

they would approach Louise's father concerning the pregnancy. But Louise was determined, and she went behind her mother's back to get the abortion. Once again, the people at the clinic never asked for identification or whether or not her parents knew about the abortion. She later told her mother she'd had a miscarriage. Louise was sixteen years old.

The abortions were followed by years of depression and self-hatred. Eventually, Louise found forgiveness and healing through Jesus Christ, and slowly her life started to change. She was finally able to accept what she had done, to forgive others, and to get on with her life.

When the Parental Notification Law was struck down in 1986, Louise was horrified. She wishes there would have been such a law in effect at the time of her first pregnancy; then she would have been forced to tell her parents. "The burden would have been off me," she says. "I felt too young to make that decision." Louise continues, "Half the battle is the fear of telling your parents you're pregnant. There are so many options available. If you're afraid to tell them, write them a note, tell them over the phone, or ask a friend to accompany you." Louise has been afraid; it cost her the lives of two unborn children. To pregnant teens afraid of their parents, Louise adds, "There are women willing to go with girls to tell their parents they're pregnant. We're not afraid." Louise knows; she's been there. She's not afraid anymore.

For more information or to order more brochures:

*Abortion Aftermath Center*  
for women

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If you see yourself in this article or if you are hurting from an abortion related experience you need to know there's hope and healing for you.