

TESTIMONIES OF MEDICAL TRAUMA BY PROVIDERS

Many disabled participants shared experiences of mistreatment by various providers, including clinicians, therapists, and support staff. Their accounts are listed below, which serve as a solemn reminder that discrimination and stigma still greatly impact people with disabilities.

MEDICAL CARE PROVIDERS

- "[Providers were] just not listening when I tried to explain complex medical issues or genetic issues related to my condition and how that complicates treatment."
- [Regarding hospital staff during and after hospitalization] "Some staff were particularly grim in their open dislike of me and it showed in their care or lack thereof."
- "They made sure to ask me [what I wanted in my healthcare] and gave assurances that my wishes would be respected. However, they violated every single request, up to and including lying to me about it. The midwife lied about the position of the child, about the availability of pain relief, about the accessibility of additional features in the delivery room, about the necessity of a procedure that I had previously informed them that was unnecessary in my case, and about me being allowed to choose in which position to give birth. I clarified later with other specialists and the staff of that hospital... none of the things she insisted on were true."
- "Medical professionals gaslight, minimize issues, do not answer direct questions, and charge undisclosed amounts."

MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

- "My therapists treated my brain like an experiment and kept throwing incorrect medications at it because of their incompetence and lack of listening to [my] requests. I specifically asked for no medications and for them to be an interpreter to my family. They [still] gave me meds and told me to trust them. I got worse, so they raised dosages and added more —until I quit and got better. I am damaged for life now."
- "Healthcare providers, psychologists, and therapists are not prepared enough where I live to provide good care. There was a psychiatrist who challenged my condition because... I was not diagnosed when I was a child. I have been told by previous therapists that I am using my disability 'as an excuse.'"
- "They didn't listen to me or acknowledge my needs. They medicated me for things I didn't have. They told me that I should trust them because they're the 'experts.'"
- "The staff abused me. They refused to test for or accommodate my disabilities for years... They also tried to lock me up in a ward for life after having a mental breakdown from what they and others did. I tried to get help after and they cut me out of everything, insisting that they didn't want to deal with "dangerous" people (like me). They misinterpreted [my] anger and OCD and subscribed to stigmatizing stereotypes about mental illness."

