



Ian Rosser **KY-SPIN Statewide** **Outreach Specialist**

My name is Ian Rosser. I am the Statewide Outreach Specialist for KY-SPIN. I grew up in the foster care system. I spent 13 years in care and entered in at age 8 and then recommitted at 18 to 21. With alcohol and drug abuse going on in the home among other things, Ian went back and forth from care to home, but eventually was permanently placed in states care with my mom's TPR (Termination of Parental Rights).

I experienced multiple placements, which came with different cultural experiences, school changes, family problems, group homes etc. Each place had its own set of challenges that I had to overcome and I learned resiliency throughout my journey.

Years later, I graduated high school and went on to UK (University of Kentucky) for college and ended up dropping out my first year. From there I worked retail for a year and learned about the daily grind of life and decided what I wanted more. I went to BCTC (Bluegrass Community and Technical College) and then eventually EKU (Eastern Kentucky University) where I graduated with my Bachelors in Communications/Broadcasting and Electronic Media.

After graduating, I started working in radio and in different advocacy roles for foster youth. Throughout this part of my journey, I started gaining more experience in speaking and emceeing events by reconnecting with some of the different people I met throughout my time in foster care.

Currently I am working in mental health and social work, learning about different disabilities and relating to youth using my infectious personality and down-to-earth demeanor. My humor is a rich and valuable trait that has sustained me during the tough times. I have been invited by different conferences both in and out of state either as a keynote, participant, observer, or panel member and I am always on the mission to encourage and empower other youth, parents, and providers. I have served on several boards and partnered with several organizations to build community. Wherever I go, I am on a mission to be a voice for the voiceless.



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