

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

My name is _____ and I experienced birth trauma and violence from my obstetrician and midwives that were supposedly 'caring' for me.

I had my first child in 2015 at the age of 17. Being so young you immediately have the word immature or naive duct taped to your head but my word in my case I couldn't have been more the opposite. I did birthing classes, researched everything I possibly could have and prepared for my baby like any other excited first time mother. I went into labor in the very early hours of _____. I arrived at _____ Hospital to be told my room was being cleaned and they would come and get me from the waiting room shortly. I was in immense pain labouring in a corridor/waiting room for hours before a midwife came and got me. They took me to my room where I was basically dumped and left. I was pressured into having an epidural by being told "it was better for my baby". 16 hours later and after very minimal interaction or care from the midwives I began pushing.

I was yelled at for not pushing "good enough" but I physically couldn't push any harder due to having the epidural and having no sensation from the waist down. I was going in and out of consciousness due to the intensity of my pushing and holding my breath but despite this I was still yelled at. Due to this my baby was delivered via vacuum extraction that I never consented to.

After my delivery I was left in the delivery room with my beautiful new baby for 5 hours. I wasn't offered a shower after my 16 hour labor or anything to eat. I was covered in blood and trying to deal with the trauma my body just went through.

To this day I still believe I was treated this way due to my age and discriminated against.