

Stability Study – Sandra Case Part 1

Age	Placement	Milestones (<i>Personal Recollections</i>)
0	Home of parent	“My Birthday:” On a cold New Year’s Eve I was brought into this world to Ms. Patricia Green and Robert Walker. I was the youngest of two, with Brenda being my older sister.
6 months		“Sweet, Sweet, Baby:” Brenda says I was the apple of everyone’s eyes during this time. She also told me that she remembers Dad moving out. She didn’t know why Dad left, but remembers it as a tough time for Mom, who had to find a job and get daycare for us.
1		“Hard Times:” Brenda told me DCFS showed up after somebody reported we were home alone while Mom worked. She said they came out every couple weeks or so to check on us. Reportedly Mom got a neighbor lady to babysit for us when she went to work. Brenda said we were really poor at that time and Mom wasn’t making much money.
2		“Indiana Hoosiers:” Grandma convinced Mom to move to Indiana, so Mom wouldn’t have to struggle so much. Unfortunately this didn’t work out. We loved it at Grandma’s but for some reason Mom hated it and moved us back to Illinois after a few months.
2.3		“Illinois Illini Again:” We returned to Illinois and Mom once again was working at low-paying jobs. DCFS got involved with us again after someone claimed Brenda and I were getting very skinny from missing meals. We weren’t missing meals; Mom was too tired to cook most of the time so we ate a lot of fast food meals.
3.0		“My First Bike:” I received a bike for my birthday. I was so happy. This was short lived because someone accused Mom of neglecting us again. The day after my birthday DCFS came out again. Mom decided to move us away from the “nosey” neighbors.

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3.87	Foster home #1	<p>“Disaster Strikes:” Disaster struck when we moved to Central IL. We were taken by DCFS. This began my life as a ward of the state. It was hard finding a home for my sister, Brenda and me until we arrived at the steps of Carol.</p>	
3.88	Foster home #2 Foster home #3	<p>After 3 years of abusive foster homes ...</p>	
6.04	Relative home #1	Dec. 1991	<p>“Rescue 911:” Grandma came to the rescue. Back to Indiana we went until Mom got back on her feet. I was able to celebrate my first real Christmas.</p>
		Sept. 1993	<p>“Motherless Child:” After getting situated in Indiana and things seemed to get better, Mom passed away from what I was told a drug overdose leaving two children motherless. So we stayed with Grandma.</p>
		Dec. 1993	<p>“Sisters Forever:” My sister didn’t know how to deal with the pain so she ran away from Grandma’s. But I remained because I was too young. This hurt because we were all we had. We did everything together.</p>
		1994	<p>“Good Year:” Life was hard accepting the fact that my mother and sister weren’t coming back. Grandma was strict but she took good care of me. She let me be a kid.</p>
		Jun 1994	<p>“A Gift:” My niece Kimberly was born. I was excited to be an auntie. She brought the family a little closer.</p>
		Oct. 1998	<p>“Worst Nightmare:” My grandmother passed away from cancer. This left me devastated and angry with the world. I wish I could’ve been there like I was supposed to; Maybe she’d still be here.</p>
12.7	Foster home #4	<p>I then moved in with my Godparents because no one else would or could take me.</p>	
13.1	Foster home #5	<p>“Life’s Crazy:” Things at my Godparents wasn’t working. They didn’t know how to deal with a grieving child so they called DCFS to come and get me and to Central, IL. I went to live in a foster home in the projects. My life as a foster child began again.</p>	
13.2	Group home		
13.2	Institution		

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13.2	Foster home #6	Rita's house was crazy, so I requested to move with some Christian people. I thought they could help.
13.5	Foster home #7	"New Placement:" It was hard adapting to a slower pace environment. It seemed as though the only excitement was trouble. I only did what I knew and saw which caused me to be kicked out of school and the Fisher's.
13.8	Foster home #6	Back to Rita's I went. "Most Memorable Event:" I met my father and my other sister for the first time. I flew a plane by myself to Atlanta. I also reunited with Brenda and my niece. I only talked to my dad on the phone and after all these years, he was willing to take me in and be the father I needed in my life. We had our first Christmas together. I was going to move with him.
14.0	Foster home #8	"New Placement:" Kicked out of Rita's because of an altercation with her family members. I moved to Susan's. It was a hard year trying to raise myself when no one else would. The streets were my life.
14.1	Foster home #9	"New Placement:" Moved to Bertha's hell hole. It was about 20 people living under one roof. Blind, Deaf, Handicap, her kids, brothers. It was horrible. I use to tell my caseworker about the conditions of this home, but she only made me stay.
14.1	Juvenile detention	"Caught in the System:" I got caught on Agg. Batt. I went to YDC and was sentenced to 1 year probation.
14.2	Foster home #9 Group home #2	Kicked out of Bertha's and shipped to Danville. I had to start all over again. I didn't like Danville. It was even worsor.
14.6	Foster home #10	"Another Let Down:" My father passed away from heart problems.

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14.8	Specialized foster home #1	<p>“New Placement:” Moved with Staci after being kicked out of Danville. Staci was 23 and didn’t know anything about raising no teenagers. She was a money hungry bitch. She was cool at first until she started giving me \$40 a month and keeping the other \$1,000 for herself.</p>
15.6	Foster home #11	<p>“New Placement:” My father’s wife stepped up to try to raise me. I moved to Atlanta. I was excited, hoping that this was the end of foster care for me and I would finally have a family.</p>
15.7	Specialized foster home #2	<p>“No One Loves Me:” Things in Atlanta wasn’t working. My stepmother was trying to make me something I wasn’t. So back to Central, IL. I went. She had her brother drop me off at the bus station with trash bags and boxes and \$20. That was the worst trip ever. Back to Staci’s.</p>
15.8	Juvenile detention	<p>“What’s Wrong:” Staci’s didn’t last long. We got into an argument because she wouldn’t let me use the phone. She hit me and I left. She had me arrested and I spent 3 mos. In the detention Center.</p>