

My name is Amy. I am the mother of seven children. I have been involved with the DCF system since I was nine. I am now 43.

One Halloween night when I had 3 little kids who were about 3, 4 and 5, I was trying to get the kids ready to trick or treat. The four year old had severe autism, I was struggling with getting them in their costumes, and I said something like "I'm going to kill them." Early head start was there, they were closing up from our appointment. When we came back from trick or treating, the cops were there with DCF. DCF took the kids right from my home. I learned that Early Head Start had reported because of the comment I made when I was trying to get my kids into their costumes. There were no lawyers available at the time, and as a result, my kids were taken away for 30 days. As soon as we got in front of the judge, I got my kids back. That situation caused my children to be traumatized.

That incident really upset me because it traumatized my children and made me afraid to talk to providers like Early Head Start. Then once the case got to DCF, I couldn't get my kids back for a month because I had no lawyer, even though there was nothing to it. DCF always has the upper hand.