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Middle schoolers and high schoolers hear all the time, “What do you want to do when you grow up?” In my typing/business class my teacher came around the room and whispered to me “those are court reporting fingers”. What in the world is that? The only thing I knew about court reporters is a gal who was a court reporter rented my uncle’s house and had a baby grand piano, and that was “so cool”.

Later in middle school, we were asked to write a paper on a career. Out of curiosity, I chose my paper on court reporting. I fell in love and I was hooked.

I enrolled in college and immediately began school upon graduation from high school. I thought I was set. Well, we all know nothing comes easy and there are obstacles in life. As I was nearing graduation, my college closed. Another school took on a teach-out, but soon quit that teach-out program. Now what? I was a newlywed with a small baby! I was young, naïve, and had an attitude. I sold my court reporting equipment and used the money for living room furniture and moved on with my life.....I thought.

Working in the Clerk of Courts Office was wonderful and I was enjoying it, until one day, a position came open for a court reporter in the building in which I worked. The itch came back. My court administrator approached me with an online school and asked me what it would take for me to finish. That night I went home, talked to my husband about it, and was enrolled in the College of Court Reporting in Hobart, Indiana, for their online program by the next day. The rest is history.

Moral of the story is there was a lot of blood (not really), sweat (a lot), and tears (good and bad) along the way. I bounced my babies in bouncy seats with my foot

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while I practiced and studied. Once I realized that nothing could stop me from pursuing my dream, then nothing else seemed to matter. I graduated with honors and immediately moved into the position I had long awaited, an official court reporter.

Eight years later, I continue to be a court reporter for the Second Judicial Circuit in South Dakota. The career has taught me so much, but I'm not the only one it affects. Often I tell my kids (who are in high school and middle school now) about my story and remind them that they can do anything they wish.

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