

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

Emotional, mental, and Physical Abuse in the Pregnancy Labor, Birth and Postpartum Space

This document is a record of abuse that takes place under care providers in spaces where families are vulnerable. You can add your own story here! I will be using these anonymous stories to help doulas become national recognized as essential care providers. Each story is horrendous. But all together these stories will become a roar that society cannot ignore anymore!

If these stories stirred you, please sign the petition to help doulas get back into hospitals! We are one of the advocates who help keep care providers and hospital staff accountable!

[Petition to Let Doulas Back Into Hospitals](#)

1. As a sexual assault survivor, I had told my OB why I wasn't comfortable having an epidural or pushing on my back with my legs held open. But when I got to 10 cm, he told me that I either purple pushed on my back or he was leaving. Without consent he tried to "stretch" me during an exam at 10 cm. The baby was OP and I really felt like I needed to push on my hands and knees but wasn't allowed. After 2 hours of back pushing, I was told the baby was stuck and the OB said the baby's HR "didn't look good." I consented to a belly birth(C-section) for fear of my daughter's health and was taken off the continual monitors that they had insisted I wear all labor. I then waited an hour for anyone to come back to my room with no monitors on my baby. My OB and nurses disappeared and my labor brain was convinced my baby was dead because the OB said her HR didn't look good. I later got my birth records and found her HR was fine and he lied to push me into a belly birth because he had four other women in labor and wanted to check me off the list. In the OR, I had a spinal and then waited half an hour for my AWOL OB. The nurses would not talk to me and kept trying to tie down my arms even though I had requested they not. Eventually I thought I was dead too because no one would speak to me. I've been in therapy for a year for PTSD (best decision I ever made!) We are planning a HBAC next time because I will never trust the hospital system again. - Mama Lion

2. "My postpartum nurse kept telling me I didn't need to be in pain, she had pain meds in her pocket." -Mother

3. "Stop crying it doesn't hurt that bad."- Care provider

4. "I Had a CNA huff in frustration at me when I asked her to be silent and wait to put the squat bar up during a contraction. She not so gently set it against the bed and stormed out of the room. I pushed my baby out minutes later." - Laboring Person

5. "If you can't handle a cervical check (after she stretched my cervix without warning or consent) you're never going to give birth without drugs." -Midwife

6. "If you don't get Pitocin you're going to get an infection just like the lady next door and she's about to die! (Because moms bag of waters was leaking)"- Care Provider

7. "Before even getting to the labor room I was told 'You don't need to be a hero' when discussing pain management." -Laboring Person

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

8. "You need to make up your mind. If you're going to get an epidural, I'll do it now. I'm not coming back." - Anesthesiologist

9. "Things like this [birth plan] prevent me from doing my job." Then she tossed the birthplace onto the floor. - O.B.

10. "My client was told by an anesthesiologist (during the c-section with ketamine because of a failed spinal) to "stop being so loud! You're distracting the doctor!" - Doula

11. "Next time use the bucket. I don't want to walk through your vomit." - Care Provider

12. "I'm going to ____" instead of "do I have permission to ____?" - Doula

13. "I can't believe you'd let her be in pain" - Anesthesiologist

14. "I was told after not progressing, 'You're not even really in labor!' After consistent contractions for over 24 hours. - Laboring Person

15. "You're not allowed to say no. (Patient was refusing Pitocin) " - O.B.

16. " 'You're sure you don't want the epidural?' even as client said 'NO' every time in active pushing labor." - Doula

17. "Natural birth is overrated. I like it when my patients are nice and numb." - Care Provider

18. "Dr came in 'we're going to start you on Pitocin and then I'm going to break your waters.'" When she asked if it was really necessary to break her waters, he looked flustered and said, "well, no, I guess we can wait. I'll be back in a few hours and we'll do it then." - Doula

19. "I need to start this IV right away. I'll explain why afterwards." - Nurse

20. "While I was in active labor, contractions 2 minutes apart, 'unless you agree to a C-section, we can't let you give birth at this hospital.' - Laboring Person

21. "You know there's no prize for suffering, right?" (Said to the patient after calling the anesthesiologist without the patient's consent). - Nurse

22. "You can't ____." - Care providers

23. Midwife: "Im going to press your uterus now. Do you know why I do this?"

Birth person: "No."

Midwife: "Well, I will tell you after I have done it "

24. "My client got very primal and screaming the residents and nurses were rolling their eyes at her and kept yelling while pushing 'you have to stop it! If you don't hold your breath and keep yelling, this baby is not coming out without us helping him. You aren't pushing right'. When she asked the nurse if she could hold her hand the nurse pushed her hand to a bar on the bed 'here. Hold this or your doula. That's not what I'm here for.' And they were all yelling at her at the same time." -Doula

25. "If you don't push now, you will go to stir-ups and I am getting the baby out myself." - O.B.

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

26. "When I walked into the hospital with a birth ball to have my first baby, the nurses at the station were all chuckling and looking at me. I asked them what for with a smile on my face and one nurse said, 'We just have a running joke that the people who bring those balls in ALWAYS end up with a c section.' - Laboring Person

27. "Why are you uncomfortable with a vaginal exam? It's not like you're a virgin."- O.B.

28. "The nurses laughed when I arrived at the hospital with my first after home birth midwife suggested we transfer. I was hysterical and terrified." - Laboring Person

29. "When in the pushing part with my daughter (mind you they had me purple pushing) I was hollering, nurse literally popped my thigh and said stop screaming, it doesn't hurt that bad." - Laboring Person

30. "One time a nurse (after trying to get my client to get an epidural for a few hours) said 'maybe next time you'll get an epidural and actually enjoy your birth.' " - Doula

31. "I had a client that had to be induced who's monitor kept not catching baby's heart rate. The nurse said 'either we keep this monitor on or we turn off Pitocin and then you won't get very far and we've had babies die.' " - Doula

32. "My client went in for fluid leakage at 30 weeks. The care provider told my friend that I didn't need to be there especially when she got the epidural & asked if they're paying me hourly because if so it's a waste of time and money." - Doula

33. " 'You have to follow my instructions or else the baby is going to die.' The doctor rushed the mom for a c-section, and after the operation, the nurse told me that the mom actually could have a natural birth!" - Doula

34. "I was trying to have an unmedicated birth with my 4th child but suffered worrisome symptoms that I thought were a stroke (turned out to be a complicated migraine/migraine with aura) so I was induced. I still tried to go without an epidural but the Pitocin was too intense. I got into a dispute with the nurses because they kept upping the pit per protocol and I asked them to stop and see if I could progress on my own. They said my doctor had to make that call so they continued increasing the pit until my doctor came. She refused to stop increasing it and so I requested an epidural because I could not take it anymore. As I was waiting (rather impatiently) for it, my doctor told me I should've just gotten the epidural in the first place. Once I had the epidural, they turned the pit off. I was so upset and felt like I had been manipulated into getting the epidural."- Laboring Person

35. "My first birth ended with an unplanned c-section after 24 hours of labor. In retrospect I realize it wasn't medically necessary, but I was pretty badly manipulated into thinking it was. I was very scared, laying on the operating table shaking uncontrollably, and the doctor said 'Stop shaking. I can't cut you if you're shaking like that.' " - Laboring Person

36. "My first daughters birth I needed a C-section (definitely medically necessary as I had a placental abruption at 36 weeks) and the nurse who was supposed to get me walking afterwards was so short and snappy with me because she expected me to be able to stand immediately with no direction on how to do it properly and with less pain. She told me 'it's not that bad, stop crying, just stand up already.' " - Laboring Person

37. " 'Now that you have an epidural your doula doesn't need to be here. They don't do anything anyway.' The client sent me home and ended up having lots of breakthrough pain and a very bad experience." - Doula

38. "I went ahead and tried to break your water when I did the cervical check. It was a little too thick Oops!" - O.B.

39. "My first birth I worked with a client who had experienced sexual trauma. When the nurse came in to check her cervix my client let the nurse know and asked to be gentle and patient. The nurse then replied with, 'And you had intercourse with no problem?' She still works there." - Doula

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

40. "Your two choices are epidural or C-section...but I think you should choose the C-section because I don't think you can birth vaginally." - Care Provider

41. "I had a client who didn't want me to touch her - we had discussed it many times before she went into labor about how my job would look. The nurse saw that I wasn't massaging or touching my client in any way and asked (in a pretty nasty tone), 'Need me to show you how to help?' and started rubbing the client's feet." - Doula

42. "I had a midwife I loved, but policy at that hospital was that O.B.s had to do stitches. My daughter was born at 2:05 am, so the OB was awakened to do my stitches (2nd degree tear). He swooped in and started sticking me with local anesthetic because I had had no other painkillers during the birth, and it hurt a lot just to do that. So I asked him to stop for a minute and let me catch my breath, but he ignored me. Then, without waiting for the anesthetic to kick in, he immediately started stitching. I asked him, then begged him, to stop, and he ignored me. When I started crying and squirming he looked at me and said, 'Look, we can finish this here, or I can take you down to the OR, knock you out, and finish there.' He also gave me a "husband stitch" without asking or mentioning it to me. I do believe he said something to my husband about it, but it went right over his head." - Laboring Person

43. "With my oldest child my O.B. ignored me when I asked him to stop giving me stitches, and continued the procedure after he knew I didn't consent." - Laboring Person

44. "With my first baby the doctor told me at 20 weeks that I should plan my c-section. I walked out changed care providers and 6 unmedicated births later I still wonder how practitioners say things to women without guilt." - Mother of 6

45. "With my first labor, I was having contractions every 3 minutes. I walked in to the hospital but in tears and miserable. The nurse looked at me, sighed really exaggerated then rolled her eyes. I'd never interacted with this nurse prior. She put me in a room and no one came in for 45 minutes. Turns out my water had broke and baby's heartbeat was erratic, which led to placenta abruption, which led to my on call dr. Coming in bc the other doctor was in an emergency cesarean already. HE walked in and goes 'ugh my wife is going to be soooo disappointed I didn't finish mowing the grass.' I was on full oxygen, epidural so I couldn't move myself and laying facing away from him so I couldn't even make eye contact." - Laboring Person

46. "They told me not to push during my rapid delivery." - Laboring Person

47. "I had a nurse *screaming* at my client "YOU NEED TO STOP LISTENING TO YOUR DOULA AND ONLY LISTEN TO ME AND THE DR." They wanted her to bear down hard and I was only telling her that she was doing a great job. Even the doctor was like...um she's doing fine actually." - Doula

48. "I had a nurse yell at my client for throwing up on the floor." - Doula

49. (Birth preferences were to have optimal cord clamping)

Nurse: " we only do that if the baby needs it"

Birthing mama: "don't all baby's need their blood?"

Nurse: "we will decide that after we deliver your baby"

50. "I'm a birth photographer and doula. I always ask mom if she would like a crowning photo, it's preference. Baby is crowning the doctor says "Move up by her head, we aren't here to shoot porn!" - Doula and Birth photographer

51. Birthing mama refusing an IV upon admittance.

Hospital Midwife: "we need to put this in so you don't hemorrhage and die"

52. "She can't have delayed cord clamping because it's dangerous and may harm baby by giving them too much blood." - Care Provider

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

53. "With my son I ended up asking for an epidural after 15 hours of labor. It ended up making me feel nothing at all waist down so the nurses had to tell me when to push since I felt nothing. After 26 hours in labor I started pushing. Pushed for almost 4 hours. Had nurses rolling their eyes and telling me I was pushing wrong. Ended with vacuum assistance on my last push before c section. I read my records a little over a year later and it says 'not an effective pusher.' All the cervical checks along with needing a catheter for 2 weeks after has still led me to be traumatized when I see an O.B. I had to do colposcopy a few months ago and I begged to be sedated but they told me no. I ended up needing to be held down because I freaked out so much and was shaking and crying so much. They just kept asking if I was raped and if I was sure because of my reaction." - Laboring Person

54. Birthing mama: "I really want to stand up"

Nurse: "I don't want you standing up too much or the baby might fall out"

55. "When moms wait too long to get their epidural they don't cooperate with us" - Anesthesiologist

56. " 'So what high school do *you* go to?' While my teenage client was pushing her baby out." - Doula

57. " 'You're (to the doula) the reason they're (the clients) are on this dangerous path!' followed by "I've been at the nurses station for the last hour watching your monitors... I call for C-section.. it could be 2-3 more hours.. baby could die..." I calmly said to my clients, 'Would you like a moment to talk about this?' Baby was OP, and was at +2 station.. his beautiful, black hair was sticking out of mom's vagina."- Doula

58. "I had a client who was absolutely beautiful. But she was very uncomfortable and mentioned something to me about hoping once the baby was out she would start to feel better. The nurse turned and said, 'yeah I'm sure your life is so hard, Barbie.' " - Doula

59. "You've suffered and put yourself through enough-are you ready for an epidural yet?" - Care Provider

60. "The provider was not happy at all when my client said she wanted some time alone to process some new info with her husband and her Doula. The provider looked over at me and then said 'Well, mine is a medical opinion and I need you to know that and I have already given you lots of alone time to process things.' " - Doula

61. "Had a client who didn't vibe well with her nurse. She would have beautiful contractions every 2 minutes or so but if the nurse walked in she wouldn't have any. She wanted to be in the shower. Before she got in the shower she wanted her pit turned off. They told her when they started they would turn it off at x milestone. When that was reached they said y milestone then z. She threatened to take her iv out herself if they didn't turn it off and let her shower. Nurse turns to me and says 'will you tell her to keep it in? You know this is what's best and what's needed.' " - Doula

62. "Having contractions with my second every 5 minutes. I have one at the door of the hospital and then walk up to l&d and tell the nurse at the nurses station why we are there. Nurse calls back "I have a mom up here that I guess she thinks she's in labor." I get back and settled and I'm "only" 4cm. Less than an hour later I feel pushy and start pushing. They come running in to check me. Physically put me in bed...the vomit covered bed...and check me. I don't remember consenting at all to being put in bed or a check. She says I'm only 7cm and need to stop pushing. She turns to chart and not a minute later someone yells 'she's crowning!' Baby practically flew out and a nurse had to deliver her. I then had retained placenta and the care provider says he needs to do a manual removal and asks if I want drugs. I say yes and he said 'you just had a natural birth!' Umm yes. But I KNOW what you're going to do to me. He then describes the meds and makes a joke and mentions he hoped I would remember having the baby. My doula was like wait, what? And they said hopefully I would but didn't know for sure. (Thankfully I do)." Laboring Person

63. "With my surrogate pregnancy, the doctor told me to 'push with my ass,' that after two vaginal births I was obviously being lazy and just didn't want to push out the baby, that I was going to kill the baby if I didn't let him try and manually turn her. Told the mom to shut up when she started to cry because they started vacuuming without

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

her consent(which let to some very severe bruises to baby's forehead), and told me I was overreacting and to stop crying when I told him I could feel him cutting my uterus during the C-section I ended up needing." - Laboring Person

64. "At my own birth, one of the nurses wanted me to switch sides while pushing, in the middle of a contraction. (This was the last hour of a 42 hour induction, I was having pit contractions back to back and was just DONE.) I asked her to wait until after the contraction passed, but she ignored me and hooked her arms onto my right arm/leg and manhandled me into a different position. Once my son was born I told her I wanted her out of the room. This is also the same nurse that told me to stop talking to my brand new baby so he could cry and work his lungs more." - Laboring Person

65. "I had a client with Emetophobia (fear of vomiting) the nurse completely disregarded her and said 'well you're gonna have to get over it because you'll probably throw up, it's normal.' And then proceeded to put the bucket right next to her. This was after 3 nurses laughed at her when she said she wanted to try an unmedicated birth. 'That's what they all say,' they laughed. It was absolutely awful." - Doula

66. " 'Okay I'm going to check now, you need to let me check.' I screamed in pain, shutting my legs and shaking my head no. 'Come on this doesn't hurt at all you need to lay still, this is ridiculous..... yes get her the damn gas....if we can't check you we don't know what going on, you need to just breathe this doesn't hurt.' " - Laboring Person

67. "Mom was asking- practically begging to be in another position than flat on her back. Nurse kept staring me in the eyes and putting the back of the bed back down whenever I'd tilt it up for mom. This went on through several pushes/contractions. Eventually I said 'is there some reason she can't push in the position she is comfortable in?' And the doctor went off about how the flat-on-back position was better because it 'followed the plane of her vagina so it was easier for baby.' The mom looked at me and said 'are you serious?' I said 'I mean technically it's not easier because baby now has to come up and out of the pelvis, mom, let's sit you up a bit.' Mom went to push the bed button again and the OB stormed out. She threw her gloves down and said 'fine, you guys obviously can do a better job yourselves,' and she left, with baby crowning." - Doula

68. "With my first baby I was induced for high blood pressure at 36 weeks. When I got to labor and delivery they asked if I wanted an epidural. I said no. They started the pit. The nurse told me it wasn't natural for me to be in pain and that I was overreacting. I got the epidural. I wasn't checked again for 6 hours. They came in and did a VE and the O.B. stated that I had a narrow pelvis so if I didn't make any progress after he got back from dinner that I would have to have a C-Section. He left to go home for dinner and before he was 10 mins away I was ready to push. He got back just in time. He gave me an episiotomy and my baby came easily. After he stitched me up he told me I proved him wrong, and that i cost him a lot of money." - Laboring Person

69. "I was in transition. I KNEW IT. I wanted an unmedicated birth and I even told my husband I was in transition when he asked what was wrong. The nurse shot back 'no you're not. This is just real labor and you'll be like this for at least 20 hours.' I was completely mentally shot and ended up getting an epidural. Transition was over by the time they got it in and I was already 10 cm." - Laboring Person

70. "I gave birth while being restrained." - Laboring Person

71. "In the second stage, my client was pushing and breathing her baby down and the midwife turned to me and asked 'what's the mum's name?' after 12 hours in her care!" - Doula

72. "Well, if your baby dies it's not my fault." - Nurse

73. "My client was having a vaginal exam and the midwife said there's a lip to her cervix and started to massage it and stretch it, without consent. My client was screaming in pain shouting at the midwife, 'stop! Stop it! It hurts! Take your fingers out, stop!' But the midwife continued." - Doula

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

74. "They wanted to take my client's baby to a sterile environment away from the mother to perform an unnecessary test. Mom declined and found out that they were going to give the baby synthetic glucose on their nasty gloved finger!" - Doula

75. "You can think your doula will keep you from getting an epidural all you want, but in the end you will get it. We like all of our mothers to get an epidural and just go to sleep until it's time to push." - Charge Nurse giving a hospital tour

76. "Midwife forcing vaginal exam after client said 'no, stop.' Midwife said 'I have to do this.' (She didn't) - Doula

77. "You're at a hospital, you can't just come here to sleep." (Client wanted a bag of fluids before starting Pitocin and a couple hours of rest during) - Nurse

78. (After experiencing a stillbirth of her twins) "I was told I needed to send them to the morgue because 'their brains and eyes would ooze jelly.' I was put in a postpartum room holding my dead children next to 3 families with living babies and could hear them crying and when I asked why they would do this to me while I'm bawling she grabbed my remote and turned on Golden Girls to drown them out then proceeded to blow my IV while I'm yelling in pain and still continued to do it." - Bereaved Mother

79. "My client was at the hospital already when I arrived. When I walk in she is asking for an epidural which was in her birth plan. Nurse says, 'well let's check you first.' She's at 7cm and again asks for her epidural and the nurse agrees to call while they get her a room. 30 mins later in the room she asks again for her epidural she's 8cm nurse says 'Oh yea, let me call and see if he is available.' I said, 'I thought you called before so he would meet us here in the room.' The nurse just stares at me and leaves the room.

30 mins after that the resident comes in (literally THE ONLY nice staff member in this story poor guy) he is super sweet and asks to check her and about her pain levels and is just overall the ideal OB in that moment. The nurse comes back in when he's checking her. (9cm now) My client again asked the ETA of her epidural. Finally the nurse calls down for it in front of us and says that he's just headed into a C-section and won't be done before my client has her baby. But if she'd called an hour ago...

Then the nurse leans over the bed and starts yelling over my client to calm down. Like leaning past me and into my clients face yelling at the top of her lungs. I tell her please just let me do my job (I have to tell her this several more times before the night is over) she rolls her eyes but steps back. When my client says she feels pressure the nurse makes my client put her feet in the stirrups even though my client says it's uncomfortable. She grabbed my clients stomach during her contractions making everything more painful because, 'I need to know when you're having a contraction.' The Resident comes back in and checks and says there is a cervical lip. He suggests that she turn over on hands and knees to help things along but it's okay if she doesn't want to. She didn't. When he leaves the nurse grabs my client and tries to force her to turn over telling her she has to in order to get the baby out, while she screams and cries and begs her to stop. I've never had to raise my voice at hospital staff before but I had to say, 'she asked you to stop!.' When she's ready to push a second resident comes in and starts yelling and counting. She stops for a moment to ask my clients name. The first resident is trying to get everyone to calm down and let my client get a feel for pushing. Everyone else is just loud and yelling orders." - Doula

80. " O.B. showed up as my client was crowning. He caught the baby, waited maybe 30 seconds and in a mocking voice said 'is this long enough?' he then cut the cord, yanked the placenta out, put baby on mom's chest, said 'you're welcome!' Throwing his gloves and gown on the floor as he stormed out. I've never cried so hard on my way home from a birth!." - Doula

81. "My client pooped a little bit while pushing. Usually the nurses discretely and gently remove it. My client's nurse did not. She pushed for 4 hours and for 3 of those 4 hours the poop was there. The mother commented multiple times on the smell and how sorry she was for pooping and making everyone have to smell it. The nurse ignored her each time." -Doula

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

82. "I overheard the physician telling the nurse my client needed to deliver soon because 'we need the bed.' She wanted to ramp up the Pitocin on this 16 year old who was going for an unmedicated birth while also trying to translate for her parents so they understood what was going on." - Doula

83. "At my 20wk appointment my O.B. asked why I was even coming to appointments because i didn't let him do anything to me, since I refused ultrasounds and such. He told me in all seriousness to drive up north to Sacramento and go look at the really old cemeteries and look at all the graves of the mamas and babies who died in childbirth back then, before we had all the tests and such." - Pregnant Person

84. "Doctor: 'See, I told you you would tear.' " (After she put both her hands inside my clients vagina, around the baby's head, then spread her hands to widen her opening, before pulling the baby out. 2nd degree tear, refused to give her anything before stitching her.) - Doula

85. "I'm not impressed by your pelvis"- Nurse

86. "I had a nurse tell me that my contractions were only the start and that they were going to get a lot worse when she could clearly see I was struggling. I think if I would have had a nurse that was more encouraging I might have made it through drug free but she scared me." - Laboring Person

87. "I had a client who was obviously in transition and struggling not to push and myself and the dad convinced her that getting checked might encourage her and the nurse told her 'you're only just over 8. Still have a ways to go. Sorry.' " (She delivered like 25 minutes later.)- Doula

88. "The attending CNM for my first client was not happy with my client's desire to birth unmedicated and was pushing Pitocin to speed things along. My client declined and she made some comment about how her baby may very well die then. We were flabbergasted! Client began to push shortly after and baby was born without an heart beat and as the crash team ran in the CNM said "I told you so." After filing a report with the head of OB, she tried to get me banned from the hospital." - Doula

89. "I had a client (unmedicated) crowning and she had a little bowel movement. Instead of just wiping it away the OB (without consent) shoved his hand inside her vagina and forcefully pushed the BM out of her anus with his thumb! My poor client screamed in pain and he yelled at her 'you wanted to do this without medication!' " - Doula

90. "I went along to the hospital with my niece who was in early first stage. Midwife checked cervix and said 'you're only 2cm. Go home. When you can't talk any more and you're in incredible pain, then come back in. That's when you're in labour.' " - Doula and Aunt

91. "I was a hospital transfer from a birth center & the nursing staff told me I needed to keep it down bc I was scaring the other moms." - Laboring Person

92. "Gravity's influence in labor is a myth, the best thing (mom) can do is lie on her back with legs closed and let contractions work." - 38 year old Nurse

93. "I had a nurse ask my affluent black client if they had an adoption plan and where her 'baby daddy' was." (They were not placing their child up for adoption) - Doula

94. "If you can handle sex you can handle a cervix check." - Nurse

95. "Stop screaming: you won't be able to do this for 12 more hours" (I was a 10 and babe born 15 minutes later) - Care Provider

96. "You don't have to be a rockstar." - Care Provider

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

97. "You can either let me check you, or you can just lay there in pain until you decide I can check you so we can find out if you're allowed to push." Care Provider

98. "You can't sit like that. I don't care if it makes it more comfortable, labor isn't about comfort." Nurse

99. "If you can't handle a simple cervical check, what makes you think you can handle labor? That was just a taste of what's to come." - Care Provider

100. "We don't do epidurals before 4cm. You aren't in pain before then. These are just mild period cramps. Toughen up." - Care Provider

101. "You can let me break your water or I'll just send you home." (I was at 7 cm and in active labor.) Then doc says, "You aren't really a 7, just 4. I can send you home." Baby was born an hour later." - Laboring Person

102. "My client's spouse was concerned about the course of action the midwife was taking in recommending an epidural. He was curtly asking for her to explain it to him, she gave a brief explanation to which he responded that he didn't understand could she explain it better. The midwife threw her hands up in the air and said 'I don't have to deal with this' and left the room. Later I watched as she sat him down in a childlike manner and told him he had no business questioning her like that." - Doula

103. "Ugh, please cover up," said to me by a nurse. It was my first time giving birth. I was trying to get someone to help me off the toilet after barely getting the feeling in my legs back from the epidural they pushed me to get." Postpartum Mother

104. "You're 1 cm, but I could be lying and you'd never know it. What are you going to do, check yourself?" - Care Provider

105. "I don't think you have what it takes to dilate. We had better schedule an induction." - Care Provider

106. "I'd hate for your baby to be brain damaged." - Care Provider

107. (After a non-consensual episiotomy) "Well, the baby had to be born sometime." - Care Provider

108. "If your baby isn't born in the next 2 hours, we're going to have to do a C-section." Waters were broken for 12 hours or less and she was making progress just not as fast as the OB wanted. We did side-lying release and baby was born an hour later." - Doula

109. "HA HA... yeah ok" - Care Provider

110. (In response to client asking to birth placenta without Pitocin) "Well it's not just going to come out on its own!" - Care Provider

111. "My doctor bark at me to push and then immediately scolded me with 'not like that.'" - Care Provider

112. "Natural? Call me when you want that epidural." - Care Provider

113. "Stop the screaming." (afterwards the midwife commented that her uterus was hypersensitive to Pitocin)- Care Provider

114. "You're not going to have a baby by staying in bed and giggling." - Care Provider

115. "that was a wimpy push, you need to try harder." - Care Provider

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

116. "I was told "don't bear down" while getting the epidural placed. I was in transition (not knowing it at the time) and my son was coming whether I wanted him to or not." - Laboring Person

117. "She not making any progress pushing, call me when something is actually happening."- Care Provider

118. "Mom asks for pit to be lowered so she can rest after going through an induction for 30 plus hours Nurse: "well how about I just promise not to up it." She then delivered mom Fentanyl and an epidural few minutes later." - Doula

119. "You would have never of been able to birth that baby" (she was 8 lbs 3oz via cesarean)- Care Provider

120. "Some people prefer a C-section to save their vagina." - Care Provider

121. "I had a mama who wanted a VBAC and was told, by the doctor, that he was going to 'slice her from head to toe in a Caesarean because it will end up being an emergency and he won't care what happens then." - Doula

122. "You'll never have a home-birth or all your babies will die"- Care Provider

123. "Stop stop pushing we have to wait for the doctor, put your legs together" - Nurse

124. "There's no way you can do this without an epidural. You'll be thanking me."- Care Provider

125. "Anesthesiologist to client in OR post birth for repair to 3rd degree tear from a rapid labor and zero perineal support during pushing: 'Why didn't you just get the epidural in the first place?!' "- Doula

126. " I Asked the nurse practitioner if I could switch to a midwife for care so I could get to know someone who would actually be delivering my baby, she must have been offended because she then left the curtain open during a vaginal exam and mid exam walked away leaving the sheet up so I was completely uncovered. Spoke harshly to me and then before transferring my care to a midwife she wrote in my chart that I was confrontational." - Pregnant Person

127. "After a non consensual episiotomy, when asked why she felt the need to cut me with no pain meds, 'Well it's just better that way.' I yelled back 'yea better for you! You didn't just have your vagina cut open!' My baby was 6 lb 9 oz and I hadn't even pushed for 5 min."- Laboring Person

128. "Nurse beginning of evening when client said she'd like to be unmedicated 'of course you do.' "- Doula

129. Being told to be quiet and hold all that noise inside. Now I know no high pitched screams but I was told to be quiet.

130. And postpartum I was routinely told by my dayshift nurse that I needed to get off my pain meds and that there was no need for a stool softener (I had a 4th degree tear).

131. "There is no way you can do the with out an epidural if you already think it's bad"

132. "Why are you even trying to do this naturally" All told to my sister during her first birth. She is due in 2 weeks and has asked me to be by her side.

133. "I was given a cervical check without authorization while asleep." Laboring Patient

134. "My epidural was turned off during pushing, I kept telling them that it wasn't working and they yelled at me to push the button, then they realized it was off." - Laboring Patient

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

135. "During my C section I was in a lot of discomfort from the pressure, anesthesiologist, told me it wasn't hurting it was just pressure with a huff and an eye roll." -Laboring Patient

136. "In recovery, the anesthesiologist put her hand over my clients mouth as she was moaning coming out of it to 'Seriously stop! There are other patients who don't need to hear you screaming!' " - Doula

137. (To my client) "Why are you punishing yourself!? Just take the drugs!" (My client was a recovering drug addict). -Doula

138. "This position may not be the most comfortable but it'll help the baby come faster. Don't you want this to be over with sooner?"- Nurse

139. "Why are you crying? Don't you want a healthy baby?" - Care Provider

140. "Endlessly asking, 'Would you like an epidural now. This isn't getting easier.'- Laboring Person

141. "You think this hurts? How were you going to have a natural birth?"- Care Provider

142. "My original doctor (up until 24 weeks then i switched to a midwife) refused to see me because I switched providers. I had to wait for his shift to end to be seen by the next doctor." - Laboring Person

143. "After coerced C-section with my 1st, 'yea there's no way you would have been able to give birth to that baby.' " - New Mother

144. "You have about a 32% chance of having a successful VBAC"- Care Provider

145 "With my first I was told that I absolutely was not allowed to get out of bed and should just get the epidural."- Laboring Patient.

146. "To my client: A staff member called my client "your majesty" because she didn't want an epidural." - Doula

147. "Staff yelling: 'Stop screaming!' during her cesarean, while her anesthesia was failing." - Doula

148. "I've had nurses continually turn on the lights, and do vaginal exams with absolutely no consent." - Doula

149. "My baby's pediatrician came to do the newborn check. He asked if I had hemorrhoids and then proceeded to pull my blanket down so he could look." - New Mother

150. "My doctor threw my birth plan on the floor and said, 'Things like that prevent me from doing my job.' - Laboring Person

151. "The nurses were whispering in the corner that I must have cheated on my husband because my son came out so dark." - Laboring Person

152. "You asked for this because you didn't want an epidural so push your baby out."- Nurse

153. -" Doctor: 'I don't get it' (And eye rolled) when my client expressed wanting to go unmedicated." - Doula

154. - "On this very day last year, a mother left without a baby." doctor said when client expressed wanting to go low and slow on Pitocin.

155. - "I can't deliver a baby like this!" Doctor said as she pulled client's legs from a squat on the bed and slammed her down on her back while crowning.

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

156. -"I'm all for natural birth, but you're in a hospital. We have to do things a certain way." O.B.

157. -"I've been doing this for 20 years. I know what I'm doing." O.B.

158. -" 'Yeah you did it, but I'm disappointed in the way you behaved' after client birthed (unmedicated VBAC)." - Doula

159. - "None really" (when client asked what are the risks to Pitocin) - Nurse

160. "Why don't you get the epidural, send your doula home to sleep, and she can come back and hold your legs when you're ready to push?" O.B.

161, - "Pitocin is a blessing." Midwife

162. -"If you really wanted to be safe, you would have agreed to induction last week." - O.B.

163. -"We'll see about that" says nurse when clients speaks of going unmedicated. Then turns the pit up after client withdrew consent to go up anymore.

164 "They 'lost' all of the pictures we had of our twins (who were passed away after birth), refused to admit it to us and we found out the next day by a little 18 year old girl who works for a photo company. She came in wanting to take pictures. I said we already had pictures right after they were born when they were still alive and she said they lost them. They were on a SD card on the camera. The camera and SD card were found and card was blank, which meant someone deliberately deleted the only decent pictures I had of my children. I then found out that they literally lost our twins bodies for over 24 hours from our funeral director." - Bereaved Mother

165 "You're not really in labor" (she was 7 cm)- Care Provider

166. "Stop pushing, there is no way you're ready yet" (She was 10 cm)- Care Provider

167. "You're doing it wrong" (talking about how she was pushing)- Care Provider

168. "Stop doing that, it's not helping yourself" (the way she was working through contractions)- Care Provider

169. "On request for the epidural I got a 'no.' " - Laboring Person

170. " 'Well, you want to have this baby don't you.' Said to me, by a nurse when I told her to back the Pitocin down because contractions were less than 1 min apart for my 4th delivery." - Laboring Person

171. "I don't want to have to attend your baby's funeral." - O.B.

172. "Ma'am I am a trained and licensed anesthesiologists. You should not be feeling as much pain you're crying about." - Anesthesiologist

173. "Sometimes it's harder to keep a good reading on the fetal/contraction monitors with big girls like us." - Nurse

174. "Let's cut her to open her up a little." - O.B.

175. "Why did you wait so long to come in? (The charge nurse told her to wait and come in in the morning after she got some sleep since she wasn't having any contractions) It was her second baby, her water was clear, and

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

she was less than 5 minutes from the hospital. You only have 12 hours to deliver or I have to do a c-section. (His shift change was in another 4 hours so he wasn't even there)." - Doula

176. "Nurse: I'll help you latch right. (Reaching for breast)

Client: Please don't touch me. I've breastfed my older kids before, so I know how. And if I need help I'll ask my doula or call the IBCLC." - New Mother

177. "Client declined AROM because her gut tells her no. OB said, 'then you're not going to have a baby.' " - Doula

178. "OB repeatedly made up 'facts' to coerce patients into his will." - Doula

179. "As a doula, I was told by an O.B. that I was going to regret this night and that he would ruin me, I was fired from my doula position at the hospital 2 days later." - Doula

180. "If you don't push this baby out right now, I'm gonna cut it out." - Care Provider

181. "Doctor to client who instinctively wanted to push in a squatting position: 'Honey, you're about to have this baby and here we have babies in the bed.' " - Doula

182. "My contractions were so hard that any light touch to my belly hurt like a mother... the L&D nurse that was there insisted on "feeling the contractions" herself. I not only verbally asked her NOT to touch me because it hurt but pushed her away. It was a quick delivery. I only pushed once before he was out... but her physically feeling my contractions was unnecessary in my opinion especially when I'm already hooked up to a toco." - Laboring Mother

183. We had a passive aggressive provider. Knowing that and that he was sleeping we started pushing without notifying him. Once he woke we notified him and he promptly examined her.... (pushed the baby back out of her pelvis- we later found out) and told her the baby was not engaged and gave her a cesarean. The RN later told me, when she placed the foley in the urethra that she noted that he had pushed the baby back up.

184. I was 18 and pregnant at my last visit before my due date. She asked if I was ready to have the baby in conversation before I got on the table to be examined. Of course I responded, "yes." Not knowing she was planning to strip my membranes and send me into labor. She told me to go straight to the hospital, they would be waiting on me. They then gave me pitocin without explanation and a catheter. None of this was mandatory although I was told it was. After giving birth she pulled my placenta out by the cord. I asked if she wanted me to push and the dr said, "yeah if you want." Almost 14 years later I found out she is a drunk and has delivered several babies under the influence. She is still practicing. I didn't have another baby at the hospital. - a mother of four

185. My third birth I kept throwing up. Hindsight tells me I was having a reaction to the antibiotic they were giving me in my IV or the pitocin (my water broke and contractions didn't start so I got the pitocin after 24 hours) they had a fetal monitor on my belly but it would slip off every time I was puking which was probably once every hour or two. A nurse came in while I was puking and my monitor had come down signaling an alarm to her that something was wrong. She came in and started screaming at me (while I was in the middle of throwing up) that I had to do everything to keep the monitor on properly at all times. That I needed to "get it together" and "stop bothering her" with false alarms.

When adding your story please include quotation marks and what role the person was in that said or performed the act or was abused.

186. "I had "no pitocin" on my birth plan, that my dr said she read. After I gave birth she politely filled me in that they gave it to me anyway to "help the placenta along". Then she left and I never saw her again." - Laboring Mother

187. "I was told you can't push until the doctor gets there. Seriously I did my best to hold my 9 lb baby in for a good 20+ minutes because she kept telling me I couldn't push." - Laboring Person

188. "After my second was born I told her not to cut the cord I want it delayed. She said 30 seconds is long enough and cut it 😭 this was after harassing me for a c section through my 46 hour vbac labor 😞 telling me my baby was going to die and have brain damage. Happy healthy 2 year old now 🥰" - laboring mama

189. "They told me that no matter how much pain I'm in I got to walk it out" - Momma in Prodromal Labor

190. "Well you can wait to get the epidural but in my experience moms who wait to 8 cms to get the epidural don't like to cooperate with us." - Anesthesiologist

191. <https://vm.tiktok.com/ZMe6E44pb/>