

Veronica
Martinez

School-to-jail-track

When I was 9 years old. Unfortunately I was put into the foster system. I was in the foster system until the age of 12 then finally my grandmother adopted me and we moved to South Central LA. Well when I was in South Central LA I loved going to school. When I was in elementary I graduated with honors a presidential award, I was a gifted student. I loved school and loved to learn. Well in 5th grade my parents didn't attend my graduation, I was mad and well rebelled in junior high school. In junior high school I got numerous tickets for truancy for throwing a milk carton @ the snack price for being defiant - for starting rallies & food fights for pulling the school fire alarm for setting the school restrooms on fire. Finally I got expelled from LA county and got kicked out of JR high school during the 6th grade. Never went back to school. No one ever helped me get back into school. I was a dropout @ age of 13th. Then I ran in the streets with the homeless & they always took care of me. They found me a place to sleep & a place to eat. - my mom never contacted me for anything. Just to be myself. -

I got locked up @ the age of 13th -
celebrated my bday in juvenile Hall.
I witnessed many things in juvenile
Hall staff working themselves in
the rooms and getting down physically
with the girls that were also
obtained. I found bugs in my food.
That was - the most disgusting
things that are happening to me
besides that, sometimes I was
humiliated by the staff not only myself
but the other girls obtained too
they would read our cases aloud
and tell everyone my name we
obtained. Then everyone would
know why or what everyone else
~~was obtained for besides that~~
~~the name~~

was obtained for.. it would
be the most humiliating thing
ever... then sometimes they
would take away our sheets
if we needed to do a need
call or make a phone call...
well pretty much I was locked up
for a very long period
I celebrated a birthday in
juvenile Hall... I used to tell
my parents not to visit me
in juvenile Hall because it was
sad