

I was homeschooled for religious reasons in the states of Louisiana and Texas, and experienced gender-based discrimination on account of my parents' religious beliefs. My father, after experiencing multiple head injuries, has religious delusions, and my mother shows symptoms of severe narcissism and Machiavellianism. My parents met at a Bill Gothard conference, and the teachings of the Institute of Basic Life Principles, including the submission of women, heavily influenced my upbringing. At 18 years-old, I had less than a 12th grade education, no money or bank account, and no means to leave my abusive family.

Throughout my homeschooling experience, I faced physical (non-sexual) and psychological abuse and was treated differently from my male sibling. My parents favored my brother's education over my own, and deliberately deprived me of education in core subjects, especially higher-level school necessary for applying to college, like calculus and chemistry. When financial resources were limited, my brother was provided with Abeka video courses, while I was left to study independently from textbooks with minimal assistance. My mother attempted to teach me (but not my older brother) to cook, and I refused to learn. My mother's version of sexual education consisted of telling me that my future husband would "want to do this [sex] to you". I was never taught that I had the right to say no to sex, whether in a relationship or otherwise, and I had never even encountered the word "rape".

My brother was allowed to attend preparatory classes for the SAT exam, whereas I was merely given a study book. Additionally, my parents supported my brother by taking him on tours of multiple four-year universities and helping him apply for scholarships. In contrast, I was left with an incomplete education and was only taken to a community college to continue my studies.

In addition to this, I was prevented from working and earning an income during my teens while my brother was allowed to earn money for his future. After eighteen, my mother stated I was a "Dependent Adult" on her taxes and prevented me from earning an income. My mother took purposeful steps to ensure I was trapped in the abuse even as an adult.

Today, despite the neglect I experienced, I am a scientist in the pharmaceutical industry. I had to make up for my educational deficits in adulthood. I urge the Court to take action to protect children from gender-based discrimination, whether they are homeschooled or attending mainstream school.

Signed,
SC