

Submission
No 723

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

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Partially
Confidential

I am a mother, I am a daughter, I am a Midwife. I am making the submission on behalf of myself and things that I've witnessed in practice as a Midwife working in hospitals as a Privately Practicing Midwife, supporting women on Transfer, or when they've chosen to Birth in Hospital.

For my first baby, when I was 15 she remained in the Breech position. I was given no option other than a general anesthetic and Lois segment cesarean section. I was complaining of pain postpartum, and no one believed me and ended up having urinary retention and a bladder full of 2000 mils of urine. I was made out to be high-risk and referred to _____ and early childhood center services who told me that I should control cry, my baby and go against everything that my heart said to do when she was crying on the other side of the bedroom door I was told not to go to her and I had to wait by a clock and timing !

With my second baby who I did a lot of research when I was 20 I decided I wanted to have a vagina birth after cesarean in Hospital. When I arrived, I was put into a room and pretty much ignored until I was making sounds that got peoples attention. I was told not to push even though my body was involuntary pushing, and I had no control over this whatsoever. On my birth plan, I had asked for a natural birth with no drugs, and for my waters to break naturally, and have a natural third stage and have use of the water. I was told that the spa was dirty and I wasn't allowed into it. I was told that my waters for now bulging and 8 cm am I water broken without my permission or consent?

I was clearly in transition and I was being told to calm down the midwife kept asking me if I wanted some pain relief to which I said no and she gave me a shot of Pasadena anyway, she then asked me if it was helping to which I said no and they all laughed and said well we can say that it has ! I could still feel all of the sensations, but I couldn't move or yell, or make any noise due to the effect of the Pethidine . I was then told that I was in the wrong room, and that I could push as my cervix was finally dilated and they run me down a Corridor put me on a bed and said you can push now all my contractions have disappeared to which they said just push anyway!

I then said I wanted to go home to which I was told don't be stupid girly, You've got to stay here and have a baby.

My third experience I had a Private Midwife and Birthed at home, to which was the most sacred healing powerful moment of my life.

I have sat with women who have had an amazing birth until the Dr arrived he cut an episiotomy when she quested not to, she bled so much it caused a PPH from his very deep incision into her button cheek and when he had finished suturing her and was about to leave Healin 10 and told her see, I told you you should've had a cesarean section.

I had another woman who was told you will never have a baby out of your vagina marrying a guy like this. I was also told by that same Dr in front of the whole theatre that I never saw a babies head and that it was vagina wall, this doctor performed a cesarean on my client that I transferred

to hospital and had to pull the baby out so far he gave her left lateral tear on her uterus. The woman went on, and had a vaginal birth with me with her next baby, after two caesareans.

I have had women told that if they don't have an episiotomy, they will tear to their bottom while their legs are spread. Totally vulnerable trying to fight for their rights.

I have had doctors on the mobile phones while they have their fingers inside women's vaginas.

I have been reported to AHPRA by a doctor for standing up for a woman when she said no to having him put his fingers inside her vagina five times and he went to do it anyway.

I have had women lied to about vitamin K by a pediatrician when a woman has declined vitamin K after doing all of her research, she was told there is no vitamin K that comes across breastmilk. All the placenta, which is actually untrue. Well that might be a little bit it's still not nothing. This conversation was happening while she was being sutured up and had another doctor's hand inside her vagina.

I am countlessly locked out of hospital rooms or theaters When I transfer a woman in from my care during labor and birth. I am not respected as a healthcare professional, and am considered a support person during the most important part of her journey with me after being with me for seven months or maybe more then disrespected by being separated from the woman when I need to be there for her and advocate for her during usually quite a distressing time for the family, whom have chosen me to be their primary midwife.

The stories are countless I could go on and on and on I've been in Midwife for 22 years I have plenty more of where they come from. I have come out into private practice for the last 11 just to survive in my chosen profession to decrease and witness the abuse that goes on every day and every night seven days a week 365 days a year and a public and private Maternity systems something must change, these experiences make mothers and families and how woman feels going into motherhood completely changes our future generations

We know one to one Midwifery makes a difference.