

Submission
No 177

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 2 August 2023

Partially
Confidential

I knew avoiding the hospital system at all costs would be paramount to having a healthy and happy pregnancy and birth.

I knew this so strongly and deeply because all you have to do is ask the woman beside you who birthed in a hospital about her birth of her child. The intervention, the bullying and coercion. The distrust of woman.

My partner and I decided to hire private midwives, we thought this would be the best decision for safety and well-being for the birth.

But even private midwives still inflicted their hospital system trained ways upon me. Whilst my son was almost out I had one midwife pinning my arm to couch attempting to put an iv in, leaving behind a monstrous bruise from all of her failed attempts.

My first and primary midwife screamed at me to 'get this fucking baby out'

She assured me during my pregnancy that she didn't do coaching whilst birthing, but I sure heard her coaching. In the throes of pushing my son out I had the second midwife forcibly move my knees out of the position I needed to be in, 'not like that like this' she snarled.

My partner had been sent to get an ambulance that wasn't needed and as a result missed the first breaths of his son. I birthed my son into my own hands, quickly to my chest I held him but before the two of us could look at each other for the first time my primary midwife snatched him from my hands and forced an oxygen machine, I know my son didn't need it I knew he just needed to be on my chest with my heartbeat close like it had been for the last 40 weeks. He was landing in his body completely healthy and fine. And this midwife, a person who is supposed care and protect woman in birth ruined our first moments because her impotence and hospital training. Soon enough I was laid up on the couch finally my partner with my and our son, boom a shot in syntocin shot into my knee from the second midwife and my poor uterus assaulted and pushed down on forcing my sons placenta to be birthed before it was ready. This is abuse, this is assault. This is trauma. Scarring women and inflicting violence too quick for us to react! Stealing precious moments we can't get back but rather have to find a and create a path of healing from. Not because of our bodies doing what their created to do, but because so called trained professionals can't get out of our way and let us do what woman do! BIRTH!

Almost 18 months on and I fear the system more than I did before, my faith in 'trained professionals. If you wear the uniform and a name badge facts are I don't trust you, I don't trust you to care for me and I certainly don't trust you to care for my baby.

I approach the journey of conception for our second child and I have the same fear.

A fear I will have to stare in the face and beat. For the birth of my next child will not be tainted with the gloved hands of midwives who do not trust woman and birth.