I re-injured wrists while at work. They told me I had to open it as a new case rather than see it as connected to the first injury.
- 2/24/03: visit to Dr. Hattem (works comp): "I last examined Alonzo on November 18, 2002, at which time my opinion was that his right wrist pain was due to his work as a warehouse man. Because Alonzo was sent only for a one-time evaluation, I did not schedule him to return...Alonzo continues to work full duty as a warehouse man at MWI Veterinary Supply."
- 3/22/04: visit to Dr. Hattem (works comp): contradicted early report by saying "I know Alonzo from a work-related right wrist injury which I placed at MMI in June 2003." "Left wrist pain secondary to overuse and mild contusion"
- ~2004: I noticed that the color of my finger nails were turning a darker color. Then I had problems with my breathing and became more sensitive to certain perfumes/smells. I saw a different worker comp doctor than before and he said he was an expert in the field. He told me my health problems did not have to do with work and that I SHOULD NOT wear face mask or protective gloves because the chemical would not hurt me.
- I went to an allergy doctor through my private insurance (Blue Cross/Blue Shield), he told me that he was positive that the chemicals I work with were causing the discoloration on the nails, trouble breathing, sensitivity to smells, asthma, COPD and lung disease.
- December of 2004: I contacted OSHA regarding my health problems that resulted from my job: They penalized MWI for a total of \$2,250 for violation of OSHA protocol, particularly for not having written protocol on how to handle chemicals and other violations.
- 2/17/05 Dr. Daniel Teitelbaum, (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) medical toxicologist from my private insurance confirmed that RADS and occupational asthma was from exposure from permethrin at work. He also diagnosed me with repetitive motion problems in the upper and lower extremities.
- 3/3/05 Dr. Mark Ebadi, allergist (Blue Cross/Blue Shield), skin prick testing and bronchodilator test.
- 3/18/05: Won case in Division of Administrative Hearings State of Colorado Workers Compensation No. 4-547-411, Alonzo Vann, Claimant v. MWI Veterinary Supply, employer and Pinnacle Risk Management, Insurer. Was not able to receive the claim or be able to access the compensation because I did not have an attorney.
- 3/29/07: Received an MRI of my left wrist through (Blue Cross/Blue Shield) that showed evidence of previous blunt trauma to my wrist and that it was causing it to get worse and worse.
- 4/26/07: Dr. Simpson (Blue Cross/Blue Shield), Confirmed that my COPD and wrist injuries were getting worse and worse. "Bone scan showed likely areas of degenerative disease in the hands and wrists and also the knees". Also confirmed my symptoms of nausea related to work.
- 2008: Was the first time that workers comp admitted that my wrist injuries were work related and put me on light duty, but would not pay any doctor bills. They still refuse to acknowledge that my other health problems (such as asthma, COPD, nausea, lung disease, etc) are work related.