

Statement of Daniella Mohazab

I am currently a master's student studying communication management at USC. I enrolled at USC in the Fall of 2015. I was 19 years old at the time. Around March of 2016 I called to make an appointment to see Dr. Patty Pinanong, a gynecologist at USC, whom I had previously seen. Because Dr. Pinanong was unavailable, I was given an appointment to see Dr. Tyndall. On April 4th, 2016, I went in for a standard STD test and to talk about medication.

Dr. George Tyndall and I sat in his office, and began to discuss my medications. He had his laptop and looked up the medications. Dr. Tyndall asked my race— I said I was Filipina. I remember that his office was messy, and there were framed pictures of his wife who is also Filipina. He wore unprofessional clothing: leather lace up shoes, loose khakis, a button up short sleeve shirt. He made sexual comments about me, and said that I was pretty. I remember him relating me to his wife, saying that Filipinas are the “smartest”, “most giving”, and “gentle” people. He told me that Filipinas are good in bed. He also said that Filipinas are devoted to their partners and that they don't sleep with many people in their life time.

He asked intimate sexual details about me and then related my answers to my being Filipina, and saying, “I guess that's because you're mixed”; again, he had a creepy smile.

Then we went to an exam room for my STD exam. Again, it was just Dr. Tyndall and me. There was no chaperone or monitor present. He told me that Dr. Pinanong had conducted the STD tests incorrectly and inaccurately. The year before when Dr. Pinanong gave me the STD exam, she provided me the swab and asked me to insert it myself. She then closed the curtain in the room to provide me with privacy while doing that.

On the other hand, Dr. Tyndall told me to undress from the bottom down, and he stood there watching while I did so and smiled. He then instructed me to lie on the examining table, which I did. I then put my feet into the stirrups. He gave me some paper to put on top of my upper legs.

Without a glove, he put his two fingers in me and felt around. He said, “I think we better use some lube” with a snide look on his face as he opened the packet of lube that he retrieved from the cabinet on the side of the room next to the patient chair. He felt around by moving his fingers around inside for a few minutes. He said that this was part of an STD test. He didn’t use a speculum or any other medical tools. He said that this was also to make sure it won’t hurt when the swab is inserted. He then stuck the swab into me as he smiled. He then put it in a vial and said we were done.

At the time, he made me feel extremely uncomfortable and violated. However, I trusted that USC would have a gynecologist who was performing STD exams properly. I was confused because of his criticism of Dr. Pinanong, but I trusted him because he was older than the prior gynecologist and I therefore thought he would have more experience in performing STD exams properly. Because I was new to USC and trusted the USC institution, I thought that I could trust him.

I am still in shock that USC had heard about Dr. Tyndall’s inappropriate conduct and had allowed him to continue practicing. Reportedly USC was aware of Dr. Tyndall’s inappropriate conduct before I was even born. USC is a great school, but this shouldn’t have happened. This incident has resulted in my being less trusting of doctors all together. I trusted USC as an institution, but USC let me down. I am proud of the steps that the administration has now started taking, but I am looking for justice not just for me but for all victims.

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