

Before and With CFS – WHY?

My daughter was a healthy baby, young girl, and young woman until her late 20's. She was an active young girl from babyhood on through college and the first few years in her field – CPA work with one of the big 5 firms.

She loved to play, planned her own 5 year old birthday party. She planned the decorations – hung them up as well – along with the games, invitations, you name it, she did it.

She started dance at the age of 3 and continued until the end of 5th grade. She also played t-ball up through softball until she was about 10 yrs. old. She wanted to be ready to play sports and do cheerleading at her middle school. She played volleyball, basketball, softball and cheerleading in her 6th – 8th grade years. At the same time as playing sports, she maintained an A average in all of her class work. In fact, she was the Valedictorian of her 8th grade class.

From there she moved on to high school. There she also played sports and cheered. She played soccer and cheered along with a demanding class schedule. She continued to do well with her academics. She could manage many things at the same time and did well with all that she was involved with.

Then it was time to go to college. She was accepted by the school of her choice – University of Florida. In case you don't know, that school has pretty stringent requirements to enter. She actually got early acceptance there. She knew what she wanted to do. She wanted to graduate with a degree as a Certified Public Accountant. She became a member of one of the sororities right away and was accepted. That kept her quite busy along with a very full class load. She played some sports in college, worked part-time, and finished a 5 year program in 4 years. She even talked the dean into granting her a minor in Economics since she had completed all of the course work for it. Usually students in the CPA program do not minor in anything as the coursework is so demanding.

As soon as she graduated from UF, she started studying for the CPA exam. She began her job at one of the big 5 accounting firms after graduation, but continued studying for the exam. She passed all 4 parts of the exam the first time which I understand is very hard to do.

She then worked very hard for the firm. During tax season, it was not uncommon for her to work 18-19 hours a day for days in a row. She still seemed to manage everything fine. She worked for that company for several years, then she was sought out by a head hunter for a job with a local tax law firm. She decided to take this job. Things went very well for a while.

After a short time at her new job, she started feeling very fatigued and worn out. She went to numerous doctors, but the only diagnosis and therapy given her was a CPAP machine as she had a sleep study done and they could tell she wasn't sleeping very well. Her symptoms continued, but doctors gave no definitive answers to her increasing fatigue. She finally couldn't work a full day, so she went part-time. Even though that helped, it only worked for about a year. She was dragging herself out of bed to get in the shower to get ready for work, but after that little amount of activity she would lie down for a few minutes – but often it turned out to be close to 8 hours. Eventually she couldn't work any longer. She ALWAYS went the extra mile and now she could barely keep up.

As you can see, CFS has changed the girl we knew into a young lady with barely enough energy to take care of herself. Why? We and she want some help with this debilitating disease.