

February 15, 2021

Attention House Committee Members,

The following is my personal testimony of my experiences with the Kansas Fostercare System.

My Hell with the foster care system started on April 9, 2018. Saint Francis Mynisites was appointed to help reintegrate my at the time 10 year old daughter. A CINC was also opened as well as a court order for reintegration process worked, but only for a short time. In October 2018 my daughter's behaviors kept growing out of control due to lack of help from any agencies along with the judge, local law enforcement and the county attorney. My daughter accrued 2 felonies that were later pled down to misdemeanors. In November 2018 my daughter was finally placed in her first PRTF (psychiatric residential treatment facility). Two days after her release in January 2019 I gave birth to my now 2 year old son.

My daughter's mental health kept declining due to poor and misled social workers. In March of 2019 my daughter was released back to me on the condition that she continued with therapy that had never been set up by St. Francis. I had set up all follow up appointments for her instead. In May 2019, my daughter, being awarded to St. Francis and was being housed with my mother which went against a court order, swallowed a 500 count bottle of ibuprofen. She was kept in a hospital for a few days in PIU. No damage was done, but that was her first attempt at suicide outside of several threats and self harming behaviors.

In June of 2019 my daughter was sexually assaulted at the park due to the system failing to follow a court order that stated she was to be placed into a secure care facility for disrupting. In July 2019, my mother finally gave in and my daughter was then placed into the foster care system. From July to August she bounced around all over the place. From different offices of St. Francis workers, and weekend placements until she was able to get into KVC in Hays. She was there from August to December 2019. Once she was released from there everything just kept getting worse. She was not

put into a stable placement at all and was just moved from here to there. The only time I ever knew anything of her whereabouts was when she was admitted to hospital for suicidal attempts or she had self harmed.

January 2020 was horrible, every week I would hear about, being after the fact that my daughter had been here or there for suicidal attempts or ideation. Family visits were never scheduled nor was family therapy sessions like there were supposed to be. The worst phone call I ever received was from my daughter who was actively committing suicide and had a rope around her neck. She was in a foster home. My daughter had been moved around so many times that she didn't know the name of the family or the address to the home that she had been placed. She called me and I called 911 in order to get her the help she needed. She was 15 miles from me at the time of this incident.

I was begging St. Francis to get her placed back into a PRTF because her mental health was very, very unstable. In February of 2020 she was finally placed back into a PRTF. Covid 19 shut everything down, family therapy was held over the phone and we didn't get anywhere. After her release in April 2020 she was once again bounced all over the state from place to place. During this time she would be sexually assaulted at a foster home during her 2 different weekend stays. In June she was admitted to a hospital for suicidal ideation. I was able to see her for the first time since February that year. She told me everything that she had happened to her.

I have never felt so helpless and I couldn't do anything to help her because my social workers were never available when I needed to talk to them. The lack of communication and following up with me and keeping me informed on what was happening with my daughter were awful. Therapy wasn't followed up with either, visitation was never set up. When the state of Kansas stepped in, September 23, 2020 was the worst day of my life, my parental rights were forcefully terminated due to lack of improvement of my daughter's behaviors that were ignored and never helped.

I have never felt so lost, helpless, frustrated or led astray like I was with a broken system that is in place to help keep our children safe and instead they are destroying our children. There need to be harder safer regulations put in place to keep children safe from the monsters that they have to deal with on a daily basis. More PRFTs need to be opened with

more help from insurance companies before it is too late and Kansas has a huge suicide jump amongst its young people if it hasn't happened already.

Please save our children from the Hell that they deal with by showing them and their families that they are not alone and that we are all going to fix this broken unfair system that is our foster care system.

Thank you for letting my voice be heard.

Rachelle Coberly