



Survivors Stories DVD

Audio Transcripts: Gina

Gina Short Clip

My eldest child had some problems and I went to see the local doctor about this and was told about a counselling centre in the next town and I took my child along, but he didn't want to see anybody and I'd still got the number. So I decided I'd go and see them and see if they can help me. Unfortunately I tried to keep it secret but a friend inadvertently said something and he went absolutely mad. He forbade me to see a counsellor and I had to ring and cancel my appointment.

My counsellor said she could tell I needed help and would I not consider making another appointment and keeping this one secret from him. So I made the other appointment, but I wasn't sure if I would go. He accused me of going to the first appointment that I cancelled. He wouldn't listen to me. He accused me of going, so I thought I may as well go anyway. So I did.

But it was very, very hair-raising. I had to keep the whole thing a secret. At that time I wasn't even allowed to take a short bus journey to the nearest town, I wasn't allowed to do that. If I'd been discovered in town I would have been in terrible trouble, so everything had to be top secret.

When my mother discovered how bad things were, she said that we had to get you out of there. So she started to help me look for rented accommodation in the place where I lived. I didn't want to go to far away because for the children's sake at much as anything. So we constantly looked in the local letting agencies to see if anything was available and when something did come up, mum had to sort it all out for me, because it was absolutely top secret. I decided that if I told him I was going I would get so much trouble. I couldn't risk it. It had to be secret.

And as for housing benefits and things like that, my mother took me over to the main office and we saw some people and they told me what I had to do. I most certainly needed support, I don't think at that point I had the confidence or the courage to have done it on my own. I don't think I could have done.

