

# Betty Bellis

## Shares About Reuniting Her Family

When I first moved back to Vancouver, I was pregnant with Kyliegh. The only thing that I had on my mind was having my baby so I could use drugs again.

However, a couple of months later Kyliegh ended up going to foster care. After my baby was removed from my care because I couldn't stay sober, I knew that I would go to any lengths to get her back. I was accepted into YW housing (now called Second Step Housing) and I began to go to work.

I did what was suggested, went to 90 meetings in 90 days, got a sponsor, and most important, I got honest with everyone including my housing case manager and cps case worker. And I completed Intensive outpatient treatment and parenting classes.

Part of getting honest included telling everyone that I had outstanding warrants in Southern California.

The last thing that I had to do in order to have Kyliegh come home was to go to California and turn myself in. I had to go to jail for two weeks and then wait for two and half months in order to come home. In that time of waiting, I had to scramble for a place to stay and ended up couch surfing at my old friends' houses. Some of those places were very unhealthy environments, but I managed to stay sober. Then, I finally got to come home.

Since I have been in recovery, I have experienced how supportive the recovery community can be to one another. When I was incarcerated, women in Vancouver made sure that I got a letter every day to show me support.



I have also seen miracles while in recovery. My daughter's dad, Erik, followed me in to recovery. After he moved back to Washington, we discovered that Sarah Bowens, my housing case manager, was my daughter's second cousin. Erik hadn't seen his cousin in eighteen years.

Since then, Erik and I have our own place and our cps case has been dismissed. I went back to school and got my GED and I was honored with a scholarship to Clark College. I also volunteer at cps with the Parent Partners Program.

**I am a woman in recovery. I am a good mother. I am a good student, neighbor, and friend.**

**My family is reunited! Treatment works and families heal.**