

Patricia entered our clinic in a flowery dress and black high heels. She was greeted warmly at the reception desk of the LGBTQ clinic then asked to wait for her intake counselor. The counselor came out to meet Patricia and took her to an intake room. Patricia identified as a heterosexual, transwoman. She has been married for a little over a year to a man who identifies as heterosexual. Patricia is about 6'4" and has not begun hormone treatments. She appears to be quite muscular. Patricia states she has always felt like a woman trapped in a man's body. Before coming out as transgender, she worked as a construction worker and faced a lot of harassment when she came out publicly. She states that she struggles finding clothing and especially shoes that fit her. During the intake, she states she is not close to her family and faces discrimination in the small town where she lives with her husband.

She describes her husband as about 5'10" and very angry. He started abusing Patricia shortly after they were married. He usually punches and kicks her. Patricia is very gentle and took the abuse for some time. However, as the violence escalated, her husband continued to hit her and finally bloodied her nose. She tried to restrain him at this point, but he continued to resist. She finally hit him back, knocking him down and dazing him. She tried to comfort him, but when he was able to stand up he began threatening to kill her and went to get a weapon. At this point, Patricia called the police.

When the police arrived, they arrested Patricia. She was in jail for a night before a friend bailed her out. She then fled to another state to seek help. Believing she would find shelter there, she found a women's shelter and was initially turned away. She was referred to a men's shelter but was uncomfortable with the stares she received and using the restroom with men. At the time she arrived for her intake, she was living on the street and nearly out of money.