

Lynn's Story: The System Works When People Care

In 2013, Lynn got her nursing license. She believed that it would eventually help her to leave a long-term, abusive marriage.

In 2015, her life took a turn — for the worse. She started using pills because of pain. She turned to heroin because she had lost hope. She spiraled downward because of despair.

- She stole meds from a nursing home.
- An arrest warrant was issued.
- A car chase ensued.
- She and her abusive husband both ended up in prison.
- DCF got involved after receiving a report alleging that both parents were drug addicts who had abandoned their son.

After an investigation, both children were taken into custody and placed in a foster home. Lynn had no family or friends who could care for them. Her now ex-husband had worked hard to isolate her. He was successful. She had no one to turn to.

When she got out of prison, she began the hard work necessary to get her life and children back. She did everything DCF asked of her. Rehab. Consistent visits with her children. Safe housing. Stable job. Family therapy.

“To be honest, my first DCF worker was not that supportive,” said Lynn. “It made it difficult to get traction. Luckily, Easter Seals got involved, and I got a new DCF worker. They were a BIG part of my success. They helped me get my children home.”

“I believe in the system. It’s there to keep kids safe. If you want your children home, you need to be ready to do the work. To communicate. To be honest.”

“But it works both ways. Workers also need to do their part. They need to be supportive. Help you get the services you need. Return your calls. Be available. Care.”

“Most truly do care. And that makes all the difference.”

DCF's Family Services is the state agency responsible for making sure children are safe and their basic needs are met. We help families develop plans to make their homes safe, keep their children home, and strengthen their families. And we help them put these plans into action.