

## Lexie's Story

I am writing this story in hopes that someone reading it will please ACT and educate people about the dangers of toxic mold.

Our daughter was born in September of 2001. She was happy, healthy, and a joy to all that knew her. She passed away forty-three days later due to toxic mold.

I cannot even begin to relate the horror of waking up to kiss your daughter good morning and finding her dead. We did not realize at first what had happened. I believe someone was trying to say it was SIDS.

Our family had horrid symptoms--headaches, nausea, abdominal pain, strange sensations of choking in our sleep, loss of memory, heart palpitations, dizziness, anxiety attacks that lasted for hours, insomnia cycled with the inability to wake up, and many others too numerous to mention.

Everyone told us that it was "grief." I had never experienced anything so horrible in my life, so I had no clue that "grief" doesn't cause heart palpitations. We continued to stay at our residence, and through it all, people kept telling me the symptoms would subside--except they kept getting worse.

When we moved into the property, we noticed there was mold everywhere--ceilings, floors, walls, etc. I mentioned this to our landlord, and he assured me it was nothing more than harmless mildew. He said he had it checked out and told us to "sweep it up and bleach it." You have no idea how many times I wish to God I had known better.

A few short months after losing Lexie, our entire family started waking up covered in blood. This was definitely not from grief. I contacted several experts and started asking questions. I did research on the Internet. I talked to anyone who would listen to me. I requested a copy of our daughter's autopsy report and then had another expert look it over.

We have since started legal proceedings and had extensive tests performed on Lexie's tissues. This stuff in NOT harmless. This stuff IS DEADLY. We are taught as parents to protect our children--don't let them play in the street, don't let them get into a pool unsupervised, etc.

NO ONE and I mean NO ONE told me mold would kill my baby. Some doctors roll their eyes when they hear our daughter died from this. Others say, "Oh yes. That will kill a baby quick."

Why isn't this information made public then? Where are our government officials in all of this? The more I hear that mold is HARMLESS, the angrier I become. It is this misinformation that cost my baby her life.

And, I am not alone. She wasn't the first and sadly she won't be the last. Why aren't doctors informed about this? Isn't it the government's job to protect its citizens? I pray that people in government will start to take this matter seriously and make it a priority.

Hopefully Lexie's life, however brief, can serve as a lesson to others. MOLD KILLS and will continue to do so until our government does something to educate and protect people. Please don't let her life be in vain.

Thank you.

A mom in Texas (Lexie's mom)