

DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY
PURSUANT TO 28 USCA 1746

I, [REDACTED], declare and state as follows:

1. [Jewish Family & Children's Services]
2. Norwood, MA
3. [PERIOD OF INTERNMENT 09/14 TO 06/15]

4. My name is [REDACTED] and I was abused by a program known as JF&CS (Jewish Family Children's Services) in Greater Boston, MA area. I lived there from September 2014 to June 2015. It's a series of foster homes for adults (ages 21+) with various developmental disabilities. The staff in these homes were younger than most of the residents (some were less than 21 years old) and totally unqualified (many were recent immigrants from Haiti or Africa) with little to no experience with the developmentally disabled populations. I was forced to share a bathroom and living area with 8 other residents, two of whom had histories of bullying both verbally and physically. The staff did little to help and acted like it wasn't a big deal, however when I was caught talking about another person they treated me like a prisoner. My parents were forced to calm me down by phone and come pick me up every time I had a conflict (they live 80 miles away and work full-time) and questioned why they went on vacation. I was forced to participate in brainwashing "group therapy" by a woman who is likely totally unqualified and plays favorites. She acted like simply saying "I don't talk about other people," would magically stop drama between residents. When I refused to participate, she notified my parents saying I was disobeying staff and the therapy can cure problems between residents. Two of the other residents had pushed me into both the refrigerator and the bathroom door for the ridiculous reason of "taking too long in the shower" I ended up with cuts & bruises on my right upper thigh.

Here's a timeline of major events:

Move in: September 2014

Please keep my name anonymous
Thanks!

Late October/early November 2014: Had an argument with another resident, mom was immediately called and expected to pick me up despite being away on a business trip.

Thanksgiving 2014: Went home for the holidays. I had gained about 15lbs due to the lack of nutrition in the house. We were force-fed high-fat, high-carb dishes such as processed mac & cheese, easy sandwiches with, canned soup, frozen meatballs, and boxed mash potatoes. We had no say in what meals were served unless we had an allergy. Several parents complained about the meals, but there was little improvement.

December 2014: Christmas vacation; I had gained even more weight (eek!) staff promised to help me print out a bus ticket, yet failed to do so and I ended up missing the bus I needed to take to go home.

Feb/March 2015: I was falsely accused of hitting another client even though I did not and no one had any evidence to support either side. I was suspended and forced to go home for the weekend despite no proof. Later that month, I signed up for a job working as a camp counselor in the summer and was so excited! I sent in all paperwork right on time and showed up at the interview with an excellent attitude.

April 2015: I went home for Easter weekend and my mom receives an email from caseworker that I have 2 months to leave the premises permanently as other clients' parents had said they wanted me to leave and the foster mother can no longer support my needs. After weeks of research, we cannot find any alternative placements and JF&CS failed to recommend any. Later that month, I fell sick with a fever and was complaining of ear pain. While out enjoying dinner with a friend, I had a grand-mal seizure. The restaurant manager called 911 and took me to the local hospital. I was diagnosed with a chest infection as well as severe infection to both ears. I was so nervous, my blood pressure was high (I normally do not have HBP) and my hands were sweaty. The case manager couldn't give us a ride to or from the hospital, therefore they neglected to provide medical attention.

May/June 2015: While in the house, another client began screaming at me and banging on the bathroom door saying I was taking too long in the shower. She then ended up pushing me into the doorway and I had cuts and bruises on my upper thigh. She then again pushed me into the

refrigerator. She said she was sorry but I didn't believe her. I was also punished for not inviting this girl to a pizza party. After continued episodes of seizures and sudden raises in blood pressure, I was sent home for an EEG. They continued to extend the time and eventually sent a notice to my parents that I was not allowed to return. I was so disappointed because I was forced to sacrifice my whole summer with my friends and also my job.

The following staff members were a particular problem:

Jennifer "Lee" Felix Residential Night staff: tended to take sides during interpersonal conflicts, acted mad when we didn't invite people to activities or chose not to be friends with them.

Josephine Conte-Kroma: Case manager, recent immigrant from Africa, had little to no experience with DD population, played favorites with residents whose parents were there frequently

Naomi Zephir-Sennet: Senior Case manager, recent immigrant from Haiti, harassed my parents for living further away and not being able to pick me up immediately upon request

Kate Leon: social worker (unknown if licensed), made all girls participate in questionable group therapy

Joli Ripert: Case manager, played favorites, refused to discipline another resident for keeping others awake or name-calling

I give HEAL permission to use this statement. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on December 2, 2015.

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SPECIAL NOTE: STATUTE DOES
NOT REQUIRE NOTARY]