

TESTIMONIES OF MEDICAL TRAUMA BY CAREGIVERS

Disabled participants shared experiences of medical mistreatment they endured as a result of actions taken, decisions made, and/or neglect by caregivers and family members. Their accounts are summarized below.

CAREGIVERS AND FAMILY

- "The roommates I had were a caregiver team who made it their mission to be super nice to me for the purpose of grooming me so they could turn around and gaslight me, steal my money and possessions, and get to me late every day to care. They moved into and used my converted garage to have their friends over all the time to party and deal drugs out of my [home]. They even left me at a mental health care appointment without a way to get home. One time they left me without breakfast and a way to get to my dialysis treatment... They would often come late to get me after dialysis. They would fix my breakfast or dinners all wrong and then yell at me when I had a meltdown as a result... They would turn their phones off and be late to come care for me, and say mean things to me... They'd do my laundry and I would find my clothes and towels missing afterwards. It would be hell trying to get them to give these things back to me. They also took a screwdriver set, a manicure/pedicure set, even my important documents such as my personal SSI re-evaluation records, birth certificate—all went missing... [They were] IHSS caregivers. IHSS never does a thing to help me when it happens. I still have horrible nightmares about my past caregivers."
- "I [experienced] medical abuse that involved a partner. I was changing my mind about an elective procedure (it had nothing to do with mental health or anything like that). I didn't feel comfortable with the plan because it [wasn't] what I had discussed with my surgeon... They weren't listening to me at all, only my partner. So it was my partner that helped them do that to me. Afterwards, because of whatever my partner said to them, [they] treated me without pain medication when I had just woken up from a major surgery... I also woke up during the procedure because anesthesia works different on me and they wouldn't listen to me about that either."
- "[Family members] made me believe [the abuse] was my fault. They put me on medication that made my conditions worse... They continue to act justified in their actions, and don't take responsibility."
- "[My family] ignored my mental health."
- "[My family] denied me healthcare when severely injured."
- "[My family] refused to get the medical help I needed."

