

My name is Dustin Chandler. My wife Amy and I are the proud parents of three children, Colton (9), Carly (8) and Courtney (4). Our daughter Carly was born February 12, 2011. Amy had a typical pregnancy and a perfect child birth. After Carly's first seizure at eight weeks old is when our world was forever changed.

At the time, I was a police officer and worked night shift. Many nights while working my shift I constantly worried about Carly having seizures and how Amy would handle them without me being at home. We also struggled to find out what was "wrong" with Carly. After many months of tests, it was revealed to us that Carly had a disorder called CDKL5 Deficiency Disorder or CDD.

CDD is an intractable epileptic disorder which has no cure or treatments. While this is tough news to take, it was harder to know she had CDD and intractable epilepsy. Intractable epilepsy means there is little to no stoppage of seizures with current Anti-Epileptic Drugs or AED. As a police officer, we were trained to be able to handle any situation at any given time. But this time, it was my daughter and I had zero control over her disorder and even more heartbreaking, her seizures.

Her seizures were out of control. At the worst Carly was having 200-300 seizures of different variety per day and around 6-10 tonic-clonic seizures per day. Tonic-Clonic seizures are when Carly would scream then convulse. After watching this several times, I had enough and began searching for a solution. This solution was Cannabidiol which is commonly referred to as CBD.

In 2014, Alabama passed Carly's Law, named after my daughter to allow the University of Alabama at Birmingham to ability to research true CBD oil to see if it indeed did what many people at the time only had anecdotal evidence of, stopping seizures. In 2015, Carly was permitted to take low THC CBD oil administered by UAB. Amy and I didn't notice a change in Carly's seizures in a month or two, we noticed it in a couple of days. Not only did we see a reduction of seizures we also saw Carly's cognitive abilities improve dramatically. You can only imagine the relief my entire family felt. The nights of constant worry of life threatening seizures faded as time passed by. Carly's Law study gave doctors and researchers alike the data they needed to know CBD is indeed an anti-epileptic medicine. Today Carly is still taking low THC CBD oil and has been seizure free for over a year. This wouldn't have been possible without the oil.

I thank God every day that Carly was given to me. Without her I would not have been able to see what some can't, that cannabis can be medicine and has vast potential of improving the quality of life in so many people.

It's been a long emotional journey. One that began with me, a police officer specializing in narcotics investigations, fighting for the chance of my daughter to use cannabis oil and ended with that chance and doctors discovering new treatments for their patients.

I pray that you will pass Claire and Lola's Law and brighten the light of HOPE for so many Kansans.

– Dustin Chandler • Hoover, Alabama

