Joe Miller: So you've been hurt on the job in Virginia, North Carolina and let's say you're in a difficult situation. You're hurt at work and maybe your doctor right now has you on some type of light duty. Not only is your pain getting worse, but your boss is harassing you. Maybe even some of your coworkers are harassing you. Maybe your doctor has given you some physical restrictions because of your injuries and your employer is not following your injury so you get more and more frustrated by the hour and finally you just said, "Heck with it. I can't take it anymore," and you quit your job. We're here to tell you today you do not want to do that, okay?

Joe Miller: My name is Joe Miller, workers' compensation attorney in Virginia and North Carolina. At the Work Injury Center here, we get a lot of people that call our office and we see this over and over again. Sounds like maybe there's a good claim that we could work with that maybe we could work a good settlement for the person ultimately and what we end up finding out is person quit their job. What does that do? What you've done in that circumstance is you have played into the hands of the workers' compensation insurance company. You have done the best thing that you can possibly do for them for your case because what you've done is you've basically taken yourself out of the labor market voluntarily.

Joe Miller: So if your doctor ever releases you to light duty again, the real reason that you're unable to work is not going to be because of your light duty. It's going to be because you voluntarily quit your job and that's going to make it much, much harder to settle your claim. Why? Let's say in Virginia we get you under an award. Well, if you watch some other videos that are on our website or on YouTube if you are watching this on YouTube, then you know that if you get under an award in Virginia, unless your employer decides to accommodate you, which may or may not occur, let's say you're released to a 10-pound lifting restriction and your employer says, "Well, you've had surgery and that's way too ... We don't have anything for that." Well, if you're under an award, guess what, they got to continue to pay your checks.

Joe Miller: But if you have quit your job, then the reason you're unable to work has nothing to do with your restrictions because you quit. So bottom line is don't quit your job. I know it's hard. I know it's frustrating. Call us. Don't just try to stick it out yourself. Give us a call, hopefully we can find a strategy that will get you to a better doctor, that would get you the treatment you need and you can get the heck out of that environment. But you want to do it under a doctor's orders. You don't want to do it yourself. That's the key. All right? You want the doctor, your treating physician has to remove you from the workplace because of your injury.

Joe Miller: Once that happens, then we can help you and we can assist you. Once you've quit, it's too late, my friend. So don't get in that situation. Don't be one of those people that calls our office and we've got to turn down the case because the person went and quit their job. I hope this has been helpful for you. If you have any other questions about your workers' compensation claim, don't hesitate to call us at Joe Miller Law. Again, I'm Joe Miller. Pleasure talking to you today. If you're hurt, I hope you're feeling better and hope you get well soon. Take care. Joe Miller out.