Kidnap victim seeks clues to identity

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By James Houndsman

Jennifer Layton endured years of abuse at the hands of what she thought were her parents. Little did she know that everything she knew about her early childhood was a lie.

Police searched the home of Jarod and Monica Layton as part of an investigation into a series of forgeries. What they found in addition to suitcases of cash and a stack of forged checks shocked even the most hardened among them.



JENNIFER LAYTON

A teenage girl was locked in the basement, living in deplorable conditions. She gave her name as Jennifer, and was assumed to be Jarod and Monica's daughter. She was taken to the hospital for a health assessment, and was released 3 days later to stay in temporary housing arranged for by the state.

During questioning, the Laytons gave conflicting accounts of their "family" that led investigators to believe that Jennifer may have been taken from her original family at an early age by the Laytons.

Jennifer was unable to recall any details about her early childhood, including who her real family was or where she might have lived before being taken by the Laytons. She saidthat Jennifer was the only name she remembers ever having.

Authorities believe that Jennifer was taken between 12-16 years ago. They are reviewing missing child cases from that period, but the Laytons moved about frequently, and have not provided any information as to their whereabouts during that time.

Authorities are requesting anyone with information relating to this girl's identity to come forward.