

June 22nd, 2019

In the fall of 1997 my adoptive mother, Patricia "Pat" Schaffert, told me about a situation that I had survived...an abortion attempt by my biological mother, Karol Scott. I had always known since around kindergarten age that I was adopted, and that my Aunt Karol was my biological mother. I was nineteen years old and home on break from college when Pat told me the following story:

When Karol Scott was 4 months pregnant with me, she showed up at Pat's home and asked to be driven to the nearest abortion clinic. Pat agreed to drive her but not after she begged Karol to give the baby to her and her husband, Lee Schaffert, to raise. Karol told her no because they were family, she thought that it would be too difficult for Karol. Pat drove her to the clinic where Karol was prepped for a Vacuum Aspiration procedure. Pat remained in the waiting room for the procedure. After a while, Karol came out and told Pat that the baby's head was too big for the procedure to be effective, but was told by the doctor that she would probably miscarry because the amniotic sac was torn. Being that Karol was an alcoholic, she figured that the alcohol she would continue to consume would also help her miscarry. A few months later, after it was apparent that she would not be miscarrying me, Pat asked if she could adopt the baby, Karol agreed. I was born in September of 1978 at Carle Hospital in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. Lee & Patricia Schaffert finalized the adoption the following year.

Because of the continued alcohol consumption by my birth mother I exhibited, and continue to exhibit, the symptoms of FAS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome). I was prescribed various medicines to help with them, but I continued to struggle with these symptoms throughout my life. My head has remained slightly larger than normal, but I now consider it a blessing.



Jennifer N. Milbourn



Lee F. Schaffert

(adoptive father of Jennifer Milbourn)

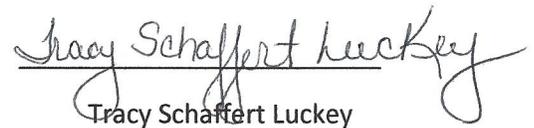
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Tracy Schaffert Luckey

(adoptive sister and biological
cousin of Jennifer Milbourn)