

Patricia Virgil

My name is Patricia Ann Virgil. I am a former foster youth, I was in CPS from the age of 12 to the age of 19. Over the course of the year I was in several foster homes and 1 shelter. The day I came into CPS my sister, my brother, and myself were taken to a shelter by a transporter and dropped off without talking to a worker or even asked if we needed anything. In the shelter I was choked until I passed out by another child and then kicked until I woke up by a staff member while my sister watched.

At the age of 14 I was placed on several high dose medications for bipolar, ADHD, post traumatic stress, depression, and one that was for Parkinson disease because I was shaking so much from being over medicated. I was asked how the medicine was treating me and when I said it didn't feel right, the dose was increase and/or more was added on. Eventually I stopped telling the truth because I was afraid.

I was also sexually assaulted by a foster parent and when I tried to speak up about it, it resulted in I was a liar and I was asking for it. I was wearing provocative clothing, I was asking him to touch me and kiss all over me. I felt like I had no voice and I was supposed to let it happen and not speak up about anything.

In care I felt like I was better off living with my mother and stepfather who abused me physically, sexually, verbally, and emotionally. In general, I think CPS would be better if they didn't over medicate the children and let them have a voice about how they feel. I also feel that case workers should come in and talk to the children, truly care about their well being and safety. I also feel that foster parents should go through the same screenings as one would go through to adopt a child, each time they a given a new foster child.