

nathan's STORY



Nathan* is an 11-year-old boy who lived with his mother and stepfather in Pawtucket. He was active in baseball and soccer, and did well in school. Last May, Nathan's mother came home from work to find Nathan rocking in a curled up position on his bed. When she asked him what was wrong, Nathan disclosed that his step-father had been **molesting him since he was five years old**. Nathan's mother called the police, who were at the home waiting when his step father returned. The police called DCYF and the police report was sent to the Rhode Island Children's Advocacy Center (CAC).

When the CAC reached out to mom the next day, she was notably distraught. She expressed self-blame, anger, anguish and betrayal. **She didn't know how to talk to Nathan about it** and was still struggling with her feelings toward her husband of six years. She disclosed her own trauma history. CAC staff immediately referred her over to Day One's clinical program, where she met with a clinician two days later and was referred into the non-offending caregivers group.

Nathan was provided a medical exam through the Aubin Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital the next day and given a forensic interview, which the prosecutor from the Rhode Island Attorney General's office, the detective, the Child Protective Investigator from DCYF, the Legal Advocate and Day

One's clinical coordinator observed. Afterward, the multi-disciplinary team **met with Nathan's mom to inform her about next steps**, the legal process, services available, and what to expect in the coming months.

Nathan told his story once. **He was heard, believed, and immediately referred to trauma-informed services**. Nathan's world had been rocked. He didn't play baseball that spring. He didn't see his friends as he was anxious to leave his mother and she was anxious to let him out of her sight. They continued their individual work.

The CAC Forensic Interviewer served as a point of contact for the family, keeping them updated on the status of their case and checking in. **Day One supported Nathan and his mom through the court process**, and Nathan didn't have to testify or face his perpetrator again. His step father was given 15 years. Nathan was supported in writing an impact statement; in having his voice heard.

Nathan is now entering middle school and is playing baseball this summer. He and his mother live in their own condo where they have made close community connections. They are supported in talking to each other about their feelings. They now laugh together in session more than cry.

*All identifying information has been changed

One in four girls, one in six boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18. Day One's child-focused, multi-disciplinary team approach coordinates the treatment of child abuse while helping abused children heal. CAC services are always free of charge.

Day One

IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT

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