

Wyatt's Law Hearing 11-30-2016

Good Morning,

My name is Christyne Marie Kadlitz. I am a 31 year old single mother of three wonderful, talented, caring and loving children named Savannah, Travis and Alexis. I have come from St. Clair Shores to tell you a little bit about my story with Rachel Ann Edwards and the reason why Wyatt's Law began. Now I will not be able to give you every little detail as we would be here for days if I had, but I will tell you what I can so you can understand why having Wyatt's Law is so important.

I first met Rachel Edwards when I was 16 years old through some mutual friends. Years later while I was with Travis English, the father of my children, Rachel started having an affair with him. Breaking up our relationship.

Travis and Rachel moved out of her mothers house and were living together in a house they rented in East Point. Travis and I had gone through the motions of court and I had custody of our two children and he received visitations. When visitations started, some concerning things started to happen involving my children. Their clothes being sent home destroyed, cut or urinated. A chunk of Travis hair missing and my daughters hair had been hacked off. When I asked the children who had done something like that they advised me Rachel had done it. On one occasion my son Travis, who was just three at the time, came home from a visit and was walking funny and grabbing at his crotch area like it was bothering him. I took him into the bathroom, to find that my son had one of Rachel's sons baby bottle nipples over his penis and balls and toilet paper shoved all in his butt crack. I was really disturbed by this and called his father to comfort him on it. Travis Sr try to say that our three year old son had done that to himself. I, as a mother knew otherwise. I started to deny visitations.

I continued to go back and forth with Travis with the friend of the court to try to keep the children from him cause I knew that my children were not safe being with the two of them in that house. The courts on Sept. 7, 2010 continued visitations even with all the concerns I had, that were going on with my children in their custody. I was advised that if I continue to deny visitations I would be arrested. So I had no choice but to continue the visits starting off supervised for the next three months.

On Jan. 2, 2011 my children arrived home from their unsupervised overnight visit at Travis and Rachel's home. I noticed some more disturbing things done to my sons things and to my son himself. My sons boots had been cut with a razor, my son had black sharpie marker scribbled all over his and Savannah's winter coats and completely across his back and arms. My daughter Savannah advised me that Travis had his mouth washed out with soap that day as well. My son, who is highly ADHD, couldn't keep his head off the kitchen table before dinner. He wasn't able to stay awake and I knew something was not right with my son. I had to rush my son to the ER. Doctors were not sure what was wrong with my son and admitted him to the hospital. My son remained this way for four days in the hospital. The doctors ran several test on him from blood work after blood work, EKG to a spinal tap. They could not figure out why my little boy couldn't stay awake. The doctors would ask my son to get out the bed to walk and he wanted to get right back in the bed to sleep again. They determined that he had consumed some sort of drug but were not able to get a positive test result with the non-corporation of Travis and Rachel giving us a list of medication within the house to test for. The doctors themselves were calling Travis and Rachel trying to figure out what to test for and they wouldn't answer or return the doctors calls. In my gut I knew that Rachel had done this to my son and I asked to speak to CPS. I was told that because there was no positive test result that they wouldn't take my case. Finally, on the forth day of being at the hospital my son was able to stay awake and was wanting to play again. He was released and to follow up with the PCP. His PCP agreed that it was most likely a drug intake that had accord with my son.

Visitations were to continue. On Jan. 30, 2011, that same month my son had been released from the hospital, the children came home from a visit with Travis and Rachel and once again I found even more disturbing things wrong. While unpacking the children's bag I found the outfit that my son Travis had on the day before completely soaked in urine. My son had never had an accident peeing his pants, so I was completely thrown off by finding this. When I asked the kids what happened, I was told that Rachel wouldn't let him use the bathroom forcing him to urinate on himself. When I went to give my son a bath, I noticed purple and blue hands prints across my sons butt. You could see the individual fingers across his butt. I took him back to the same ER to have him examined and the abuse documented. I was advised to talk to CPS. CPS worker Krystal Shaw and detective Patrick Conner took the case. During the investigation process it was found that my daughter Savannah, who was 6 at the time, witness the whole incident and would later have to testify against Rachel in court. Rachel had in deed spanked my son and her own son for going into her bedroom without permission. The difference though was that she spanked my son Travis with his pants pulled down repetitively, leaving bruised and welted hands prints across his butt for over a week. How hard do you have to spank a child to leave such marks? Can you image spanking someone else's child like that or even your own? I couldn't wrap my head around why she had done that to my child. Charges were brought upon her for the abuse. She was arrested and charged with 3rd degree child abuse on Jan. 30, 2011. On Sept. 20, 2011, court date after court date, Rachel plead no contest to the charges and was finally sentenced by Richard Caretti to only 30 days probation with case to be dismissed after probation was completed and fines of \$888. I filed for PPO's for both my children on Aug. 8, 2011 with her probation ending soon to keep Rachel away from them and out of harms way. I was granted 1 year on the PPO's for my children. Rachel tried to have these removed but was denied.

For the next year I fought with Travis Sr with the friend of the court, trying to remove his rights as a parent court date after court date but because he was not the one who caused the abuse he was still allowed his visitations and Rachel and him continued to stay together. She had convinced him that she did not abuse my son. The two of them were forced to complete anger managements classes, parenting classes, drug counseling and drug testing through the friend of the court. Once the PPO's were finished I was denied continued PPO's against Rachel for my children.

On July 09, 2012 after my children came home from a visit at Travis and Rachel's house, once again my son Travis was unable to stay awake. I asked the children if they had stayed up late and my daughter Savannah said "No, Travis fell asleep on daddy's lap before the sun went down". I woke my son up and asked him if he had taken any type of medication while he was at his fathers house. He responded "Yes". I then asked him who gave him the medication and he responded "Rachel". I had not sent any type of medication with the children to their fathers house. During the conversation my daughter Savannah informed me that my son Travis had also gotten in trouble at dads for getting dish soap on the floor. After my son had told me he had been given medication by Rachel I took him to the ER. While at the ER the doctor asked my son Travis if he had taken any medication, he replied "Yes". The doctor asked him who gave him the medication and he again replied again, "Rachel". The doctor then asked him what kind of medication was it. Travis said I don't know it was two white pills. I had a list of all Rachel's medications from a previous CPS report that occurred on 05-21-2012. I asked for my son to be tested for these medications. Special testing had to be done and sent out of state. He was released home and asked to keep an eye on him. CPS became involved and the case was given to CPS worker Steve Wade. On July 15, 2012 my sons test results had come back positive for Seroquel. This was one out of seven of Rachel Edwards manic depressant-bipolar medications she had at the current time. A medication that she admitted to the CPS worker during May 2012 investigation that she stopped taking herself because she couldn't stay awake on them.

During the CPS investigation more disturbing things had come out about what happened to my son that day. Travis Jr. later informed CPS that Rachel wouldn't allow him to use the bathroom forcing him to urinate on himself. He was put in the corner for doing this. He also informed CPS that Rachel was trying to put dish soap in his mouth and he fought her getting the soap on the floor and was put in the corner for doing so. He also said that while in the corner he was forced to swallow the soap she had gotten in his mouth and was also forced to drink the soap from a cup. Rachel then poured water over Travis and told Travis Sr that his son had peed his pants again to get him in trouble some more. He said "She was tricking daddy". Travis then informed CPS that Rachel gave him two white pills and he had to chew them and drank them down with apple juice. He told CPS worker Steve Wade "The pills keep being white. She gave me pills a long time ago."

Once again I was back in court fighting Travis Sr on removing his parental rights, filing for PPO's against Rachel and working with CPS worker Steve Wade and detective William Reichling to get to the bottom of what was happening to my son during visitations. On July 24, 2012 a warrant was issued for Rachel Edwards arrest for child abuse against my son Travis. On August 27, 2012 charges of 4th degree child abuse were brought against Rachel. Attorney Derek Miller took my case and we were headed for a trial by jury. She was bonded out and released on August 29, 2012.

On August 13, 2013 after a long year of court proceeding. Rachel was convicted guilty by a trial by jury of the charges of 4th degree child abuse and her sentencing scheduled on Sept. 24th, 2013. During the trial Rachel had gotten so caught up in her lies and made up cover up stories that she had convinced Travis Sr and her family of and she was no longer able to hide behind them any more. It was sickening to hear the disturbing things she tried to convince everyone about my son., an innocent little boy who she had abused, tortured and drugged. On Sept. 24th, 2013 Rachel was sentenced by Hon. Dean Ausilio to one year probation with fine and cost. I was devastated! Rachel was receives probation again for hurting my little boy and putting him in a hospital again. I had lost all faith in our justice system. I was a mother just trying to keep my children safe in any way I could and she was getting away with abusing my son.

During the time of the trial Travis was forced to leave Rachel in order to keep custody of their two children and custody of her daughter was given to Rachel's family. Rachel moved on into another relationship. She brought this new boyfriend with her to court proceedings and to sentencing. They laughed and kissed in the lobby of the court room. I just couldn't understand how someone could be with her knowing she was being charged with child abuse for a second time and how nonchalant they were sitting in the court house as like nothing was going on. I hoped and prayed that, that man had no children for I knew what Rachel was capable of.

Come to find out that man did have a child. A 1 year old little boy named Wyatt. On November 1, 2013 a month after she was sentenced for child abuse on my son and released Rachel almost killed that little boy from shaking baby syndrome. My heart sank to my stomach. Rachel Edwards was at it again hurting someone else's little boy! I was completely beside myself. If only she had been locked up the month prior on the charges of child abuse she would have never been able to put her hands on another little innocent boy.

Now she sits in prison for 33 months to 10 years for 2nd degree child abuse on Wyatt. Not long enough, I feel, for all the years of hurt, damage, fear, helplessness, abuse, torture, drugging and almost death she has caused to everyone involved. Still to this day Rachel has never admitted to any wrong doing nor has she ever showed one single ounce of remorse for what she did to these two little boys.

Rachel is one day going to be released from prison and I fear for the safety of my children and the safety of others children. There should be no reason why more children need to be put into harms way because parents do not have the knowledge of someones history of child abuse. Wyatt's abuse could had been prevented if a system such as Wyatt's law had been in place for Erica Hammel to utilize.

So now that Erica and I have shared with you our stories and you have an understanding on how a repeated child abuser has affected us. Please keep that in mind and understand that with Wyatt's Law in place it can be used to prevent so many other children from being left in the hands of other convicted child abusers including Rachel Edwards. It is a tool that can be used by so many people for all children's safety. Thank you for taking the time today to listen to the mothers of the children who have been a victim of child abuse and that truly want to prevent the same from happening to other children. I greatly appreciate it.