

## Octuplets' Mom Speaks to Dr. Phil

N: Nadya

DP: Dr. Phil

DP: There she is. Hey girl! How are you?

N: Hi!

DP: How are you?

N: Good.

DP: Good to see you, give me a hug, I feel like I know you. How are you doing?

N: I am good. Thank you. How are you?

DP: Well, I am good. I am glad to talk to you. Did you have a busy day?

N: It is not bad, it's not bad.

DP: Yeah.

N: Everyone is really nice.

DP: Yeah good. Good. Okay so let me kind of tell you how I go about this and how I want to go about it. Okay?

N: Sure.

DP: First off, I am not in any way an ambush interviewer.

N: Okay.

DP: So I don't have some big- zinger question. Isn't it true you are a communist? That is not who I am. That is not who I am, that is not what I do at all. And if I ask you anything you don't want to talk about just so say so.

N: Okay.

DP: It's okay because I want to do this with you, not to you.

N: I'll talk about anything so that is fine, that is fine.

DP: Now, I have done a couple of shows about your situation. Have you watched them?

N: Honestly, I don't watch TV. I don't watch any TV. I don't even have internet in the home.

DP: You don't watch the Dr. Phil show.

N: I don't have internet. I did in the past. Before I...

DP: And you want to be a counselor? Come on!

N: I know that is, like, the best example.

DP: If I can't get you I am in a lot of trouble. ..

DP: Well let me tell you what.

N: I have in the past.

DP: Well let me tell you what I've been saying on the show and you can watch it to see if I am telling you the truth.

N: Okay.

DP: If I am lying, I am dying. What I have said about this loud and long - and I think Joann Killeen would tell you this because she has been there...

N: Okay.

DP: As I have said there is a huge back lash in this country against you.

N: Right, of course.

DP: And everybody has just been, just so incensed by this and what I've been saying is "people, you need to get past that because we have fourteen children here, eight new ones and six other delightful children, and this is a mom in a situation that needs some help. Let's get past this and help her."

N: Yeah.

DP: And that is what I want to come out of what we do today.

N: Really? That is amazing one, um, you know idealistic situation but I understand everybody's judgment, you know, does not necessarily mean it is truth. It does not mean it is truthful, but you know I understand it, you know I embrace it. Who am I to judge them but we all have that you know.

DP: But here is my theory. Let me tell you my theory. I think- I think from... I've spent my whole life studying human functioning and human behavior and emotion and all that and I at least have my theory about why everybody is so upset. I think they are upset because of very specific reasons and I am going to tell you.

N: Okay.

DP: And I think they need to hear you address some certain things. So I am going to ask you those questions. I want you to answer them and then I really think, I hope, that we are going to see a turn and we're going to see a shift here.

N: To learn to let go of that fixation of other stuff.

DP: Right because I am not mad at you. I am not frustrated with you. I think you got some challenges ahead of you that you don't see the way I see ... (int.) right. .... So I want to talk to you about those things. Why do you think people are so incensed about this? Why are they so mad at you?

N: One of them, one of the primary reasons, one of them- and there is multiple- is the economy right now. And so then, they're under the impression that they hear the situation and without even taking who I am as a person into consideration- which is human nature- we are going to label that person. That person is going to be a burden on society a burden on us tax payers, you know the people who are enraged at this point. And whether or not, if that is true or not, it just looked as though that would be the case.

D: Okay. ..

N: And that is understandable.

DP: I don't think that is it. That is a theory.

N: That is one of the reasons.

DP: Yeah that is a theory let me give you a theory.

N: Okay.

DP: Just see what you think about it.

N: Okay.

DP: I mean, you don't have to agree with me. I am just going to tell you what I think.

N: Okay.

DP: I think people have looked at this situation and said "okay, here is...

N: Single.

DP: You say it is because it is single, but I don't think it really matters because there are a lot of single moms in America and I think they are some of the most courageous, heroic women in the country.

N: Yeah but there are not that many, that have that many.

DP: Well, not that many, that have that many.

N: Right.

DP: But there are a lot of single mothers out there. Here is what I think is going on: I think people are saying "Okay, here is a woman that has six children...

N: already, right? ...

DP: And she is not able to provide for those six children in the way that - that would be an ideal situation. She is living with her mother, she is not able to work, she is on food stamps, three of the children are... have different challenges and disabilities, and they are saying, "given that, to go and have even- and I may be one of the only people that realizes that you did not go into this to have eight babies-

N: No.

DP: You went in to go have one more.

N: Yes, at the most two.

DP: Well I think what they are saying here is given those six and those challenges it was selfish of her to try and have another baby. Now, as it turned out against all odds- we will talk about that in a minute- you had eight. And listen, I know that was not your intention. But I think they are saying "she had these six, and because she wanted another one, she ignored their needs and went and did what she wanted to do and that is selfish." I think that is what a lot are people feeling.

N: A lot of people are angered. I think that is one valid perception. I don't necessarily - I don't necessarily agree with it and a lot of people, psychologists just will say I am defensive, but I believe that my belief is that they were there. They are frozen I did not want to look back, reflect fifty years from now...

DP: Okay but you could... you could have...

N: Yeah.

DP: Because you are very informed about this, you have studied about it a lot, you are very informed about this. You could have stayed within the IVF recommend guidelines and had them implanted two or three at a time and avoided this kind of potential outcome. And you say, "I had six and I wanted to use those six," then why didn't you not do them two at a time or three at a time?

N: Taking into consideration my previous, my past reproductive history- if I did not have those issues and if I hadn't used the same amount embryos that had to been transferred in the same amount every time consistently, with the result being a singleton, at the most set of twins, I of course that would be number one, the first obvious choice. However, with the twins, six were transferred, there is no difference, and two grew and so taking that statistic...

DP: None the less. And this- this is the dialog I want people to hear- I don't want you feel like I am attacking you.

N: No, no I understand you are playing devil's advocate because that's what people are thinking here...

DP: Yeah, no we are in this together.

N: You have to, you have to.

DP: I want people to hear this because. You're saying – you're saying that but the entire IVF and listen, I am not a physician so I am not trying to be one, but their guidelines are very clear. And this was way beyond guidelines for two reasons. Okay...number one, it could... if you had a mega multiple pregnancy it could, and very likely would, put in jeopardy the lives or the developmental curve of those children and it puts you in danger.

N: Of course.

DP: Of heart attack or stroke, and you have six children and you are their only mother.

N: Right.

DP: How in the world can you justify not protecting their mother?

N: I think upon at that time, I was focusing probably more narrow -mindedly that those lives, and I don't want to dispose of them, I don't want to destroy those lives, I want to at least attempt. Maybe one will grow, maybe at the most two. Never in my mind would I ever, considering my past, with five, five, five transferred, one growing and then six, two growing, the statistics showing it is zero percent point zero zero zero one percent of a probability that more than two would grow, that would never have phased me; I would never have fathomed that happening.

DP: Okay, but here's the thing, this is a question that, that I wonder and really try and be, because what I want out of this is, I hope that when we are through talking that you have some thoughts or insights or strategies that you did not have when you started.

N: Right.

DP: And we can talk again, I mean you know. It does not have to be all in one fell swoop here but. I wonder if you have gotten addicted to being pregnant.

N: I loathe pregnancies I hate it more than anything in the world.

DP: But you've been pregnant...

N: The only way to have the children is through IVF and it was through the pregnancies. It is the result, the baby, the child, growing, helping guide them, guiding them down healthy developmental paths, being present as much to the greatest of my ability in their lives. Pregnancy I could have done without. I, actually, after my third I looked into adoption. It is the children that I love. I looked into adoption and that didn't work out.

DP: But do you, all right, well let me ask you this then, do you love bringing children in the world and are you thinking about...

N: I love all children.

DP: ...because the time is going to come pretty soon, all these lights are going to go away and all the media is going to go away, all the adrenaline is pumping

N: I hope it is going away.

DP: But right now it is giving you some adrenaline....

N: No.

DP: ...some survival. I mean you are getting through this and God bless you for doing that, I mean you are hanging in there.

N: I don't like the attention.

DP: But you know you are going to be dealing with the challenges of raising fourteen children for the next twenty plus years. Mine are in their twenty's, I am not done parenting yet. So, is it bringing them in the world, have you thought about the demands you are going to deal with over the next twenty years?

N: I thought at the very most I'd have seven. So I was under the impression in my mind and maybe that was not as realistic as I could have been, upon self reflection now, not that I would be able to handle that no problem.

DP: So you don't think, so you don't think you are addicted to the pregnancy?

N: No I hate, I don't like being pregnant.

DP: Because some women feel different when they're pregnant.

N: No, I feel miserable.

DP: They like that.

N: No thank you no, no, no, no, never no, and that is also I want to um, eradicate that kind of rumor. I do not like pregnancy.

DP: Well, that is why I am asking, so you can explain.

N: Yeah. I hate pregnancy. If I could have used a surrogate or adopted... it is the children, they would not adopt to me because of the situation- student, you know, single, the priority would have been a couple who have been trying for so many years, I totally understood that.

DP: Okay but here is the thing.

N: But it is the children.

DP: And this is what I want to hear you explain. You didn't have a plan for these children, you didn't. And the plan that you had for the six that you have is a substandard plan I mean, you are on food stamps. You are living with mom.

N: I am not living with my mom. I wasn't. Before this happened I wasn't, I was actually able to pay her some rent and then what happened happened. I was not able to continue, I had to take a medical leave of absence from school, we were living on, you know, students loans, which was helping. Knowing I would have to pay them back. Consolidate them, pay them back as a counselor and now of course I understand. As a counselor I will probably make not enough but there are certain opportunities with that education to other outlets, not just counseling.

DP: Well let me ask you about that and maybe we can talk about some of those.

N: Okay.

DP: Because I am in that field.

N: Right.

DP: Uh, but if you get a master's degree in counseling and now this is something that I know, your starting salary is going to be between thirty-three and forty-five thousand dollars a year.

N: Way less than I made before.

DP: The estimates on raising fourteen children for a year is

N: Millions...a million

DP: ...for the first year and well over hundred thousand dollars, a hundred fifty thousand dollars. And so even if you get the masters degree which you don't have, and then even if you get a job, which you don't have...

N: Right.

DP: And even if you then had that salary, which you don't have, it's not going to cover twenty, thirty percent of the cost, so how is that a plan to provide for these children?

N: For my sixth and I thought at the most, let's say I would have seven. I thought that would be fine, I would keep going. I will get a job, hopefully with a school. I found out that there's opportunities where you can start at seventy and I had, my professors were explaining that to me, I had that little plan in my head. Okay I'm going to work in the beginning part time and then I will work full time. Nevertheless, my life and my plans completely took a different turn.

DP: Well let's assume you get the seventy thousand dollar job.

N: That is still not going to be enough for fourteen.

DP: It is not even close for six. I mean you can't...

N: I, at the time, I did believe that would have been close for six.

DP: And then if you went to get another one. You said "I love these children" and you said "these embryos are my babies." Okay now, you... and you said "you love these children." Let's look at it from the point of view of the six that you have.

N: Right.

DP: And what I am asking this for, um, I kind of explain my question so you kind of know what I am looking for I guess.

N: Okay.

DP: But the reason I am asking you is because, I want to know if you really are in denial about this or you really have the ability to put yourself in the kids' point of view and say, "Mom, we are struggling as it is and if you add more mouths to feed: A, we have to divide you up even more and you know from being an only child, you said you didn't get what you felt like you wanted and here you are, divided by six already."

N: Okay.

DP: And you are going to bring another one in. Is that at the expense of those six kids?

N: In my mind I was taking their perspective into consideration and I knew they did not feel any kind of dep - ever any kind of deprivation. They were given as much love, I mean, I believe you expand your love. You don't cut yourself up into pieces, but with the turn of the events, the fourteen, no human, no two people, no four - two couples could even give them, provide for them their emotional, psychological and physical needs. You have to embrace and accept help, help from the community.

DP: Did you want to have eight children in this pregnancy?

N: I wanted one. One.

DP: Okay, you wanted one. You did not anticipate eight. You did not want eight.

N: Oh my goodness, never.

DP: Because you said something in an interview with Ann Curry that I thought was interesting. You said...

N: At the most two.

DP: "I did this and it went perfectly." You said, "it went perfectly."

N: Oh no, no, I meant every single time I went through the IVF cycle it was perfect.

DP: Right.

N: One singleton- five were transferred, another singleton- perfect, easy pregnancy. Well, not easy, I don't necessarily like pregnancy, but the, for the baby, for each baby, it was an idealistic pregnancy, on the due date had them, zero complications. That is what I probably was trying to portray - and the twins, full term - full term- on the due date. No complications, Nothing.

DP: Right. You said: "sometimes when we have that passion and that dream you take risk and I did, and it turned out perfectly."

N: Ewww, that totally came out wrong. Let me explain something, don't interrupt me please, I don't want- out of respect to you

DP: Because, I do want you to explain that.

N: I do definitely have to explain that. Number one, that certainly came out wrong. I was not even talking about the eight octuplets. I was talking about every pregnancy. It was an ideal pregnancy, very easy. I don't, like I said, don't like pregnancy, but the baby's were perfect, they were healthy, they came out perfectly. This was completely out of the ordinary, obviously, for some people say freak- freakish. Because they are not real to people, these are human beings and they are actually really healthy, but it is not real; it is still not even to me. But it is not real; it is still not real for me, not real to my children, so this took a, totally turned. An unexpected turn of events and I have to alternate my entire life to accommodate them. That is human nature; we have to change in order to accommodate the unexpected.

DP: Right, and so that's why I'm asking you that. I love that you explained that.

N: And I did want to mention something about that, I had given birth a week. I had given birth - every mother can identify... given birth a week earlier to eight babies, extraordinary pain sitting in the chair for five and a half hours with one break, one break. They were wonderful though, they were so helpful and respectful and kind but I wanted so badly to express myself and to, to kind of eradicate all of those lies and rumors and that just had nothing to do with my family or me, that I just felt it was

worth it. But at the same time I was so depleted. I had an hour and a half of sleep before. So, I try to be as articulate as possible, you take any human being in the same situation and you put them there, they may not be able to communicate at all.

DP: All right, well that is why I wanted to give you a chance to explain that. I can't, I could not believe that you thought...because I mean an IVF specialist will tell you, that more than twins is considered a failure.

N: Right, well, it is a risk.

DP: Because it's a risk to you and to the children, that that's considered a failure. So, you don't think it worked out perfectly that you had 8 babies?

N: No, no, no. They are perfectly miraculously. But never – initially, I wanted one healthy, fat baby, strong baby. At the most two, because the twins, that was easy delivery, easy pregnancy, they are perfectly healthy. So, at the most you would think, "oh six were transferred with the twins." Now the same amounts of embryos are transferred the last thing anyone could ever imagine or ever anticipate or conceptualize, was more than two.

DP: Alright, let me ask you this. If you had six children, which you did...

N: Okay.

DP: And you sought to have eight babies. Would that be selfish?

N: That is insane.

DP: That would be crazy.

N: Yes, that is insane. Yes, absolutely that- that is not even heard of! I mean, how could you?

DP: If you did this on purpose, you would say, "you're crazy?"

N: Absolutely. Well, that is probably why people are thinking...

DP: You see why I ask you these things.

N: That is insane.

DP: I want to clear this up.

N: That is a loaded word, but that's not, that's unbelievable. You don't do that.

DP: Okay, and here is the thing...

N: That is insane.

DP: ...and I do want people to understand. Because I've looked at the statistics and the likelihood of having this mega multiple pregnancy like this, is like point...

N: It is like nothing.

DP: It's like oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh one.

N: Yeah, that's what I researched. Yeah, exactly.

DP: It's like one one-hundredth of a thousand, or something.

N: It is almost not part of science anymore.

DP: It's an infinitesimal chance. And, having been thru five other pregnancies.

N: Right.

DP: With six embryos implanted each time.

N: Right, five to six.

DP: Your history was that it yielded a singleton or in one case, twins.

N: There you go. Thank you. And, plus I went through- they are not taking into consideration my past history. Seven years of infertility, seven years.

DP: Okay, that was past history,

N: Right.

DP: You had a relevant history that said...

N: It started to work.

DP: ...five to six implantations yields a singleton

N: Right, results in...

DP: A singleton or twins.

N: Right.

DP: So, in fairness to you, of course they could all split and then you can have twelve or eight...

N: Oh boy.

DP: ...or whatever, but that was a long, long shot.

N: No human could ever imagine.

DP: Do you agree... so do you agree that if you sought to do that, that you would be crazy?

N: Beyond crazy.

DP: And that would be at the expense of these other six children.

N: Absolutely! Absolutely, and I knew in my heart I wouldn't have done it, had I believed one would have significantly affected them negatively- I never would want anything negative, anything to harm them in any way emotionally, physically, physiologically. So, one baby, using my embryos I don't believe...I whole heartedly didn't believe it would have affected them negatively whatsoever and - and anything - if that had not worked- all done. I just wanted to have that attempt so fifty years from now I don't have to reflect back and regret not having attempted.

DP: I understand. Let me ask you something that bothers me. And you can see this is another thing that people need to hear you explain. You said that one of the theories about why people are so judgmental about this is because you're single. You're a single mother.

N: Meaning?

DP: That's what you said.

N: I think not just that. There are some many different, like little branches to this tree, its not just single, that's only one branch, I think there's so many other reasons.

DP: Well let's talk about that branch.

N: So many, yeah so...

DP: Let's talk about that branch because you are right. There are a lot of different things. Let's talk about that branch.

N: Okay.

DP: Because, I don't really think that's one, but nonetheless.

N: Okay.

DP: Um... you said you made the choice...

N: Right.

DP: ...that you didn't want a father in the picture.

N: Um, that's not fair to the kids. I'm not going to say that indefinitely. I'm just saying that that is what ended up...

DP: But that is what you did, right?

N: ... happening. Right. I was married in the past. I tried to do it the right way for children that I thought I would have with my husband. It didn't work out the way I anticipated. I was trying to pacify family and to do it according to the way, you know, society says you should do it and I was miserable.

DP: But...

N: I was young too.

DP: But if you by design, try to do this as a single mother rather than have a father in the picture...

N: That comes across as extremely selfish.

DP: Yeah, and so I'm just... that's why I want to ask you about that.

N: Right.

DP: That is selfish.

N: I believe it is, but I don't believe I am. I believe my mind set after having more children, I believe maybe in the beginning, I was so desperate for one child. I wanted so desperately, since I was little, to have one child.

DP: Why so many?

N: It worked.

DP: Why six or seven?

N: I wanted a huge family since I was little and it worked. Oh my goodness how old was I twenty-four, twenty-five, it worked with one and he's amazing. He's beautiful. And he's a challenge, but I love it and this is my calling and I want to have a huge family. I'm going to do it again. And so I did it again. And then I had my daughter.

DP: Well even your mom who has been very, sometimes, critical of you, says that you are a very loving mother.

N: Yeah, you know because, it's the anger covers, we all know, it covers so much more underneath. And it is the fear and the hurt and underneath her anger. Anger is just a cover up I think.

DP: Okay, and I'm going to ask her to join us in a little while. Not now, but in a little while, because I want to talk to you about this.

N: Okay.

DP: I've- I've said many times not just to you. I'm going to say it to you now because I think it's something I want to hear you respond to. That I've heard couples that are married and they're fighting so they decide to get pregnant because they think if we have a baby...

N: I know where you're going.

DP: ...then that will heal us up. And, so actually, the baby is born with a job. You know like the mom and dad...

N: That's triangulation.

DP: Mom and dad aren't getting along so they bring in a baby, hoping the baby will heal it. So, the baby is born with a job. You said that you had this void from this dysfunctional childhood. And so, you wanted this-this big family. Are they born with a job of filling your void?

N: Take a couple into consideration, couples that have twelve or more children. What about them? What is their real motive though, for wanting more and more and more and more? Why are they exempt from being labeled and being called all kinds of negative terms, just because they are married? I do feel part of it, part of the anger

and, and that people are experiencing is because I'm single and I chose to have so many. Had I chosen one, two, or three that's actually acceptable but so many.

DP: I don't think anybody would... I don't think we would be sitting here right now.

N: No, of course not.

DP: I don't think people would be making death threats. I don't think people would be making these crazy statements

N: Oh, no there wouldn't be any, any kind of issue.

DP: But we're not talking about somebody with twelve kids and a couple, we are talking....we are talking about you. And were these kids born with a job? Were they born so you can have somebody...

N: (interrupted) I have acknowledged that to myself before having them that I don't believe in families, in general who place that, that unacceptable and inappropriate role. They basically delegate that role onto the child, usually the older ones, then expect them...

DP: Right.

N: ...then to help the younger siblings, I don't believe in that. I actually have, that's my bias towards other families.

DP: What's the biggest mistake you've made in all of this?

N: The - the greatest mistake I've ever made?

DP: No, not ever made...

N: In all this?

DP: Yeah, don't ask me that question because I, it would take me a month to answer it.

N: In all of this...

DP: In this situation of having these eight children on top of six children and the positions you've taken since... I mean...

N: That's a good question.

DP: ... we're in a situation right now, if you had a do-over.

N: Okay right, right, right.

DP: Remember when you were a kid and you would get a do-over? Kings X do-over. What's the biggest mistake you've made here? What do you wish you could redo?

N: Well, in hindsight you know I think every single human being looking back would change things. You know, had I known, let's say you could reverse and see eight coming... maybe I would have then, hypothetically speaking, had fewer transferred, but that at that point I would have never had imagined more than one, two at the most growing. So perhaps that I would change but then I... at the same time it's like a catch-22, because here, I love these babies. I love my older children and I don't regret any of them. You know, I do not apologize for any of them. I do not. I would never want to get rid of any of them. They are amazing miracles, human lives that deserve to be... here now that they're here.

DP: Well of course now that you have them and know them...

N: Right.

DP: ...you kind of grow on them.

N: If I never knew them.... I think out of the... for my other children, and the benefit of them. I would have probably transferred fewer, but how would we know? How would we have ever imagined?

DP: Okay, well, but-but you agree that in given the results-

N: Oh, of course.

DP: 20/20 hindsight is great. It was a mistake.

N: If we had that ability, sure.

DP: Given the result, was it a mistake to transfer those six embryos?

N: I don't believe anything was a mistake. I believe that considering... I'm going to reiterate.... considering my own history; that the six resulted in two and then of course it's- it's that what is the probability that happening again?

DP: If you knew you were going to have eight, would you have done it?

N: No.

DP: No.

N: No.

DP: So...

N: I don't regret it and I don't apologize for it. And I love them. So I don't want anyone to misinterpret that as me saying, I wish I hadn't done it.

DP: But it wasn't an ideal outcome?

N: Because I love them.... absolutely not.

DP: It would have been better if you would have done three and had a singleton, three and had a singleton, or something like that?

N: A singleton...right. Healthier and safer.

DP: Because the point isn't...look, I'm a parent and so just take the Dr. Phil hat off for a minute and let me just talk to as a dad.

N: Okay.

DP: I got two boys.

N: Right.

DP: My executive producer has a set of twins.

N: Okay.

DP: And one of them is a diabetic. And she works full-time.

N: Hmm.

DP: Let me tell you that....that is full time.

N: Yeah it is.

DP: No mother...

N: One child is full-time.

DP: No mother with any sense of reality is going to say, "I've got six. I think I'll go have one more." What drove you, when you've got ...you said having one is full-time...

N: Right of course.

DP: ...you just said that. You've got six.

N: That's reality.

DP: You've got six and you say "I'm going to go have another one."

N: I adore my kids I love them and I had my other children that were frozen.

DP: But then, shouldn't you put your interest, their interest, first and say "I love them and so I'm going to focus on them. They're enough. This is enough for me. This is enough for them."

N: I know. I'd say that's probably one of my faults. But I don't regret it.

DP: What is the fault?

N: That I- that I just didn't leave those embryos there. I couldn't have disposed of them though. I am, maybe I am denying something. Maybe I am rationalizing constantly that they were there and I just felt as though I have... I'm their parent. Those are lives. They will dispose of them by defrosting them and they will then be real human lives. How can I let that happen?

DP: Well, at one point you had many, many embryo, right? I mean you've had many, many embryos because you've been in...

N: Right, right.

DP: There's been like forty or fifty.

N: I don't know, I didn't count them.

DP: Well you had five...

N: Right, I had five.

DP: ...fertilizations.

N: Right.

DP: And you had five or six in each one and then you had six left. So you're talking probably forty.

N: Right, yeah, maybe thirty-five.

DP: Does that mean you need to have forty children?

N: No, of course not, because we know the statistics.

DP: Well that's what you're saying.

N: And the chances are...

DP: You're saying...

N: Right... but then you...

DP: As you said...

N: ...you know that you attempted, it wasn't meant to be.

DP: Could you share them with someone else; somebody that is really struggling and doesn't have any?

N: I'm sure many individuals, many people, would be okay with allowing a child to grow up somewhere else and not knowing that child. But for me, that would cause pain. And I- I personally, that's just a personal thing, I wouldn't want.

DP: Well here.... let's talk about the result of this, okay?

N: Okay.

DP: And here is my concern about this. One of the things I talked about in the show that I've done, because my wife and I are very involved in an organization called CASA, which is court appointed special advocates for foster children.

N: Okay.

DP: We work a lot with disadvantaged children in that regard. So I am very familiar with the guidelines that child protective services embraces...

N: Okay.

DP: ...the guidelines for adopting by most state agencies. It varies state to state but there are guidelines.

N: Okay.

DP: The guidelines for having foster children in your home; you don't meet any of the guidelines. If because they have, the number of children...

N: Right.

DP: ... could only be so much.

N: Right.

DP: There has to be a separate bed for each one.

N: Right.

DP: There has to be stability of income to provide for them.

N: I'm sure.

DP There has to be all of these different criteria....and I don't think with the six you do. But certainly, with the fourteen, you don't even almost meet the criteria.

N: Probably not.

DP: You couldn't adopt these fourteen children. So, if somebody was standing on the outside saying, "okay lets see if she is ready for fourteen children?" The answer would be no.

N: No, of course not. And that's where I have to learn to let go of needing....of feeling the internal need to do everything on my own like I had been, desperately attempting to with the six. I have to completely change my entire mind set and accept help. I'm accepting help and there's a tremendous amount of help out there. I'm genuinely appreciative of it. But it is hard to let go because of that sense of guilt.

DP: Well, I want to get you more help. I mean that's that. I mean, I'm on a mission here, I do, I want the companies to help. I want to break that lose here.

N: Really, thank you.

DP: That is one of my objectives in being here. But if you frustrate them so much because you say, "that is one of my faults, but I don't apologize for it. That didn't work

out. But that's okay." It's because... that's just... if you were a counselor, because you want to be a counselor...

N: Yeah.

DP: ...and a woman came to you and said, "Okay, now Miss. Suleman, I'm a single mother and I have six children. I can't feed them without government assistance and living off borrowed money. And I'm staying with my mom right now. And I haven't worked since 1999. And I want to go back to school..."

N: I could have worked.

DP: ...but I want to go...

N: I'm like rationalizing it... I could have worked.

DP: ...but I want to go...

N: But I wanted to be in school.

DP: ...and have an in-vitro fertilization for another kid." And you are her counselor. What are you going to say?

N: I would have tried to delve into more of the history about why. You can't just say, you certainly can't give advice. No, counselors don't give advice. But you have to...that's just that's...

DP: Sure they do.

N: They shouldn't. (begins laughing)

DP: Oh sure they do. They...

N: Some do. Well, really the goal...

DP: ...of course, they are going to stimulate the thinking they're going to get people to...

N: That wouldn't be my goal, to give advice or to judge her. It would be to understand her and to try to have her...

DP: But she's coming to you for an objective input to say "is this fair?"

N: That would be just an intake.

DP: "...is it fair for my children? What should I think about? What should I consider?"

N: Consider the realities of course, the risks, the consequences. It is ultimately up to the person, how they're, what they're going to choose in their life and their world. But I wouldn't give advice. We are trained not to give any advice.

DP: Yeah. Do you know who Kate Gosselin is?

N: I've-I've heard of her, of that.

DP: "Kate and John plus Eight."

N: Yeah.

DP: She was on our show several years ago and on again recently talking about you and your situation. She has nothing but the best wishes, nothing but the best for you and...

N: Aww...that's nice.

DP: ...I think she would love to meet with you and chat with you. And I'd recommend ya'll do that.

N: Yeah, that would be nice.

DP: Have lunch sometime. Here is what she said, when she had a different procedure but she wound up with sextuplets...

N: Yeah, right.

DP: ...and had a set of twins so they have eight.

N: Right.

DP: Uh, not fourteen, they have eight.

N: That's true.

DP: And she said, "In the first year it took fifty people a week.

N: Right, I believe it. Oh 100%.

DP: To take care of these children....

N: I believe it.

DP: She said I had fifteen minutes a day...

N: mm-hmmm, right.

DP: ...that I was able to go outside and sit down. I went through thirty thousand diapers.

N: I'm sure, I'm sure.

DP: Um...

N: I believe it.

DP: Now that was for eight kids and six plus her two twins... or set of twins. And we're talking now fourteen.

N: Right.

DP: So, if you extrapolate that, you're talking about seventy or eighty people a week...

N: I'm sure.

DP: ...eleven cribs...

N: Right.

DP: ...two beds...

N: Right.

DP: Uh huh, bunk um.... did...

N: It's called baby steps. I have to calmly think in my head and write down with the help of as many people that have already asked me if I could, if they could help and it is so hard. It was harder for me to accept help then it is to have experienced... to have experienced the pregnancy, the delivery.

DP: Well, let me take a break here and say something to the camera.... She needs some help.

N: (laughing)

DP: She needs some bodies, some hands, some loving care for these kids. Okay now, Nadya the train is rolling down the track, and you know I think what, I think frustrates a lot of people is you have what I guess I would call kind of a Pollyanna-ish air about....

N: Okay that's sort of true.

DP: ... this life "well you know we're going to be okay," but the train is rolling down the track. You're having, you're getting ready, not all at one time... but they're going to come out staggered.

N: Right. Three at a time... well three, they are coming out already so...

DP: Okay when?

N: In a few weeks. Within a few weeks... when they're strong and everything.

DP: Okay, you say a couple weeks. Okay so you say they're a couple weeks away from having nine children at home.

N: Right, right.

DP: Three of them micro-preemies.... or certainly preemies. That you're going to have to be, that you're going to have to be dealing with.... what's the plan? You say...

N: The plan is I know in my mind...

DP: You going to trust in God to do this?

N: I have a plan, of course, but then He gives me the strength, He gives you the strength and that's what I'm planning everyday. It may appear to people that my... my affect may appear nonchalant, and not worried. What good is it going to do for my children- any of them- for me to be completely distraught, overwhelmed and anxious?

DP: Oh. I don't want you to be distraught...

N: Yeah, like...

DP: I want you to be on task.

N: Right. Well yeah I am- I am...

DP: I want us to get a strategy here. I want us to be – I'm offering help you know?

N: Oh I know.... there's uh...

DP: Because...

N: ...group of social workers that are helping me in the hospital already they're coming out...

DP: Oh, and God bless them because they are so devoted.

N: They've already come out. Absolutely, I am so appreciative.

DP: They are so devoted, God bless those people and Kaiser Permanente...

N: ...is wonderful.

DP: I think they did such a terrific job!

N: Amazing job!

DP: In all of this... but let me ask you; you were pregnant with these children for thirty weeks- you thought, I'm having seven children?

N: Yes.

DP: For thirty weeks?

N: Right.

DP: Why do you not have any plans in place?

N: Um, they were planning; we were coming everyday. The social workers were up there every single day. It's not something that I openly talked about to people.

DP: Where were you gonna put them?

N: Um, we were also talking on the phone.

DP: Openly talk about it now...people need to know.

N: We were talking on the phone and my mom was already talking with her best friend who is a real estate agent and they have already been looking and I can't stay at that house. It's going to be help, help from multiple people, that are going to help us out of the house and we are going to be in a safe environment that's conducive for these children.

DP: Okay, because here is the thing, I don't want you to embellish the situation in the positive so you don't seem irresponsible in the...

N: No.

DP: ... moment.

N: Right.

DP: If you don't have the plans in place you need to say so, so we can help.

N: Right, right.

DP: Because if you're saying, "I got it," then people are going to say, "hey she's got it."

N: Not all of it... not all of it.

DP: But you don't have it do you?

N: No, not all of it, we're working on it, it's – it's starting to look a lot more positive.

DP: You don't have the money; you don't have the man power...

N: Right.

DP: ... You don't have the housing.

N: The man power is starting to happen. It's starting to come in and they're going to do a walk through with neighboring churches and they're going to be coming in to physically get the house ready. Simply, just because uh, just in case I don't move on time for let's say the three, or two or three come home. So, then after they're home already, then I move. I'm not going to stay, I can't stay there, with that many kids.

DP: Well you can't right?

N: No, it's too small.

DP: Because if you stayed in your parents house at this point...

N: My mom's house.

DP: ...at this point you, your mom's house, there would be seventeen people, sixteen, seventeen people in there....

N: No, she's not. We don't live together... I mean, I'm like, "we don't live together." I don't know, that's kind of a misconception.

DP: Well, where are you going to put these babies?

N: No, I don't live with my mom. I haven't lived with her in about five, six years. I was renting from her and then it was an emergency when I had to leave for the hospital. She came and temporarily stayed to help out.

DP: Okay so, that hasn't been an ongoing thing.

N: No, I have never been.

DP: That's just been a now thing, I just want to know, okay.

N: It was a temporary thing, yeah.

DP: Okay, but you realize these people, these children, wouldn't fit in this house.

N: No.

DP: The one that you're...

N: They don't no.

DP: Talking about, that you've been living in.

N: Unless it's been expanded and changed and tore down and the backyard. It's made two-story.

DP: Talk about this and this is- and it may seem trivial -but I think it has a lot of people up in arms. There are people that have been making donations and dropping food...

N: Oh, yeah.

DP: ...and diapers and things like that off, right?

N: Um, there have been, there have.

DP: There have been.

N: There have been very positive people.

DP: I think some of those people feel really funny when you're photographed getting your nails done or going to Nordstrom...

N: I want to explain that.

DP: I want you to.

N: I really do.

DP: I want you to explain it, I want people to hear it.

N: This is interesting, right? With the nails, the day before I had the babies, I was really kind of down, because I knew, I had no signs of labor. I knew I could have taken them a lot further, at least a few more weeks, and one of the babies had stopped growing. So, I obviously would never want to sacrifice that one baby for the others just getting bigger. So, my friend came in and she brought a person with her to do nails and hair. And she cut my hair and she did my nails, and I was really reluctant because of the breathing in any fumes and the doctor said it was okay, because it was right, you know, the day before and she didn't do it where it would be... there was a fan in my face and it was it was okay. It was nothing I planned, and then what happened was, there was an emergency, like a crisis intervention, where the public relation team took me and hid me. So, I was hiding so I wouldn't be inundated by the media. So, when I was in hiding they were still on... it's not like I went out and did them and what happened was later, before I went to the NICU, I went and had them cut vey short as short, you know, shorter and that's where they saw me. I didn't even know they were following me, ridiculous. But they followed me and I didn't know they had been following me.

DP: But you went and got your nails done?

N: No, I had them cut, yeah, I had them cut. But I didn't go get them done. A friend brought someone there to the hospital to do them for me. I haven't taken them off yet, but I cut them. And in regards to Nordstrom's, we didn't shop there.

DP: Well see most people.

N: I took my daughter for a special day just for her. Because since I was in the hospital I promised her that I would take her, by herself without her brothers. So, yesterday I took her, I didn't know they were following us.

DP: But you understand why people are asking. They see...

N: We went through Nordstrom's. I didn't buy anything.

DP:.... because they're making donations and we can't... there are people making...

N: I didn't shop there.

DP: There are people making donations that can't afford to shop at Nordstrom.

N: We didn't shop there. I just went through it, because it was more private.

DP: Well, that's why I want you to say that, that's fine.

N: It was underground, well not underground but it was more private in the structure of the parking lot, of the parking structure. And they still found us and they said "ok we're going to give you a break we wont follow you," apparently they did, anyway. We went through Nordstrom, went to the restrooms, then we went to the mall. Then I took her to the Disney store.

DP: But as you sit here right now, you don't have the money, housing, transportation or plan to handle these fourteen children.

N: The plan is definitely being, is underway but not big enough. I think enough plans for enough physical, maybe people helping, volunteers, yes.

DP: Alright, well let me ask you this way then. As you sit here now, you don't have the money, the housing, or the transportation to handle these fourteen children.

N: There you go, right there.

DP: Ok now you think that you got, you're working a plan, but you don't have that.

N: Temporarily, if I am unable to go rent somewhere else, because that is a goal of mine, my mom's friend is working on finding a place, even just to rent. Then we are going to fix up, change the house with all the man power, as you said, to alter it, so that it is safe for these babies, temporarily.

DP: In 2000, you were evaluated for a workers comp claim.

N: Ok.

DP: And you were injured in 1999?

N: Yes.

DP: You got hit with a chair? Knocked over?

N: I got attacked by a, by a patient, she's, I don't want to give her information, but it was a riot.

DP: No, no, I understand. But you...

N: And I tried to beg them to let me go back.

DP: ...you had a fall,

N: I loved that, I loved that job.

DP: ...and you got hurt.

N: Right.

DP: It's been reported in the media that you told a psychologist at the time that you suffered from symptoms of depression.

N: Um hm.

DP: Suicidal thoughts, wild mood swings.

N: I never had suicidal thoughts or wild mood swings. I did have an inability to trust because of what happened. I had re-occurrences, like, when I was sleeping. And so that turned out, they said that that was a form of post traumatic stress. Depression? No, not so much. Just not being, not working, but that allowed me the opportunity to go back to school.

DP: But did you report that?

N: Well, I was probably down because I wasn't working.

DP: Because I'm just saying, this is what this is...

N: Yeah, no suicidal thoughts.

DP: Ok and PTSD?

N: PTSD.

DP: OK.

N: Yeah.

DP: Have you had treatment?

N: That was a long time ago.

DP: treatment care for that?

N: Temporarily. That was a long time ago. It hasn't been for years, years.

DP: Okay, transition for you.

N: Right.

DP: You transitioned out of it.

N: Of course.

DP: How are you doing emotionally now?

N: Emotionally now, I feel I know it bothers people but I don't feel overwhelmed. If I had no people asking to support and to help this, me and my family and me, I would feel completely overwhelmed. I'd be terrified. But I, there's so many positive people that, have all the moms and teachers at my kids schools have just offered. Yesterday they called and now they are offering a tremendous amount of support. I would have never expected that.

DP: Do you want to know what I think?

N: Yes. [laughs] Sure.

DP: Do you want to know what I see when I look at you sitting in front of me?

N: Ok.

DP: I see a really well intentioned, and loving mother and woman. I truly do. But, I think that your Pollyanna spin to all of this; your unwillingness to face the harsh realities of what lies ahead...

N: I do in mind...

DP: ...is going to jeopardize your ability to affect a plan. And you say you do in your mind, you know, talk to me about it, what is in your mind? People need to know that you, that you get it. I mean you're getting ready to have fourteen children at home and you say "I don't feel overwhelmed." If you don't feel overwhelmed it's because you're not in touch with reality.

N: I have to be honest with you, I don't think any of us are yet. It hasn't materialized yet. I go to the hospital- I'm torn okay, right now, that's how I'm feeling I think emotionally- I go to the hospital and I'm holding them – kangaroo care - and singing to them and rocking them, but they're all not with me at home. So, I 100% agree with you, the reality hasn't set in yet. You know, here I am, a mother of eight at the NICU with the help of nurses right? So, I don't feel it yet, I don't feel the pressures yet. They're not home and then I have the six and I'm trying my best to balance out okay, with being present in this other kids' lives. Plus, being with the other babies, you know, I want to clone myself. I keep telling NICU nurses I wish I could clone myself and I can't, so I'm trying to make myself bigger and you can't.

DP: I don't know a woman on the face of the earth that wouldn't be just scared to death right now about what lies ahead. And I'm not trying to panic you or stam pede you.

N: You're trying to face me with reality.

DP: I'm just trying to give you a reality call, a wake up call here, because I am concerned. Here is what I want: I want to see you five years from now and you yell across the street "hey Dr. Phil" and I say "hey Nadya," and you have this whole gaggle of happy, just really vibrant, robust children around you and it looks like a mother goose going into the water. That's what I want. To get from here to there you got to get your head in the game. Because you're like, "oh, we'll be fine," and I don't think that that's going to happen unless you make it happen and I don't think people are going to help you unless they know that you get it.

N: I think I'm going to get it fully when they're all home. [Laughs] I'm being honest, it's... even when the three come home, then I'm going to start to really get it. It's going to be extremely challenging and overwhelming. And I don't want to waste energy being completely overwhelmed because that doesn't do the kids any favors. I mean that doesn't benefit them in anyway.

DP: Do you trust your problem recognition skills?

N: I think so. I believe so.

DP: Do you trust your problem solving skills?

N: Yes.

DP: Do you think that you are ready to face those harsh realities when they come or do you need help?

N: I think both. I think I need help, I have to let go of my need to control everything and accept the help for the benefit of the kids and at the same time, I think that no human being could ever be ready for this, ever. You're ready? You're never ready. They come home and then the hard, the extraordinary reality hits you. It just hits you, but you keep going, you just do it. That's how mothers are. This extraordinary, I would say most people would say, 'stressor' will, has compelled me, it will compel me even more to tap into my greatest inner resources and strengths, like I've never known I had. I think it would any mother though, I'm no different then any mother.

DP: Are you through having children?

N: A bazillion percent and that's not a number. A trillion percent!

DP: Because you have said that before.

N: Oh, um, actually, I told my mom so she wouldn't always be so stressed out and worried, but I always knew I had the frozen embryos there. So absolutely, 100% and that certainly wouldn't benefit the kids, none of them.

DP: Because you know that they went, they say at least, that they went to the doctor and begged and pleaded with him not to do this again.

N: Oh, I know what happened, no he accidentally called my mom's number rather than mine and then my mom had asked him, "please, you know, don't do that again. Don't help her out again." They didn't go anywhere, that was just a, that was a rumor.

DP: If you had additional embryos right now would you implant them?

N: No I wouldn't. I would just keep paying the storage fee until the day I died.

DP: Well, what's the difference between now and when you implanted these last six?

N: It's very different now, because the family size has more than doubled and that is a genuine reality check for me and absolutely not. Absolutely not, I wouldn't do it again. With the six, I felt as though I could handle another one, one more.

DP: Would you agree that a family of six is a good sized family?

N: It is, it is, it is.

DP: That that's big enough?

N: For who?

DP: For you.

N: For me, I wanted to try--yeah it would have been.

DP: See, here's what I'm thinking. If you're saying that, if you said that you were projecting your needs on to them, you felt a need for siblings so you wanted them to have siblings, so you did it not because they were showing any pain but because you were feeling it. And so one sibling wasn't enough and then two wasn't enough and then three and four and five wasn't enough, how much is enough?

N: That's a good question and now I know it's enough. Fourteen is enough. But I would have thought seven would have been enough.

DP: You're done for sure?

N: I would have been done at seven, yes, one hundred percent, beyond that. It's not, it, that would be the epitome of selfishness to do it again.

DP: If you couldn't dispose of those embryos then, why could you dispose of them now?

N: I wouldn't, I wouldn't. You can continue keeping them stored forever and ever.

DP: But if you're not ever going to use them.

N: I just wouldn't dispose of them, those are lives.

DP: But you would not implant--

N: I would never destroy them, no never, no, no and there are none.

DP: So, why didn't you just leave those last six there?

N: Because I felt in my mind they're there and I didn't want to regret it in the future and I had the six and I knew I could handle another one.

DP: Well, I do give advice is there anything you want to ask me? Anything I can do to help you, we haven't talked about.

N: Um...

DP: I mean seriously.

N: Probably how to get even more help for the children. You know at this point, I'm at the point where there is so many people offering assistance and help but I'm wondering are there other avenues I haven't looked at on how to..

DP: Because you are worried about this?

N: Of course.

DP: Because I wonder, I know when you're out in public or when you're in front of a camera or something I know that you have to be sick of....

N: Yes, I don't like it.

DP: ...that we all put our best face on.

N: I kind of hide.

DP: But I know that at three o' clock in the morning when you wake up and stare at the ceiling, that you got to be thinking, "what in the hell am I going to do?"

N: I think I'm going to be doing that more when they are at home.

DP: Yeah, but you'll be up at three thirty. [laughs]

N: Right, I'll be distracted with the precious distractions, I'll be taking care of them and doing as much as I possibly can, I won't have time to try and reflect on that.

DP: Are those eight going to absorb so much of your effort and energy that these six over here are going to feel neglected?

N: No, no. I am so fortunate--

DP: How can you be in so many places?

N: Because I am so fortunate, not me. One human can't do it, I'm fortunate to have--

DP: But they only have one mother.

N: Family, grandma, grandpa, all the teachers and the moms from their school are unbelievable and they just not want to help with the babies but they want to help with the older kids.

DP: Well, you know that grandma has got to be your number one ally in all of this, right?

N: Yeah.

DP: Let's bring her in and talk to her for a second, ok?

N: Ok.

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DP: Dr. Phil

A: Angela

N: Nadya

DP: Thanks for sitting down and joining us um, I have um, come into this with a purpose and a mission and that is to put those 14 children above all else. What are we doing for the 14 children, what can I say that will cause people in America to get past their anger, get past their resentment, get past their frustrations? And so I said, I wanted to ask Nadya some questions that I thought people needed to hear the answer to. And one of the things I've said to her is that I think, I said that I asked her, do you want to know what I think and what I see? And she said yes, and I said that I see somebody that I do believe is very loving. But I see somebody that has such a Pollyanna disconnect with the real world realities of what she is getting ready to face, its like she's on a Disney ride.

A: You hit the nail on the head

DP: What do you think?

A: Exactly, I agree with you. Totally.

DP: You do?

A: Yes

DP: Where does this come from?

A: I really don't know.

DP: We're talking about you like you're not even here

A: Well you know uh, I was always a very realistic person, always took care of whatever needed to be taken care of. And there's this Nadya and she's living in a dream world, and I just don't know.

DP: Has she always been like this? As her mother, why can't you get through to her?

A: I don't know, I tried many times. You know she was always very, very into children, you could say. She just talked about having a lot of children, and I was thinking, "oh my goodness she hasn't even finished college and she wants to have children." So I took her to a psychologist and the lady told me she couldn't do anything with her, sorry, I have a sore throat. She couldn't do anything with her, because she didn't think she could change her mind, so that was the last time we saw her.

N: The one reason is because she tricked me to go. She said that we were going like out to dinner or something like that.

DP: She tricked you to go?

A: I tricked her.

DP: What do you think about the psychologist who worked with you saying gosh, I can't

N: You can't get through to me? The thing is that we are all aware of something that some people don't change, right? So it has to stem from internal motives to change. If you don't feel as though you, at the time, I was also very immature. I still may have more of that injury that may be contributing to that immaturity, that attitude or whatever

DP: That Pollyanna. Do you know what I mean by that?

N: I think a lot of it may be immaturity

DP: Because, you know I grew up really poor. Like you didn't work, you didn't eat. Not only did you not have to work to eat, you had to work and get paid today to eat today. That's how poor we were. And when I see you saying I've got six children, and I don't have the ability to provide for them in the way that I want to, and I'm having to rely on a mother to help me here, I think I'll go have another one. To me, and to everybody in America, that is just, girl, you're not playing with dolls. These are real people, real lives and you're going to have to feed them and clothe them and guide them and educate them, for the rest of your life. And, for all of their lives. And, so when you can't handle the six you got, having even one more seems to me, to be way out of touch with reality. What do you think?

A: I totally agree with you --

DP: Did you know she was going in there and getting fertilized again?

A: Uh no, that was the big surprise, I was very angry. I was very angry at her for doing this like this, because she has six children already and she can't really...

DP: Did you lie by omission?

N: No I never mentioned it. I just didn't really communicate.

DP: That's what lying by omission means.

A: That is lying by omission

N: In my mind, my mentality was, that I could do it on my own. I was able to, I believed with the help of, of course with the help of school, I think that is what helped me the most. The loans helping me and the children survive on these loans, knowing that I would pay them back when I'm working.

DP: Yeah but listen, living on borrowed money is not making it.

N: Right

A: True

DP: Living on borrowed money is a fiction, that's a fiction. Because you've got to pay that back. So, if you're like people living off of credit cards, or go get a bank loan and go on a vacation, you're living on borrowed money, that's not making it. You weren't making it when you had the six.

N: I didn't know how else I was going to get my degree.

DP: No, I understand. But that's not the time to go have the seventh.

A: That's true

DP: If you're not making it with six, then you don't have the sev-, you don't have the right to have the seventh. You haven't earned the right to have the seventh, you can't provide for the seventh, so you don't do it, right?

N: Yeah, that's true.

DP: But you did.

N: I did do it. That was in the past.

DP: Why?

N: I did it because in my mind at that time, it was right. It was right.

DP: What made it right?

N: It was rationalization. Rationalizing in my mind.

DP: But you agree that that's not mentally competent, that's not stable at that moment?

N: At that moment

DP: To rationalize that in a moment, that's just not good thinking.

NS: Probably not at the time. Also, immaturity. I think I just wanted so desperately not to dispose of those babies, not to kill them, and they were still lives, those embryos. Had I just had the six, nothing frozen, I would, nothing, I'm done, six.

DP: But as you said, you could have left them frozen.

N: Forever.

DP: You didn't have to destroy them.

N: It was a choice I made at the time. It was a choice I wanted a huge family. I could keep rationalizing and rationalizing.

DP: But do you get that you couldn't afford it, and that it didn't, it wasn't great for these six to do that.

N: Right.

DP: And that's what you're saying right?

A: Now she's getting it.

DP: You think she is getting it now?

A: Yeah.

DP: Why?

A: Well because everybody is telling her, how are you going to provide for them? What are you going to do? You know, you don't even have a house, you live in your mother's house. You know, this kind of thing, so I think that were starting to--

N: I know, but also the appreciation I'm developing. So much appreciation for everyone stepping forward and trying to help, that I need. You know, in hindsight I don't know what I was thinking. How- I know I loved my children and I knew I loved those embryos.

DP: So, you see now that it was wrong?

N: I do see. Maybe that choice was wrong, you know, to add another one, and I thought it would be one.

DP: I'll give you that, the first minute we sat down, I said I knew you weren't going after 8.

N: No.

DP: But do you acknowledge that that choice was wrong?

N: I do.

DP: And that is huge for me, and I think it is huge for people in America. Because, I think that they're saying ok, if she gets it, if she gets it, because I don't really have the problem everybody else does, with it turning into eight. Because that was such a long shot that that could happen, and I understand that.

N: Yeah.

DP: It was a risk, you shouldn't have taken, because of the risk to your health and the risk to these babies health. And you don't even know what that is yet, until they start growing and you find out what it is. But the chance of all 8 of them being fully normal with developmental courses, is probably zero.

N: Just like this pregnancy was.

DP: Yeah, I mean it's just not going to happen, so you're going to have these challenges. You even lied about your first pregnancy.

N: No, that, I have to explain that one. I do want to explain that one.

DP: Didn't you tell your mother you had a tumor?

N: No I -

A: You did, you did.

N: Mom, it was called an ovarian cyst and I had it. I had an ovarian cyst.

A: You said it was a tumor and you would not admit. She was getting bigger and bigger and-

N: I need to explain something. I never said the word tumor. I need to explain something. My friend who didn't know the word ovarian cyst, may have said that accidentally. But what had happened is that I had an ovarian cyst and the pregnancy exacerbated it. And so I was just mentioning that that's true, they're collecting a fluid there. The only reason I didn't communicate it openly is because I tried for seven years, and this actually worked. And I was having so many complications that the doctors said my insurance, my doctors, my insurance was--

DP: But you still hid it?

N: They may, may not.

DP: You still hid it? You still hid it from your own mother?

A: Oh, yeah.

N: That it may not continue growing.

DP: Listen, I know a lot of women who don't like to announce a pregnancy until after the 1st trimester.

N: Yes, thank you.

DP: I mean really, because I'm trying to be fair, I'm trying to be fair here. And so--

N: And that's right when I hit the second trimester.

DP: But you understand why she has a trust issue with you?

N: I know and she also tried to understand that I was almost, in my mind, I was 100% certain that I would--

DP: What did you think when she came home and said, I'm pregnant with seven babies,

N: Oh, that was before that...

A: Oh yes, that was a (?). She

N: You never said no

A: She never chose to remember, she never told me the number

N: Yeah.

A: Totally, remember.

N: I started out telling her what happened with the ultrasound. At first, they saw five. Then, I, a week later they saw six.

DP: Ok, well let's start there. You have a daughter with six kids, who, you are, having to help support.

A: Oh, yes.

DP: And, and.

A: I was really shocked...

DP: And she comes home and says, "Oh by the way I'm adding five more to this. We're going to go from six to eleven."

A: Well you know, I was very angry at first.

DP: How do you feel now?

A: Oh, you know those babies are here. So, the six, uh, you know, the six that she already had, I'm just joyed. They're just beautiful, beautiful children. Very intelligent, I love them dearly. I thought, once I held two of them and she and she had... they, they're in this world now and...

DP: It melted your heart when you saw them?

A: Yeah

DP: Is it impolite of me to ask me how old you are?

A: I didn't tell anybody my age. I have an issue...

DP: Don't answer, don't answer. Don't answer. But let's say you're certainly at a point in your life--

A: Yes, too old to raise all of these babies.

DP: That, that is my point. My question to you is

N: Not in a million years would I-- I want her to be able to come and visit everyday or whenever she wants and be refreshed enough to be, to be able to be present with them--

A: A nice thought

N: And be able then to enjoy them.

DP: Oh, Polly, oh Pollyanna...

N: don't call me Polly.

A: That' s, that's I'm, that's going on your middle name.

N: No, no, no, hear me out. Hear me out. Because if she were to live with me, with all of the cries and all of the inordinate responsibilities that there will be, um she will be completely frazzled and overwhelmed. What kind of a, she wont be able to be at her best as a grandparent, or give them what a grandparent should give the children.

A: That's why were not going to live together.

N: No it's better to have --no we won't no.

DP: But you understand, I think that's a great thing to say, but--you going to the hospital tonight? Did you ask her to watch the kids?

N: I should say, no, you know what, I got someone else. So...

DP: Did you ask her?

N: My first choice, you want to know why my first choice

N: I just want you to know.

A: I told her no.

N: It's a trust issue. It's a trust issue for me. So, you know that grandma is there, then things will probably be okay. So, you know what I mean? And they are so attached to her. So that's first choice, and then there is also--

DP: Did you ask this doctor not to impregnate her again?

A: Oh yes I did.

DP: What did you say to him?

A: I asked him, I practically begged him. She already has six children, please don't do it again. He promised, he promised.

N: You know, you told me he said, no comment when – he said no comment.

A: No to me, to me.

N: He said he can't make a comment. Remember you told me that in the conversation, that he says he didn't say your comment.

A: He can't comment, but I asked him and he answered.

DP: Alright, let me ask you this. You need help.

N: Yes.

DP: You can't do this, I'm trying to visit harsh reality and go uh, uh, uh. Okay, so you got to have help.

N: mmm-hmmm.

DP: And what is it, you- millions of people are watching right now.

N: Don't remind me.

DP: What is it, that you want them to know, that will inspire them to help. I know it's hard for you to ask for them to help you, but we are talking about your fourteen children. Be a mother, what do you say to people that are watching right now, to, to, to get past the anger and help these fourteen children.

N: I'm not asking anything for me. And I'm actually still have that guilt, to- I'm reluctant to ask for anything for the kids. But I know for, that it is in their best interest. So I'm not asking anybody who is struggling, because oh my goodness, so many people, too many people are struggling.

DP: You're struggling.

N: Everybody is struggling right now.

DP: You're struggling.

N: Yeah, and so, then if anyone were to help it would be something physical for the kids. A car seat, or a box of diapers

A: How about a house?

N: No, you can't ask that.

A: No, we don't ask that, but I'm saying you need a house--

N: It's inappropriate.

A: So, my real estate lady, my best friend actually and uh I actually went to look at some houses and we were kind of thinking about maybe we could rent one. Is it, still, there still is fairly high, especially when you look for a five bedroom house. We couldn't find any houses that were bigger than five bedrooms.

N: I think that is enough. A four bedroom, for now.

DP: As you, as you evolve and face issues and challenges, whether it is mentally, emotionally, familial, or whatever, um and you are in need of resources, uh I want you to pick up the phone and call me and let me help with that. And see if I can point you to the right people, the right places, recruit the help to do that. I want to tell you that I'll take the call and I'll do what I can to steer you the right places and steer the right people to you and these fourteen children.

N: Thank you so much

A: Thank you.

DP: And I wish you the absolute best. I hope you're seeing this a little clearer than when we started.

N: Yes I am, I am. I am not like, I never say that. I read the news and I am reluctant to say that this wasn't a wrong choice. Just because I don't want anybody to conclude that I

A: Don't love the children.

DP: It's not about that, it's about was the choice wrong? You know the children, you know, I've said it a million times. Sometimes you make the right decision, sometimes you have to make the decision right. You have to make this decision right.

N: That's right.

DP: And that's where we are.

DP: I hope this has helped.

N: Yeah

DP: Has it?

N: It is, I love how you phrased that, exactly what you said. That's very much so.

A: I told you he was great. [laughs]

DP: You told her what?

AS: That you were great.

N: She watches your show. I don't watch TV.

DP: Well, do you think I've said the right things to her?

AS: Oh, yes.

DP: Ok, I do wish you all the best, I really do, and I want to hear from you. Alright, ok, thank you.

N: Thank you.

DP: Alright.

(end of interview)