

*Do you believe the children received enough medical attention in the system?*

I do believe children received adequate medical attention once brought into the system. When the children are detained by the department of Social Services they will initially be screened by a doctor and they will receive a physical exam. Once the child is declared a dependent of the court the assigned social worker follows up with medical records such as immunizations and well visits and ensures that the child is seen when necessary. The child is also monitored for any mental health issues and if necessary provided a referral for counseling.

*What are some common troubles that the children in the foster cares system face throughout their experiences? Do you believe that these children are given enough attention? If no, what are the systems or issues that may get in the way of giving these kids enough attention?*

Often times, children are placed in Foster Homes instead of a family setting because of the lack of foster homes. It can be very difficult for a child to receive enough attention because they are usually placed with many other children. These children lose their ability to connect with a permanent family. Without a family connection, many children age out of foster care.

*What would be some reasons that foster kids might develop a type of mental health issue such as anxiety, depression, or other problem?*

When the department of Social Services needs to detain a child from their parents this can often cause trauma for the child. The child may develop separation anxiety from a parent and often times depression. The child may also feel a sense of abandonment. Other issues arise in line with the trauma a child may experience such as the child may have a hard time concentrating in school which can result in lower academic grades. A child may also develop behavioral problems in effort to disclose their frustrations.

*How do the experiences that foster kids face affect what their future will be like once they get out of the system?*

Foster children face roadblocks that can hinder a successful future. As mentioned before, foster children are more likely to have behavioral problems and may have difficulty concentrating in school. They may fall behind academically. Without the proper education/ grades the foster children may not have as many opportunities in obtaining a career as someone who has not been in the system.

For those who age out of the system they may not have family support to help them transition into adulthood. The youth might not have housing causing them to be homeless.

*Do you think kids in foster care are more at risk for mental health issues than other children that are not in the system?*

I definitely think there is a higher correlation in mental health issues with foster children than those who are not in the system. Not only can they experience trauma at their home (being the reason why they came to the attention of the department of Social Services), but also the trauma they experience in the removal and the in and out of foster care can hinder their mental status.