

## **Statement from Marcia Carroll**

40 Years of Victims Press Conference  
January 22, 2013

Hello, my name is Marcia Carroll. I'm here today to share with you my family's story and the damaging impact that a so called "safe and legal" abortion has had on us.

On Christmas Eve 2004, my 14 yr. old daughter informed me she was pregnant. I assured her I would seek out all resources and help that was available. As her parents, her father and I would stand with her. We scheduled appointments with her pediatrician, her private counselor, and her school nurse. I followed all their advice and recommendations. They discussed all of her options with her. I purposefully allowed my daughter to speak alone with the professionals so that she would speak her mind and not just say what she thought I wanted to hear.

My daughter chose to have the baby and raise it. My family and friends fully supported my daughter's decision to keep her baby and offered our love and support.

Unfortunately, the father's family did not feel the same way and subsequently began harassing my daughter and my family. They started showing up at our house to express their desire for my daughter to have an abortion.

We assured his family that my daughter had our full support in her decision to keep the baby. She also had exceptional doctors, counselors, and professionals to help her through the pregnancy. We all had her best interest in mind.

The behavior of the father's family began to concern me to the point that I found it necessary to consult our local police department. Furthermore, I called a local abortion center to verify the required age to have an abortion in our state. I felt safe when they told me that in the state of Pennsylvania that my minor daughter had to be 16yrs of age have an abortion without parental consent. I trusted this law would keep my daughter safe. It never occurred to me that I needed to check the laws of the surrounding states. I truly believed that as a resident of the state of Pennsylvania that she would be protected by Pennsylvania state laws. That was a life altering mistake.

On Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>, I sent my daughter to her bus stop. She and her boyfriend even had a prenatal class scheduled after school. While I believed her to be safe at school, she was manipulated into an elaborate scheme. The father's family arranged a taxi, a train, and subway rides to sneak her across state lines to New Jersey where his family met them in front of the abortion clinic.

My daughter started to cry and continued to have doubts. These adults threatened to abandon her in New Jersey. They planned, financed, harassed, and ultimately threatened my daughter into having the abortion. After the abortion, his family drove my daughter

home from NJ and dropped her off down the road from our house. My daughter told me that on the way home she started to cry, they got angry at her and told her there was no reason to cry or be upset.

Anything could have happened to my daughter at the abortion facility or on the ride home. With total disregard to my daughter's safety and lacking knowledge about my daughter's medical history, they took her across state lines to have a medical procedure done without my knowledge or consent. These people left her alone in the care of a doctor (and I use that term loosely) who had previously had his medical license revoked for unethical practices and sexual misconduct against his patients. A follow up appointment was not made for her, since they never planned to take her back or even concern themselves with what happened to her after that.

As a result, of this legal abortion that was completed unbeknownst to me; my daughter suffered years of depression, intense grief, post-traumatic stress disorder, nightmares, thoughts and even attempts of suicide. Only with years of counseling are we able to cope with the affects and consequences of that day. It is still hard for me to understand how anything about that day, could be considered legal or safe.

What confuses me the most is that science clearly documents that the most important parts of our growth and development happen in the womb, yet on the other hand our country gives no value to sustaining that life. We are bombarded daily with news that criminals show complete disregard for human life, but is that not in effect what abortion is? It is time that we put the same value on life, inside and outside of the womb.

When we let society dictate what part of our lives is more valuable than other parts, we will continue to see the downfall of our nation. We will see a nation changed when we remember, that the true value of a life is **EQUAL TO THE SUM OF OUR WHOLE LIFE** – starting in the womb.

Thank you