

## Statement from victim at 12

Hello everyone. My name is (redacted). Looking at me, you probably see a normal 12-year-old girl, but I want to tell you that isn't true, and it's all because of Stephanie Gregory.

Every single day I am reminded of the mean and nasty things she did to me.

Here are a few things I deal with daily:

I brush my hair every day but I have to be careful of all the scars that you caused from hitting me with the metal spatula. If I brush them too hard, they will start bleeding or give me horrible headaches. When I play with my 3-year-old sister, she asks me about every boo-boo on my body and that has caused bad panic attacks.

My panic attacks are so bad that 911 had to come to my house to help me. I can be taking a warm shower and, out of nowhere, I remember the ice cold showers you would throw me in. Things I do every day make me remember the nasty way I was treated by you.

I have nightmares about what you did to me and they are so bad that I wake up crying. Because of you, I have to make sure every door in the house is locked. I could be happy shopping at a store but, out of nowhere, I will feel nervous that I might run into you. Today I am legally blind with no peripheral vision, something I wasn't born with. My disability makes my life so difficult.

One of the biggest things that affects me every day is my short-term memory loss.

For example, I will forget if I finished my drink. I will look everywhere for it until someone reminds me I threw it away.

My short-term memory loss sucks but it doesn't allow me to forget things from a long time ago, like the pain you caused me, which I wish it did.

Every lie you have ever told me has made it very hard to trust and believe people.

This is something I'm getting better at because of my therapist. She helped me understand that not everybody in this world is going to hurt me the way you did in the past.

School is very difficult for me. I love school, I love making new friends and I love learning, but because of you it is not that easy.

When living with you, my siblings were allowed to go to school but you kept me out once I started forgetting things after you slammed my head so hard into the wall. This is why I am so happy to go to school every day now. Things you have done to me in my past make school very difficult. I'm now in special education and can't learn like other kids because of my memory.

For almost three years, the best therapist in the world, Ms. Julie, has taught me coping skills to deal with the pain you caused me and how to be independent. Something you never allowed.

I am a strong young woman today, and it's not because of you. Why would someone hurt a child the way you chose to hurt me? This is a question I ask a lot but nobody can answer it.

When I first got placed with my mom, I was so skinny from you not feeding me that I couldn't walk on my own. I remember needing to be carried to the bathroom.

Because of you, my family and my therapist had to teach me that I am ALWAYS allowed to eat food. I now know that I will never have to go another day of my life without eating. I learned food is not a punishment, and if I ever do something wrong, I will still be allowed to eat.

Ms. Chaka is my hero. The ladies came so many times, and you forced me to lie. Ms. Chaka knew what you were doing to me as wrong, and she saved my life. I think if she didn't help me at the hospital the day they took me from you, I wouldn't be standing on this earth right now.

I want you to know, I was afraid of you but I'm not anymore. I know I am safe and I can trust the people in my life that will never hurt me the way you did.

I am strong, I am beautiful and I am brave, even though you always told me the opposite!

