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Unknown

Homeland Security Investigations wanted to interview her about a report she made as a child in which she accused her father of sexual abuse. Her testimony was needed in a federal case against her father in order to sentence him to more than five years. Gwen would not show up for scheduled appointments, and I was brought in by the agent to assist.

00;00;22;11 - 00;00;48;24

Unknown

I told the agent that maybe we should drive out to her house unannounced and try to just build some rapport with her in her home setting. The woman was visibly shaken when we arrived. She would not let us in, as she had very little furniture and was ashamed of her unkept house. We asked her to sit in the car so we could just share some of the information about the ongoing case of her estranged father, while we were telling her about the details of the case.

00;00;48;25 - 00;01;11;10

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She began to cry, but denied any knowledge of him being this kind of monster. I was sitting on my knees in the front seat while interviewing her in the back seat of the agent's sports utility SUV. Part of my job is to explain to her that she was not the only person this had happened to, that there were hundreds of thousands of sex abuse victims, survivors in the world.

00;01;11;12 - 00;01;40;23

Unknown

She said, you are describing me. I told her you are not the reason he is going to jail. He is going because of his own actions. This is a chance to have your voice heard in the sentencing. She finally disclosed that her father sexually abused her and memorialized the abuse by taking pictures of her. Gwen said several times that she was never believed by

local police years before, when she had told them her father had abused her, she had done her best to forget the abuse and her past.

00;01;40;25 - 00;02;01;21

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She stated that she would do anything to help the young girl that he was currently abusing, although she would be very afraid to testify against her father even as a grown woman. Gwen was able to successfully testify against her father, and because of Gwen, the man was sentenced to more than five years. The United States Attorney was thrilled.

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Gwen used her own voice in a way that she wasn't able to as a child.