

I know first-hand why people sign off when faced with monetary/medical delimas. I went to a baseball game in June of 2024 and was hit with a foul ball. I was behind netting. I had a plastic barrette in my hair, and the foul ball traveling between 96 and 115 mph drove the barrette into my head. I spent two nights in Maine Med. Long story short, from late June to mid-September my partner irrigated the open wound every morning and applied medicated honey to the area to help with the healing. I lost a tremendous amount of hair for a while and now have a permanent bald spot on top of my head which I can pretty well cover.

Because of the "Baseball Rule", once someone purchases a ticket and enters a ballpark, the ballpark has no responsibility to that person. I have Medicare, I have a retirement through MePERS, I have social security.....and I had a lot of out of pocket expenses. I asked several lawyers who advertise in Southern Maine and no one would touch my case because of the baseball rule. Baseball is a popular part of our culture and ball parks do not want bad publicity. I was told by many that I wouldn't live long enough to ever collect for what had happened.

I finally went back to the ball field itself and told them of the expenses I was responsible for....some I had already paid and some still pending. I was offered \$1000 with the promise not to disclose. I accepted the offer because I knew simply put, "it was better than nothing". I don't hold a grudge against the baseball industry; I simply haven't gone to a game since but hope to someday go again. But this is different than being injured at work and becoming unable to continue my work life and take care of myself and my family. I had already worked and lived long enough to have my financial life and obligations in order. Systems that are set in place that are supposed to help workers in these situations are not working for them. Workers Comp helps employers when workers get hurt; MePERS is using settlements that people desperately needed and accepted at the times they are offered; the settlements protect MePERS from having to pay what people need to live out their lives and this is what the rest of us paid in for and believe was to happen.

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Thank you all for your patience! I am sorry have had such a hard time. Larry McAfee is from Littleton Maine and I am from Springvale and I apologize for any mistakes here. Elizabeth O'Connor.