

On September 15th, 2000, I was escorted against my will from my home in Hillsboro Oregon to Cross Creek Manor in LaVerkin Utah.

A large man and woman came into my room in the wee hours of the morning while I was just in my underwear. I could see my mother standing in the hall just behind them, obviously consenting to what was happening. The man gave the spiel about doing things the easy way or the hard way and I agreed not to fight. The man turned around while the woman watched me get dressed. The woman then grabbed my arm and the man grabbed the other and they pulled me into the hall. I stopped and asked if I could say goodbye to my brother. The man said no, we don't have time, now move or I'll put the cuffs on you. The man drove while the woman sat in the backseat with me with her arm linked through mine the whole time. At the airport I kept hoping one of my parents would change their mind and come get me, or call the escorts to stop them, but no one called and no one came. I asked repeatedly if I could call and say goodbye to my brother and each time the man told me if I didn't shut up he would put the cuffs on me. When we got on the plane the reality of it settled upon me that I was just going to disappear and no one but my parents, who obviously didn't want me, would know where I'd gone.

I think being treated like I was some dangerous monster instead of a clinically depressed fifteen year old girl was traumatic in itself, and the fact that no one else seemed to mind what was happening compounded that feeling.

This experience, and my years at Cross Creek, have given me nightmares and PTSD for the past 20 years. Due to my sense of panic and fear associated with being in cars, I didn't get my drivers license until I was 28 years old. I had already gotten married, had two children, and bought a house, but this milestone of adulthood eluded me for a long time.

Looking back, I still can't fathom how any of what happened to me was legal. The escort, the imprisonment, the restriction of communication. All of it seems to me now, at the age of 36, to be violations of human rights.