

Subject: Re: Gateway Freedom Ranch Abused Me
From: bellakierstenlyn <bellakierstenlyn@gmail.com>
Date: 5/16/2020, 9:36 PM
To: Angela at HEAL <angela@heal-online.org>

I consent to you posting my feedback. Thank you for the information on actions to take.

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S9.

----- Original message -----

From: Angela at HEAL <angela@heal-online.org>
Date: 5/16/20 10:45 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: bellakierstenlyn <bellakierstenlyn@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Gateway Freedom Ranch Abused Me

Dear Isabella,

Thank you for contacting us! There are ways you can help and seek redress for yourself. **WAYS YOU CAN TAKE ACTION TODAY:**

1. Report crimes such as assault, battery, and child abuse to law enforcement in Montana. You can e-mail the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office at lcsodispatch@lcsomt.us to inquire about filing an official complaint which may provide the probable cause needed to get a warrant

for investigation and/or prosecution.

2. File a consumer complaint with your home state's attorney general against Gateway Freedom Ranch and include your request for compensation for any harm done to you. You can find the easy online forms for filing such a complaint (which may result in an investigation, prosecution, and/or civil resolution on your case) under your home state's (state where you currently reside) header at <http://www.heal-online.org/report.htm>.

3. If you do not wish to file a consumer complaint, you can contact a private personal injury attorney and look into suing in tort/civil court. However, if you can't afford the retainer, you should expect to settle out of court with a non-disclosure agreement which may bar you from speaking publicly about the incident because you've agreed (even if with a grumbling assent) to the terms of the settlement. You can find legal resources at <http://www.heal-online.org/legal.htm> and legal causes of action related to institutionalized abuse claims at <http://www.heal-online.org/legalarguments.htm>.

4. If you file an official complaint with the proper authorities, you can submit a copy of that complaint to us to be posted on the information page on Gateway Freedom Ranch. Or, in the event you prefer not to file such a complaint for any reason, you can complete, print, sign, date and attach the declaration form attached to this message with directions. We'll then post your statement. If you would like to keep your name or identifying information private, we can do that, but, still require the declaration for our records.

5. If you'd prefer not to submit a formal declaration, you may post your statement on our unmoderated message board at <http://pub40.bravenet.com/forum/show.php?usernum=3407841501&cpv=2> OR send a new e-mail to angela@churchofphilosophicalexploration.org with subject "Post My Feedback" and we will post your feedback (e-mail printed to .pdf disclosing your name and e-mail address and any information in your e-mail with that subject) to <http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.org/feedback.htm> and add a direct link to those .pdf files to the webpage on Gateway Freedom Ranch. An alternative is to reply to this message with your consent to print your first message to .pdf and post that to the Feedback and Gateway Freedom Ranch information pages.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know. If you found this helpful, please consider making a donation. You can easily donate by clicking on "donate" at the top of <http://www.heal-online.org> and/or <http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.org>. Donations are tax-deductible. Thank you.

Best Wishes,

Rev. Angela Smith

On 5/16/2020 6:02 PM, bellakierstenlyn wrote:

> To whom it may concern:

>

> I was in an abusive 'behavioral' group home in Eureka, Montana called

> Gateway Freedom Ranch (previously New Horizons Youth Ranch for Girls)

> that was 90% adoptee girls between the ages of 9 and 13. It was a

> Christian boarding school in which the parents signed away rights to

> their adoptive kids indefinitely, and some decide to leave them there

> and put them back up for adoption. They were physically and mentally

> abusive to us; they were not accredited until I was there for a little

> over a year in 2013, but there has been news reports on whether

it was

> fake or not; they have no licenced psychologists, therapists,
teachers

> or behavioral specialists working there; they would use social

> isolation, staying outside in extreme weather for long periods of
> time, stacking wood back and forth for hours, withholding meals
and

> taking away your clothes/hygiene items/ bed as punishments. I

was

> there from the ages of 12-14. A group home a few miles from it
called

> Ranch for Kids was recently busted for abuse, and one of my
friends

> from the Gateway was sent to that one after her parents had told
her

> she was not coming home. I would love to see this place have its
> justice served but that seems impossible until people know
about what

> goes on there as there a still little girls being sent there to this
> day. I hope I can be of help to you.

>

> Sincerely,

> Isabella Ross