

The transcript below accompanies minute 1:08 to 4:15 of [a video](#) that is part of the Rescue & Restore Campaign of 2008. You can find more information in the [Administration for Children & Families Archives](#).

Survivor Story Transcript (Excerpt of Complete Video)

I grew up in a town in Kentucky, in a middle class home. I have an older sister and my parents divorced in my late teens. I was an avid swimmer; it was my life and something I enjoyed doing. It was a passion of mine. And I always enjoyed art from the time I was very young. Art class was my favorite subject in school.

I was trafficked beginning as a very young child. It was pretty much almost a part of my life, all of my life up until I escaped when I was 18. My trafficker was somebody that had my complete trust and the complete trust of my family; therefore it made it very easy to gain access to me, to exploit me.

There were quite a few moments in time when I was trafficked that, the opportunity for intervention arose. When I was a young child, I had chronic reoccurring vaginal infections that was treated by my pediatrician, then in middle school, I contracted oral sexually transmitted disease in which I was treated by an ear, nose and throat doctor.

Both physicians were wonderful and very caring, but not one physician or health care worker ever asked whether I was being sexually exploited not once. Both doctors knew my family, so I think that may have dismissed that, thinking that no way could a child from a middle class home be being exploited.

Another case where I see an opportunity that was missed for an intervention was when I was in middle school. Somebody reported that I was being sexually abused. I had to go down to Child Protective Services. Prior to going to my interview, I was coached by my trafficker on what to say and how to deny the abuse. He told me not to talk too much and to know that the CPS was not my friend. I distinctively remember him saying, "Do you know what they want to do?" And I said, "No." He said, "They want to take you away for good if you say anything for good. You will be locked up, taken away from your family, your friends, and your pets. You will go to jail, and everybody will know what you did." By the time I got there, and walking into the office, in which I was interviewed by a CPS worker, I walked in there feeling guilty, feeling ashamed, and not at all seeing the social worker who was interviewing me as someone that could help me, who was there to rescue, and bring me to safety. I saw her as the enemy and I answered her questions, denying that I was being abused, and left there. There was no follow up. I left, and my trafficking continued.