



Tyler's parents never married but for the first two years of his life, they both participated in his raising. When Tyler was two years old, his mother left town with him and did not tell his father where she had gone. Later, his mother went to prison and passed him off to a relative who mistreated him. He recalls that oftentimes they locked him in a bedroom while they used drugs. He would have to jump out of the window to go outside and play with his cousins. When he was in elementary school, the couple passed him off to another couple to whom he was not related. They, too, treated him poorly and he recalls having to work in the family lawn care business as a child. As a teenager, Tyler got into a fight with another boy and the boy's family pressed charges which resulted in Tyler being sent to a juvenile detention center. He completed the "boot camp" program and decided the detention center was better than the home he had had so he got himself into more trouble just so he could go back to jail. After serving his time, the authorities tried to release him back to his caretakers but they had abandoned him. He was then placed at a boys ranch where, after some bumps in the road, he began to excel. By this time he was far behind in school but earned his GED diploma and got a job. His employer quickly noticed his work ethic and knack for running a business and, after a few years, his employer moved him into a supervisory role. He is now one of the leaders of the company. When he was 20 years old, he received a phone call from a stranger who had found him on Facebook. The next day he was on a plane to meet his birth father for the very first time. Tyler would soon find out that his father had searched for him for 18 years and finally found him. The two now have a close relationship. Tyler is a role model single father to his six-year-old daughter who pays tribute to him at the end of the interview.