

Going Back To School After My Traumatic Brain Injury

Source: BrainLine.org (Produced by Victoria Youcha and Brian King)

Video Link: <http://www.brainline.org/content/multimedia.php?id=2390>

Kelli Gary: Actually, the fact that I wanted to go back to school and school was so far away, my mother living in Chicago, and I was in Florida. She was very frightened by that. But the things she did is she had my friends keep an eye on me. So she contacted my, you know, my roommate, and she was like, call me, you know, the minute you see something. Let me know. You know, call me if you see anything even if Kelli doesn't see anything. Let me know. So she had them watching me.

She called me every day. She tried, you know, check in on me. I mean, if I needed money because I always lost money, lost keys. I lost everything. She would just send it to me. She just gave me whatever it is I needed. She was there for me. She was right there whenever I needed her even when I didn't have the pride to go to her.

In actuality when I did decide to leave college when I tried to return and I was doing so bad, is because my friends picked up the phone and said, "Mildred, come get her. She's not doing well. I don't know what she's telling you, but she's not doing well." So my mother jumped in the car without me even knowing and drove down to Florida. I opened the door and she's like, "Get your stuff. We're going. You tried. It's been two months. It's not working." And I had experienced so much trauma with losing my friends and endangering my roommate and all this stuff, I wanted to go. I just didn't want to say it because I felt like a failure.

So she gave me that opportunity. She let it happen. And that might not be the safest thing for some people. Some people might have more of an injury that would not allow them to do that. But just even if you can just modify things in your own area where you can keep even more close tabs on the person. But push them to do it. To go out and do the things they think they still can do I think would be helpful.