FREE TRAINING EDITION · HELPJADA.COM

LOUD IS ME BEGGING FOR HELP

I asked for help more times than anyone counted.
Most times, I couldn't say the words.
Here is how I asked.
And what they wrote down instead.

BY JADA. TRAFFICKED AS A CHILD. DISABLED.
TURNED AWAY. ASKING SINCE 2002.

BEFORE YOU READ

This booklet talks about child sex trafficking, sexual assault, guns, suicide, a parent's death, and system failure.

Some pages describe violence, without graphic detail.

Agency words are quoted exactly from my own records.

The "How it was treated" lines are my own view.

I don't name the people who hurt me. I name what systems did.

What you'll read here is a very small part of my records.

IN 30 SECONDS

I'm Jada. I was trafficked as a child. I live with brain injuries. I've been asking for help since 2002.

I'm not asking for a higher level of care. I'm asking for a little more hands-on help. With it, I can do a lot. You can be that help.

MY 3 BIGGEST ASKS

1. When my case closes, leave me with one named advocate who will call me back, for at least 90 days. (#5)
2. When I tell police I was trafficked or I'm being exploited, take the report and investigate, even if I'm upset. (#1)
3. Before you decide I "neglected myself," check whether my brain injury or disability is why I couldn't do it. (#4)

> **Lawmakers: see "FOR LAWMAKERS" near the back. I'm willing to testify.**
> **Contact: jadaslifematters@gmail.com**

PAGE 1

The Ones Who Can Ask the Least

I was trafficked as a child. I live with brain injuries. I have DID: as a child, my mind split into parts to survive. Some parts still feel young.

> **WHAT I MEAN BY AN "ASK"**
>
> An "ask" is any way a person tries to get help, even when she can't say the words.

It happened in Virginia too. But I'm home in Nevada now, and this booklet is about Nevada.

I ran.	**I told, then took it back.**
I asked to be locked up.	**I got loud.**

Every one of those was me asking for help.

The people hurt the most, for the longest, have the hardest time asking. When we finally try, it comes out loud and messy.

Loud can look dangerous.
But a lot of the time, loud is someone asking for help.
Loud is asking.

NEVADA, 2026

A social worker told Nevada Adult Protective Services I was "beyond just receiving resources" and needed an intervention. Two months later, my case was closed. This is a gap Nevada can close in 2027.

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I Ran Away, Over and Over

How I asked

I ran again and again, and stayed gone for days. Starting at 13.

I was found with adults old enough to be my parents. Found outside casinos at 5 a.m.

Adults had me selling drugs and doing crimes for them.

How it was treated

As a kid who keeps running, and a kid who commits crimes.

What they wrote

My juvenile court file is 216 pages.

The word "trafficking" is not in it once.

Police took 14 runaway reports in two years. None of the reports I have say where I had been.

At 15, a 21-year-old man gave me a forged check to use. My court report called him my "codefendant."

What would have helped

Every time I came home, one trained person asking me, alone:

Where did you sleep? Who fed you? Did anyone want something from you?

When a child is found with grown-ups, doing their crimes, she is the one being used.

The word wasn't used much back then. The signs were there anyway.

Research

In 2025, 1 in 7 children reported missing to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children were likely victims of child sex trafficking.

Sources: Las Vegas police and juvenile court records, 2002-2004; NCMEC, missingkids.org/cst

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I Told, Then I Took It Back

How I asked

At 13, I told a counselor I was being sexually abused at home.

They put me in Child Haven for a week. That's where I learned to run, and to trade for favors, the way I already had to at home.

How it was treated

As a story I changed.

What they wrote

"[She] eventually dropped the charges because she stated she could see how much it was hurting her mother."

What would have helped

One interview with a trained child interviewer. One safe adult on my side.

Taking it back meant I needed more support, not less. Quiet is asking too.

Research

In a study of 257 confirmed child sexual abuse cases, 23% of children took back their report.

Children without a supportive caregiver were more likely to. The study found no sign that those reports were false.

Sources: juvenile court record, pp. 22 and 30; Malloy, Lyon & Quas, 2007, Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

The Police Found My Footprints

(Las Vegas Metro Police, September 2004. I was 15.)

How I asked

I gave police a written statement. Men kidnapped me, shot at me, and sexually assaulted me in the desert, because they thought I would talk to police.

What they wrote

"KIDNAP FIRST DEGREE." "SEXUAL ASSAULT." "ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON."

His words: "THIS IS WHAT WE DO TO RATS."

One of them took my class schedule, so he knew where to find me. I "HAD BEEN STAYING HOME FOR FOUR DAYS AND WAS SCARED."

They wrote that I "CHANGED HER STORY" about the order of what happened.

Twelve days later, an officer found "SEVERAL FOOT PRINTS" where it happened, matching my shoes.

How it was treated

As a story that changed. They found my footprints. No arrest appears in any record I have.

What would have helped

A child attacked for talking to police is a witness in danger.

A detective who follows up. A safety plan at school. A victim advocate.

And knowing that fear scrambles the order of memories. That's not lying.

Source: LVMPD case report, Sept 2004

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They Changed the Story

(Las Vegas juvenile court records, 2002 and 2004.)

At 13

"Drug-related problems do not appear to be a focal area of concern at this time."

My tests showed childhood abuse and suicidal thoughts. They wrote that I was "abused by her elders as a child."

Their plan: "anger management" and "a rather high level of supervision."

At 15

I told them I was kidnapped and shot at.

They wrote: "[She] admitted that while under the influence she was kidnaped and shot at by people.

She also admitted that she was selling drugs at that time."

Their conclusion: "serious substance abuse problem."

And: "There do not appear to be any psychiatric issues at the current time."

Nine days later, next to my charges, my court report said: "No victim."

I was the victim.

Not once

the word "trafficking."

What would have helped

Someone asking why a hurt 13-year-old became a 15-year-old who was kidnapped, shot at, and selling drugs for adults. That's not a drug problem. That's a child being used.

Sources: juvenile court psychological reports, Nov 2002 (pages 28-31), Oct 2004 (pages 75, 83)

I Asked to Be Locked Up

How I asked

At 16, I asked to be sent back to youth prison. I had already been there once.

The street was more dangerous than a cell.

How it was treated

As a kid who gave up.

What they wrote

"[She] is waiving any argument against going to Caliente and wants to be sentenced asap."

(Caliente is a Nevada youth prison.)

What would have helped

A safe home with trauma care.

When a child would rather be in prison, she is telling you she is in danger.

Inside, I earned a 3.8 and my GED. Not because prison is good for kids. Because for once, I was safe.

Research

Nevada law now says a trafficked child must not be found delinquent for prostitution, or for minor offenses tied to her exploitation, like curfew, loitering, or trespassing (NRS 62C.015, since 2022).

The gap: other crimes she was forced into, like theft or drugs.

Sources: juvenile court record, Oct 2005; Nevada Revised Statutes

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My Mom Died. My Case Closed.

(Las Vegas juvenile court, 2006 and 2007.)

How I asked

I was 17, and still a ward of the state. My mom had just died.

What they wrote

"Minor's Mom passed away unexpectedly on Thursday."

Same hearing: "REFERRED BACK TO PAROLE and DISMISSED."

Seven months later: "[She] is no longer amenable for treatment as a juvenile.

It should reflect that she be terminated negatively from parole."

What happened next

I had my GED. I wanted to go to gemology school.

But I was tricked. They exploited my vulnerability and my disability.

I was coerced. I wasn't allowed out. To them, I was a money maker.

Less than three months later, a man holds me at gunpoint for days.

Police write that he "WAS GOING TO FORCE HER TO WORK AS ONE OF HIS PROSTITUTES."

I run. I hide in the back room of a Walgreens and call 911 with shaking hands.

The report says an officer stayed with me, and detectives came to take over the case.

That's not what happened. Nobody came to help me. No advocate. No safe place. Nothing.

Police catch him "after a brief chase." Then the case closes, because they say they couldn't find me.

He isn't even charged with running from police. And he had kidnapped before.

How it was treated

As a case to close.

What would have helped

Grief care right away. A real plan before 18: a home, help, and one trusted adult.

No girl should age out alone the same year her mother dies.

And that night: a detective and an advocate at that Walgreens. Charges that stuck.

Someone who kept looking for me.

Sources: juvenile court minutes, Nov 2006 (page 215); termination of wardship, June 2007 (page 187); LVMPD case report, Sept 2007

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Three Weeks Later

(San Diego, California, September 2007. I was 18.)

How I asked

Three weeks after I escaped the man with the gun, I was in San Diego with a married couple more than twice my age. I was 18.

What they wrote

I was the one arrested. These were my first adult charges.

My record says five felonies. At 18, it felt like my life was over.

It doesn't say I was threatened, controlled, and forced.

Loud is telling on yourself for forced crimes, just to go to jail.

Loud is acting crazy, just to get into a hospital.

Because a locked door feels safer than the street.

What I was forced to do doesn't tell you who I am. That shame belongs to the people who exploited me.

How it was treated

Not as a girl who had just escaped a trafficker.

What would have helped

Someone asking why an 18-year-old who just escaped was with adults more than twice her age.

The system met me as a victim for one day.

After that, it met me as a criminal.

Source: San Diego arrest record, 2007

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Everyone Knew. Nobody Did Anything.

Nearly 20 years later, I'm home in Las Vegas. I'm still asking.

In 2025, the man who was my caregiver made me believe he planned to marry me.

I quit my job and left my services because I believed his promise. Then he hit me, abused me, and controlled me.

While he "took care of me," he put money in my account for a special needs trust.

That money made me ineligible for some help. Then he tried to take it back.

Now he's left me with nothing. Not even my medical care paid for.

I told everyone he wanted to cut off my benefits and make me depend on him. It's in my recordings, my therapy notes, and my APS records. Everyone knew. Nobody did anything. Not before I got hurt.

Not after. Not when he stopped paying for my care. Not even to start my services again.

And the system left me with no case manager, no therapist, no advocate.

More than once, I went to police for help with people exploiting me.

Police "did not file a report." Not on my bruises. Not on my video.

APS workers who came to my home wrote down "multiple bruises along both legs."

Another time, police told me I "was unstable."

Once predators see that nobody is helping me or believing me, I become a target over and over, with no way to protect or defend myself.

And it's still happening.

My body still braces like the danger is coming. Sometimes it is.

Loud is what's left when no one hears quiet.

Source: Nevada Adult Protective Services records, 2026 (notes of what I told them)

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I Said, "I Don't Feel Safe"

(A Las Vegas emergency room, 2026. From my own recording.)

How I asked

I came in with glass in my foot. My young part was out. I said:

"I have a neurological and cognitive disability." "I need ADA."

(I was asking for disability help, like someone to explain things slowly.)

"I don't feel safe and I get scared."

How it was treated

As a patient who wasn't cooperating.

What they said

A nurse: "So you don't understand anything I'm saying." "Are you verbal at all?"

My therapist told the nurse on the phone that I was in an altered state, like a five-year-old.

She asked staff to sit with me, speak calmly, and give me time. She said I was not homeless.

One thing went right. Because I said I didn't feel safe, the nurse said: "I cannot discharge you."

Then a social worker came in: "I need you to answer me. Very important.

Otherwise, we're just gonna put you back out on the street."

I walked out.

What they wrote

The hospital chart: "minimal verbal participation."

"The patient uses a 'Joyreal' communication device to communicate at times." (That's my talking device.)

They knew I use a communication device. They still wrote I was "unable or unwilling" to answer.

My therapist said I was in an altered state. The chart says "alert and oriented."

I walked out after I was told I'd be put back on the street. The chart says I "eloped."

What would have helped

"I don't feel safe" is an ask. Slow down. Give her the ADA help she asked for.

Talk to her therapist. Never threaten the street.

When staff can't understand a survivor, the psych unit too often becomes the answer. That happens even to people who can explain themselves. Think what happens to someone with aphasia.

The ADA says hospitals and public programs must make sure they communicate with us as well as with anyone else.

Ask what works: things in writing, extra time, or a communication device.

Being hard to understand is not a reason to lock someone up.

And a psych unit shouldn't be the only other place a survivor can go. It can help at times.

But it takes away our freedom. It shouldn't keep us there because the services to bring us home and back into the community aren't there.

My therapist already wrote down what helps: things in writing, time to answer, breaks, and knowing that freeze or shutdown "are clinical symptoms of dissociation and not refusal to engage."

Research

When the places survivors of sexual trauma turn to fail them, their trauma symptoms get worse.

Researchers call this "institutional betrayal."

In Olmstead v. L.C. (1999), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that keeping people with disabilities in institutions, when they could live in the community with the right services, is discrimination under the ADA.

This applies when her treatment providers find community care is right for her, she does not oppose it, and the state can reasonably provide it.

Sources: my audio recording, 2026; hospital visit summary, Aug 2026; letter from my therapist, 2026; Smith & Freyd, 2013, Journal of Traumatic Stress; Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581 (1999); ADA rules on effective communication, 28 CFR 35.160 and 36.303

I Said, "I Need an Advocate"

(This happened in Nevada, in 2026.)

How I asked

The report to Adult Protective Services (APS) said, in plain words, that I needed "protection from being neglected by 'systems' and people" and "an advocate."

Then, in one week, I left workers at least 6 voicemails.

How it was treated

I called and called. Nobody called back. Then they wrote that I could handle it myself.

What they wrote

APS notes: [she] "has called APS repeatedly but has not received a telephone call."

Five days later, APS wrote that [she] "demonstrates the ability to place provider calls, schedule appointments and self-advocate independently."

The finding: "Self-Neglect: Substantiated." (In plain words: they decided I was neglecting myself.)

My therapist has written that I can "appear articulate, cooperative, and substantially more capable than [I am] able to function consistently over time."

What would have helped

Believe the person who says she can't do it alone.

Make the call with her. Stay until a real person answers. Then step back.

Research

People with disabilities are victims of violent crime at nearly 4 times the rate of people without disabilities.

People with cognitive disabilities have the highest rate.

Sources: Nevada Adult Protective Services records, 2026; letter from my therapist, Aug 2026; U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2017-2019 data

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I Don't Fit in a Box

(Virginia, then Nevada.)

Twice, a man promised me home. Family. Love.

Twice, I believed him.

In 2016, I followed that promise to Virginia.

In 2025, I fled Virginia for the same promise.

Both times, it was a lie.

How I asked

I ended up trapped in Virginia for about 10 years. Providers never reported it.

For 8 years, I asked for testing for my brain injuries. Every time I was cycled through another institution, I went back on the wait list. Providers and police called me delusional and put me in a hospital, even after a program found my brain injury. My last neuropsych evaluation was when I was 15. I'm 37.

The second man called APS to become my caregiver. APS had received a report that he was abusing me. They still gave him the forms. The state put my life in his hands.

In 2025, before I left Virginia with him to go 2,437 miles away, I told my providers he was dangerous and that I was scared. I asked for safety checks. Nobody gave me one. They watched me leave while I cried and pleaded for help.

So I called a survivor agency in Nevada. On a recorded call, they said "we can support you with counseling," and a case manager would call me within 48 hours of arriving.

When I landed, I told them I'm developmentally disabled, with brain injuries, and need around-the-clock care.

They said: "this all sounds like some stuff that we can definitely support you with."

Later, they said my situation "was outside of their scope of practice," and that I needed a "state appointed caretaker."

Their text: "I understand you require a higher level of care due to your disability which is why I have pointed [you] to the right resources."

But those resources had no funding, or couldn't help me, or I couldn't follow the many steps to reach them.

Or they kept sending me back to the agency.

The trafficking lawyer they sent me to couldn't take my case. Her office had a conflict of interest.

I have aphasia. Trauma makes it hard to tell my story the right way. People misunderstand me.

Their letter: "no further advocacy or services are available through our office."

They knew about my disabilities. They said yes. Then they said no.

I asked one agency after another. I have private insurance and Medicaid. No service fit my needs.

Since 2020, I've sent more than 2,000 emails. Most never got an answer.

> **What they wrote**
>
> APS: "outside of APS scope of practice."
>
> Nobody arranged a caretaker.
>
> My insurance plans sent me back and forth. I wrote: "I am requesting timely assistance rather than being redirected between insurance plans."

How it was treated

Like I'm the problem, because I don't fit the form.

What would have helped

When a survivor is "out of scope" everywhere, the gap is the system, not her.

One agency has to own her case until she's connected.

When a parent and child are both survivors, each needs their own lawyer. If your office can't take one of them, find that person another lawyer before you close the door.

If you tell a survivor on the phone that you can help, put it in writing before she moves her life.

If I had a caregiver to help me with daily living, would they help me then?

Needing a caregiver doesn't mean I don't need counseling, safety planning, or a case manager.

I'm complex. I need more than one piece to fill my pie.

I don't need a higher level of care. I need a little more hands-on help. I'm not invalid. I can do things.

A program that gets federal money, is run by the state, or is open to the public can't use rules that screen out people with disabilities, unless the rule is truly necessary. That's Section 504 and the ADA.

"There is no box made for someone like me."

Sources: Nevada Adult Protective Services records, 2026; my own email, Oct 2026; my recorded calls with the agency, Aug 2025; the agency's text, Feb 10, 2026; the agency's letter, Mar 31, 2026

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It's Happening Again

From what I've seen and been told in Nevada:

Girls are still placed in shelters and treatment programs and never screened for trafficking.

They're sent home with probation, not help, and they skip the at-risk case management that should have caught them.

When they fail probation, they're called delinquent. Just like I was.

In shelters, older girls can teach younger ones how to run, and how to trade favors for things like vapes.

The cracks I fell through are still open. The next girl is falling through them now.

Research

In 2025, 17% of reports to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children about children missing from child welfare involved likely victims of child sex trafficking.

Source: NCMEC, missingkids.org/cst

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What I'm Asking Nevada For

Tonight you're talking about choice, pressure, and force. My life moved back and forth on that line.

The law kept treating me like it was always my choice.

It wasn't.

Healing isn't just calming down. It means real protection, help I can count on, room to grieve, and the chance to build a life that belongs to me.

When was I supposed to learn friendships, boundaries, hobbies, or how to let someone care for me?

That takes support, not just a birthday.

(Lawmakers: my biggest ask is #5. See the "FOR LAWMAKERS" pages near the back for who acts on each one.)

1. When I tell police I was trafficked or I'm being exploited, take the report and investigate, even if I'm upset. Connect me to a victim advocate.
2. When a kid comes home from running away, ask her where she was, every time.
3. Don't hand me a list. Walk me to the next door, make sure I get there, then step back. Too many places that "help" are just a middleman with a Rolodex of phone numbers.
4. Before you decide I "neglected myself," check whether my brain injury or disability is why I couldn't do it.

5 When my case closes, leave me with one named advocate who will call me back, for at least 90 days.

6 Train police, APS, and advocates to talk to survivors with young parts: gently, and with respect.

7 If your program turns me away, tell me why in writing. And don't turn me away because of my disability. That's the law.

8 Talk to me in a way I can understand, and give me time. That's the ADA too. Not understanding me is not a reason to send me to a psych unit.

9 Send someone to my home who can teach me to live on my own again. Nevada Medicaid already pays for basic skills training, rehab, and peer support. Make them work for trafficking survivors: staff trained in trafficking, help at home, and peers who survived it too.

What You Can Do This Week

Copy these 2 pages for your team.

Police

It can be done. Henderson police bring a female officer and a trafficking peer support specialist. Keep everyone safe. Then take the report too. Don't surround her. Don't speak stern. Don't decide she's lying.

Fear scrambles the order of a story. That's not lying. Let her ask for a female officer.

Write her words down, even if she's upset. Connect her to a victim advocate.

Hospital and crisis staff

Screen for trafficking. Don't discharge her to nowhere.

If she freezes, goes quiet, or sounds young, she isn't refusing. Slow down and give her time.

Caseworkers and APS

Make the call with her.

State agencies (Medicaid, disability services)

Look at asks #5 (one named person who calls her back for 90 days), #7 (written reasons, and no turning her away because of a disability), #8 (talk to her in a way she understands), and #9 (skills training at home). Tell me which ones you can start now, under current rules, without a new law.

Everyone who works with her

Ask her who her support person is. If she has no one, don't leave her with no one.

Stay her person until she's connected to someone who will stay.

Programs and nonprofits

Don't screen her out for being "not stable enough." She is the person your program is for.

Don't hand her a list. Make the first call with her and stay on the line. If you can't serve her, find who can before she leaves.

Lawyers and law students

Before any plea, screen for force, fraud, or coercion, including threats, debt, and exploiting a disability.

Ask: "Did anyone force, threaten, trick, or pressure you into this?" Ask the court for ADA accommodations for your client. Help write item B.

Students

You'll be the next nurses, social workers, lawyers, and officers. When someone doesn't fit the form, change the form, not the person.

Survivors and peers

What you did to survive was asking. Keep your papers. Mine are why this booklet exists.

Parents, teachers, neighbors

If a kid keeps running, is suddenly failing, or has an older "friend" giving her things, sit with her alone and ask: "Is anyone hurting you?" Believe her the first time.

Everyone

Learn about DARVO: Deny, Attack, Reverse Victim and Offender.

The calm person in the room isn't always the safe one. For example: he stays calm and says she's unstable, while she's crying and can't explain. (Harsey & Freyd, 2020)

FOR THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM

Proof Pages

For the people in this room. Every line in quote marks is copied exactly from a record.

These are a few lines from thousands of pages of my records. I keep a source for every quote.

Short on time? Read the first section. It matches tonight's topics to my records.

WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT TONIGHT. WHAT MY RECORDS SAY.

Choice, pressure, or force?
(Your new "Continuum.") I was trafficked from about age 11.

I was charged like the one selling. The people who sold me were never charged.

Survivors who ask for help get arrested.
("Protect, not punish.") I reported a man who threw something at me and cut my hand.

Police wrote: "I did not feel an assault actually occurred." I was later arrested on a drug charge and held with no bond. (Virginia, Jan 2018)

Police remember my record, not my trafficking.
A police call-taker: "we don't keep a detailed history of people's medical history or trafficking." I said: "you guys keep a detailed record history of my criminal record that's related to my trafficking." When I said parts of me can't talk: "So how would we know that then?" Also: "That's not records that we really care about as the police." (My recorded call, Sept 28, 2026)

I asked for a female detective.
Police wrote back: "two female detectives may not be available." (Feb 2026)

Nobody was in charge of my case.
(Speakers call this "no single point of accountability.")

"Over Capacity." (Nov 2020) "Administratively Discontinued." (May 2018) "Unclear why reception did not refer." (2020)

Every agency kept its own file. When one closed mine, nothing followed me to the next. One ER wrote "No prior mention of contact HTO" (the trafficking organization). The day before, staff in that same ER wrote several times that I was trying to reach trafficking help. (Virginia hospital records, Oct 15 and 16, 2020)

What would have helped: a wraparound team. One plan, shared by everyone: my case manager, doctor, therapist, housing, and advocate, meeting together, with one person in charge who stays. Testimony on Nevada's own trafficking study called for "wraparound" services for victims (SCR 3 testimony, Jan 2026). Ask #5 is the first step.

Rape kits.
(AB 37, for 2027) My rape kit was missed by minutes. I walked out of the ER. The security guards were threatening me, and my anxiety, hurt and anger took over. The record says: "SANE RN arrived to ED shortly afterwards of pt signing out AMA." (SANE: the nurse who does rape kits. AMA: against medical advice.) (Virginia hospital record, Oct 15, 2020)

Another time, I asked a hospital to call the trafficking hotline. It was never called. (Sept 2022)

Help at home (ask #9).
Nevada Medicaid: "Habilitation services through 1915(i) cannot be provided in your home." (Oct 22, 2026)

(1915(i) is a Medicaid program for people with brain injuries. Habilitation means teaching daily-life skills.)

The hotline.
My own case manager handed me hotline numbers "TO THWART CLIENT'S INAPPROPRIATE USAGE OF 911." (Sept 29, 2023)

The hotline said I had contacted them "approximately 50" times since 2020. (Sept 2, 2023)

I wrote: "I need hands-on assistance with coordination due to my disability." I got 3 phone numbers. (Jan 31, 2026)

I wrote: "I can't handle multi steps on my own." They asked what I needed. When I didn't answer in 5 minutes, the chat closed. (Oct 1, 2026)

I need someone who can speak for me.

Safe places for kids.
(The study asked for youth receiving centers.) At 13, I was in a Nevada shelter.

That's where I learned to run. (See PAGE 3.)

Forced into crimes? See lawmakers' item B.

WHAT THEY WROTE WHEN I WAS A CHILD (Nevada)

Five weeks after I was kidnapped at gunpoint: "Reportedly, she runs her own life by terror and manipulation of anyone who stands in her way." (Clark County juvenile file, p.102, Oct 2004)

After I said I was kidnapped and shot at: "There do not appear to be any psychiatric issues at the current time." (Juvenile file, p.75, Oct 2004)

WHAT THEY WROTE WHEN I CALLED FOR HELP AS AN ADULT (Virginia and Maryland, before I came home)

The same cracks are in Nevada now. See the stories marked PAGE 9 to PAGE 12.

> Two minutes into my 911 call reporting trafficking: "PER HX CALLER IS MENTAL HEALTH CUSTOMER."
>
> Then: "NO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. EDP CIVIL." (Prince William County police, Oct 15, 2020)
>
> (EDP means "emotionally disturbed person.")

> The next day, I asked another hospital for a rape kit: "The Pt presents as a unreliable reporter."
>
> (Virginia hospital record, Oct 16, 2020)

> After police cut a zip tie off my neck: "Despite her information, which may or may not be delusional, she appears able to care for herself." (Maryland hospital record, Nov 2, 2020)
>
> The same chart's abuse form lists the abuse type as "Trafficking" and the severity as "strangulation."

> One month after I was named a trafficking survivor: "not stable enough to participate in their program." (County record, Jan 17, 2018)

> My trafficker was taking other girls until I came back. I called 911 from my hotel. The record says:
>
> "The front desk got mad at me for calling 911 so they wouldn't let me extend my stay... so I sought a safe place to go."
>
> (Fairfax County CSB, June 2023) I asked them to take me to jail, because jail felt safer.

A grant for a safe hotel was waiting. The county had to sign it.

A county worker said she "would not be able to complete the application due to not knowing the client."

No one knew me well enough, because I never had steady care. That day, the record says:

"Client was provided with a tent and a sleeping bag." (Fairfax County CSB, July 7, 2023)

Three days later: "she is currently staying outside with a tent and a sleeping bag." (July 10, 2023)

The hotel grant came through days later, one week at a time, after I slept outside.

While I was there, I went to my classes and peer support. A man across the hall was in my peer group too.

The county paid his hotel for 6 weeks, as long as he stayed in treatment. The county wrote that I asked "why she wasn't afforded the same." The answer: it depends on needs "as assessed by the front door."

(Fairfax County CSB, July 25, 2023) My hotel stay had ended the day before, while people were actively hunting for me. Why not for trafficking survivors?

Six days apart, the same county:

Aug 25, 2022: "Client is a reliable reporter."

Aug 31, 2022: "The ct continues to discuss delusional content, maintaining that she is being trafficked."

The same month, the same county:

"if Jada does not stop calling the police due to her delusions, she will start to get arrested for false summons." (Sept 28, 2023)

"ONGOING ENGAGEMENT IN SEXUAL TRAFFICKING/SEXUAL EXPLOITATION BY HER PROCURER." (Sept 2023)

They wrote it down. They called my 911 calls delusions anyway.

WHAT THEY WROTE IN NEVADA, 2026

> Adult Protective Services: "the allegation of self-neglect has been substantiated." (Apr 6, 2026)

> Survivor programs: "did not qualify." "all services have been exhausted."

> When I asked for a letter saying I'm a trafficking victim: "not authorized." "not an authorized entity." "We're not able to do that for you." (Several groups, 2026)

> An emergency room chart, after my therapist said I was in an altered state: "alert and oriented."
>
> After I walked out: "the patient eloped the emergency department." (Aug 2026)

> A survivor agency, by text: "I understand you require a higher level of care due to your disability which is why I have pointed [you] to the right resources." (Feb 10, 2026)

> Medicaid home care, when I asked for 24-hour trauma-informed support: "no enrolled providers." (Oct 2026)

> The welfare office, with my benefits ending Oct 31: "look up that information using google." (Oct 14, 2026)

VICTIM. WITNESS. PRISONER.

> My therapist wrote that I was trafficked from about age 11 until last year. (Letter, 2026)

> A man pretended to be a vice officer. Police wrote that I "believed [he] was a police officer so she complied." (Jan 2014)

> I saw his face on the news and called police myself. (Feb 5, 2014)

> About a week later, I was sent to prison on older cases. They brought me from prison to testify.

> He got two life sentences. He is the only person ever convicted for harming me.

> I helped police. I still got arrested.
>
> The others involved, including the man forcing me at the store, were never charged. Only I was.

> The people who sold me were never charged.

> Years later, I was stuck in Virginia on drug charges. The prosecutor reached out, but nobody told Virginia I was a victim witness. I was told to make contact when I got out. I did. I said I would testify.
>
> I also said I was running from pimps, place to place, with nowhere to go. Nobody helped.
>
> They needed me as a witness. They charged me like a trafficker. Nobody treated me like a victim.
>
> That is why lawmakers' item B matters.

Nobody helps. Helping isn't their job. There were more. Always more.

And then it was just us. Always just us.

And I'm still dealing with it today.

WHEN SOMEONE GOT IT RIGHT

Every time I had support around me, I did well. At 14, I lived in a group home for 6 months while on probation.

I didn't run once. The probation report: "She did complete the First Step program without running away, or committing another delinquent act." "S/M successfully fulfilled the terms of Probation Supervision." (Juvenile file, p.59, 2003)

With a little help, I do well. In 2016, I went to a Las Vegas day program five days a week. A record later said:

"the last time she was doing well was in May when she was still In Las Vegas, Nevada. She had goals and plans and was motivated." (2017)

Henderson police, two times. In September 2025, I called police from a casino. Two male officers came and stood around me. I freaked out and held onto my friend's leg like a child. I told them I needed an ADA advocate before I could explain. A sergeant came, and they called a victim advocate. Their report: "A Henderson victim advocate was called to the scene due to Jada's emotional distress and the fact that Jada advised that she was a past victim of human trafficking." (Henderson police report, Sept 12, 2025)

I remember a woman sergeant, and an advocate who I believe had lived it too.

Another time, I asked a hospital for help and left because I felt like no one would come. Henderson police found me walking down the street. Again, they brought a woman. They treated me with respect, and they were kind. (About July 2026)

Las Vegas Metro, one time. I kept having trouble requesting my own records. I was doing it wrong.

A woman at the police station went above and beyond and did it for me. It really helped.

A crisis worker wrote: "The client is a victim of sex trafficking from childhood to adulthood."

(Aug 25, 2022)

My lawyer, when nobody would sign for a hotel room that was already paid for: "you're telling me that you can't do this for this client despite the money being available." (July 7, 2023)

It takes one person who refuses to let the case close. That is ask #5.

That person could be you.

FOR LAWMAKERS

What Nevada can do in 2027

Start with #5.

By Jada, a Nevada survivor. I'm willing to testify.

> **MY ASK OF YOU: Will you carry a bill for the #5 pilot in 2027?**

POLICE AND CRISIS TEAMS Who acts: police chiefs and sheriffs, by department policy; Nevada POST, training only

1. Don't close a trafficking or exploitation report as "no crime" or "mental health only" without investigating and referring her to a victim advocate. Before closing, or before she is arrested, a supervisor or trafficking detective takes a second look. Let her ask for a female officer or interviewer.
2. Screen for trafficking at every runaway return, and on crisis calls about running away, sex, or someone controlling her money or phone.

EVERY PROGRAM Who acts: the Legislature; state-funded programs

3. Warm handoffs: a state-funded program that refers someone must confirm she reached a live provider before closing the case.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES Who acts: the Legislature, bill and funding; ADSD carries it out. NRS 200.5091-200.50995

4. Don't substantiate "self-neglect" or close a case without assessing cognitive disability and the help she asked for.

> 5. **ONE OWNER, AS A PILOT FOR 2027-2029: When APS closes the case of a trafficking survivor with a disability, ADSD names one point of contact from existing staff for at least 90 days, who, with her consent, invites her providers into one shared plan (wraparound). ADSD reports results to the Legislature. One county, two years. No new office needed.**

HOSPITALS Who acts: the Legislature, discharge rules; Division of Public and Behavioral Health, licensing; each hospital, ADA help

6. If a patient says she's unsafe: no discharge to the street, and no psych unit just because community services aren't there. Provide the ADA communication help she asks for.

CHILDREN FORCED INTO CRIME Who acts: the Legislature

7. Extend NRS 62C.015 to other crimes a trafficked child was forced to commit.

TRAINING AND FUNDERS Who acts: the Legislature; state grant programs

8. Fund trauma- and disability-informed interview training for police (especially patrol officers), APS, and advocates, including ADA effective communication (booklet asks #6 and #8).
9. State-funded survivor programs must screen fully at intake, give written reasons for any denial, and never deny someone because of a disability. The ADA and Section 504 already require this.

FOR LAWMAKERS

MEDICAID Who acts: Division of Nevada Medicaid

10 Let trafficking survivors become certified peer support specialists. Train Medicaid basic skills training and psychosocial rehab staff in trafficking, and let them help survivors at home (booklet ask #9).

Cost: #5 is a pilot that uses existing ADSD staff. Most other asks are training and policy. Ask ADSD and POST for an estimate.

Measure It: ADSD reports each year how many APS "self-neglect" findings involve cognitive disability, and how many closed cases had a confirmed warm handoff.

ALREADY ON THE TABLE FOR 2027 Session starts February 1, 2027

A The trafficking study (SCR 3). Lawmakers studied trafficking this year and will bring recommendations to the 2027 session. Researchers asked for safe receiving centers for youth. My life shows why. I was 13 in a Nevada shelter, and that's where I learned to run.

B Forced into crimes. The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) reports that 40 states let survivors raise an "affirmative defense" (a legal reason they are not guilty) to crimes their traffickers forced them to commit. Nevada lets survivors ask to clear some old convictions, but only afterward, and not for violent crimes (NRS 179.247). Ask: let survivors raise this defense before there is a conviction. Draft idea: a person may raise this defense if a trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion to make them commit the crime. Violent crimes left out. My first adult charges came three weeks after I escaped a trafficker.

C AB 38 (prefiled for 2027). Would let a vulnerable adult sue a Medicaid provider that abuses, neglects, or exploits them, or lets someone else do it. Too many providers ignored me. This is close to home. It would have helped me.

D AB 37 (prefiled for 2027). Rights for sexual assault survivors and rules for rape kits. I asked hospitals for rape kits again and again. My records show they weren't done.

E NEW: Nevada Medicaid Housing Supports (starting in Clark County, fall 2026) lists human trafficking. It helps people find and keep housing, but doesn't pay rent. Nevada also has a Victims of Human Trafficking fund for emergency housing, but an agency has to ask for it. Ask: one named person (#5) screens every survivor for both.

Sources: SCR 3 (2025); NCSL, Judicial Protections for Human Trafficking (2026); NRS 179.247; AB 37 and AB 38 (2027); Nevada Medicaid Housing Supports; Nevada DHS Victims of Human Trafficking fund

THE GAPS what the research shows

Arrested first: 91% of 130 survivors surveyed had been arrested. Criminal records kept 81.5% from jobs and 55.6% from housing. (National Survivor Network, 2016)

Why #5 matters: the author of Nevada's own trafficking study described "fragmented systems, diffused responsibility, no single point of accountability." (SCR 3 hearing, 2026)

CONTACT JADA jadaslifematters@gmail.com helpjada.com I'm willing to testify.

I asked for help my whole life.

I got loud. Nobody heard me.

I never needed to get better at asking.
The adults I reached out to needed to get better at hearing.

Now I'm asking for the next girl. Will you ask with me?

If you're a survivor reading this: you were asking too, even if no one heard you. I hear you.

If you work with people in crisis:

Someone asked you for help this week.

Maybe she ran. Maybe she froze, went quiet, or sounded like a child.

Did you hear it?

What did you write down?

> **When a survivor is worn down, it can look like this.** She's been passed from agency to agency, tossed like a grenade nobody wants to hold, going in circles. She says, "I'm tired." "I'm done." "Nothing works." "Dying sounds peaceful." She stops calling back. She numbs out.
>
> If no one stays, she may go back to her trafficker, or to a new one, because they're the only ones who show up. Or she may not survive.
>
> That isn't her giving up on help. It may be the last way she's asking.
>
> Stay with her. Ask her plainly if she's thinking about suicide. Don't hand her a list and leave.

Every time I had support around me, I did well. Loud is asking. Next time, hear it.

CONTACT JADA

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helpjada.com

I'm willing to testify and share my story. Right now I'm focused on healing. What I need, and what survivors like me need, is a wraparound team: people who work together around one person, and stay.

Scan me.
Give me hope, or walk with me.
helpjada.com