



Guardian ad Litem

Information Gathering and Report Writing

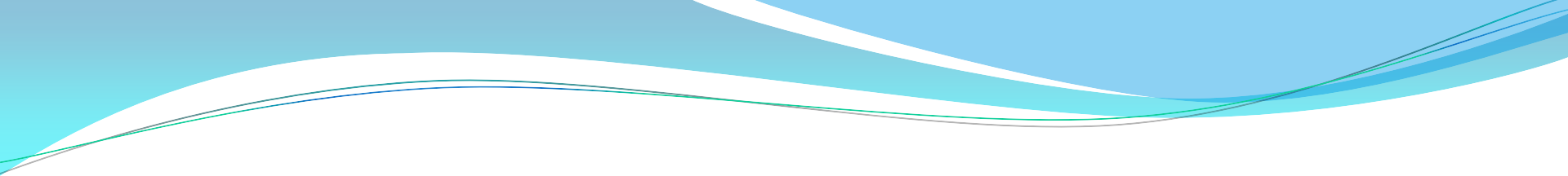


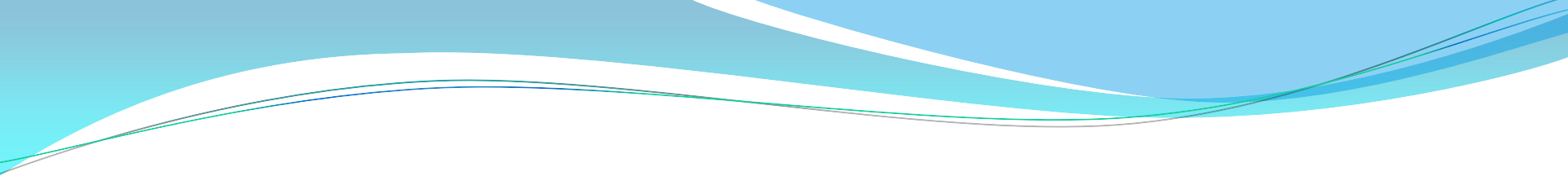
Very Important Reminders:

- Visit your child at least once monthly
- Prepare a visitation report
- Provide the information to your Child Advocacy Manager (CAM)

Gathering Information

- Full address, general description, condition, and cleanliness of the home
- Names and relationships of all people living in the home
- Bedroom, sleeping arrangements, and other provisions for the child Child's hygiene, grooming, and dress
- Caregiver's work/school schedule
- Arrangements and provider for child's daycare or after-school care, if applicable

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- Child's academic information
 - Child's medical conditions or diagnoses and specific information regarding all medications prescribed for those conditions
 - Any special services that child is receiving and names and contact information of service providers
 - Any financial assistance that family receives for the child

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- Interactions between child and other people in the home, particularly parents or custodians
 - Frequency, nature, and duration of parents' contact or visitation with child and child's behavior or demeanor afterwards
 - If a child has been separated from his/her siblings; frequency, nature, and duration of child's contact with siblings

Subsequent Visits

- Changes to the child's health status
- Update on counseling services
- Status of child's visitation with parents
- Status of child's visitation with siblings
- Parent's case plan compliance
- Child's wishes, feelings or comments that they want conveyed to the court

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR SANTA ROSA COUNTY
JUVENILE DIVISION**

IN THE INTEREST OF:

CASE NO: 10-DP-XXX

Johnson, Susan DOB: 03/03/2001
Johnson, James DOB: 07/01/1998

Minor Children _____

GUARDIAN AD LITEM REPORT TO THE COURT

Guardian ad Litem: Sharon Smith
Type of Hearing: Judicial Review
Date of Hearing: 08/30/2010
Case Plan Goal: Reunification
Length of time child in out of home care: 4 months
Number of placements: 2

Recommendations:

A. Placement: The children are currently living in two different family foster homes. Susan has been in her current placement 2 months and James is in a therapeutic foster home and has been in his current placement 3 months. The children were not able to be placed together at this time, due to James' sexualized behaviors.

B. Services needed for the child: James continues to require specialized foster care and weekly counseling. His continuation with medication (Abilify and Prozac) remains a recommendation. Susan would benefit from tutoring, as her grades are below average.

C. Visitation: The children have weekly supervised visits with their mother. Due to the mother's progress in counseling, unsupervised day-time visits are being recommended. The father's whereabouts continue to be unknown. An active warrant remains in effect for him. It is recommended that his visitation remain suspended. The children are continuing with therapeutic visitation and it is recommended that their contact continue as recommended by the therapist.

D. Permanency: The Case Plan Goal is Reunification with the Mother. The GAL is in agreement with this recommendation.

Children's Wishes:

Both children have expressed a desire to be reunified with their mother. Susan has stated that she would like to see her father. James does not want any contact with his father.

Timeline to Permanency:

- A. **Shelter(s) Date:** The children were removed from the parents April 4, 2010, due to allegations that the father sexually abused James and the mother did not appear to be protective.
- B. **Adjudication of Dependency Date:** June 1, 2010
- C. **Current Case Plan Acceptance Date:** June 1, 2010
- D. **Case Plan Expiration Date:** April 4, 2011

Children's Status:

The children were previously placed together in a family foster home, however that placement disrupted after it was discovered that James was attempting to act out sexually with another child in that home. James has been in his current placement 3 months and Susan has been in her current placement 2 months. Susan was moved from the former foster home, as those foster parents were

moving. Both children appear to have adjusted well to their current placements, as evidenced through observation by the GAL and reports by the foster parents. The GAL visited with the children in their current placements on 6/30/2010, 7/15/2010, and 8/15/2010.

James has been diagnosed with Major Depression and Sexual Abuse of A Child. He is receiving weekly counseling and medication management through Lakeview Center. He is currently prescribed 10mg Prozac and 5mg Abilify daily. He began taking these medications 7/10/10. Neither he nor the foster parent report any side effects. He is being monitored monthly by his psychiatrist.

Susan has been diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder is receiving counseling every two weeks through Children's Home Society. She is not currently prescribed any psychotropic medication. Her therapist and the GAL have discussed with Susan that the court will most probably not permit her to have contact with her father due to his behaviors.

James is performing at grade level and is attending Workman Middle School. Susan is performing below grade level and is attending Blue Angel Elementary School. Susan has been tested for learning disabilities and none were found. Her teacher has recommended she participate in a tutoring program.

The Case Plan goal is Reunification with the Mother with a goal date of June 1, 2011. The mother is demonstrating Case Plan compliance (Counseling with Lutheran Services, Medication Management, Maintaining Employment & Housing). The father is not participating at all and his whereabouts are unknown.

Sources Contacted/Consulted:

Jennie Jones, FSC; Susan Johnson, Child; James Johnson, Child; Wendy Johnson, Mother; Adam Smith; Teacher; Kelly Thomas; Teacher; Foster Parents; Lisa Jackson; Therapist

Summary:

The mother is progressing with her ordered Case Plan tasks. Her insight regarding the abuse of the children is improving. Expanding her visitation appears to be appropriate at this time. Her continued participation in counseling will be a benefit to reunification. Law Enforcement continues a search for the father and an outstanding warrant for his arrest remains in effect. Continuation of the children's current services is beneficial to their well-being. The GAL and the therapist have explained to Susan that contact with her father will probably not be permitted by the court.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ _____
Guardian ad Litem
Guardian ad Litem Program

/s/ _____
Case Coordinator/Volunteer Supervisor
Guardian ad Litem Program

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by U.S. Mail /facsimile/hand delivery this ___ day of Month, 2012, to:

By:/s/ _____
GAL Program Attorney

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA
JUVENILE DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF:

CASE NO: 12345

CUNNINGHAM, MICHAEL JOSEPH (DOB: 08/20/2011) CJ#: 11-DP-
XXX

DIVISION: G

(A MINOR CHILD)

NOTICE OF FILING

COMES NOW, the Guardian ad Litem Program, by and through its undersigned attorney, and hereby gives Notice of Filing with the Court the following document:

- Guardian ad Litem Memorandum to the Court for Judicial Review Hearing
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that copies of the foregoing Notice of Filing and Guardian ad Litem Report have been sent via hand delivery to: Judge James E. Sandiford; and via electronic mail delivery to: Patricia Stringer, Esquire, Department of Children and Families; Brenda Roberts, Esquire, ORCC; Ellis Montgomery, Esquire; and Kay Hartnett, Family Services Counselor, Families First Network, on this ____ day of January, 2012.

JOSEPH H. TRAMONT
Program Attorney
Guardian ad Litem Program
1800 St. Mary Avenue, Box 3
Pensacola, Florida 32501
Phone: (850) 595-3725
Florida Bar No.: XXXXXXXX

GUARDIAN AD LITEM MEMORANDUM TO THE COURT

GAL Case Coordinator: Suzanne Brody

Type of Hearing: Judicial Review

GAL Volunteer: Roseann Markham

Date of Hearing: January 31, 2012

CHILD'S CURRENT STATUS:

Michael Cunningham, age five months, tested positive for opiates at birth, suffered severe withdrawal symptoms, and was placed on methadone, from which he has since been weaned. At this point, the child appears to be doing fine in terms of his health and has recently been discharged from medical foster care but is still residing with the same foster parents in Okaloosa County. The foster mother had been assisting in supervising the parents' visitation and reports that both the mother and father have been visiting consistently and handling the baby appropriately. The baby has been visiting overnight with his parents since December, and John's foster mother is in support of reunification with the mother at this time.

PARENTS' STATUS:

The mother, Janie Garnett, resides with her father, the maternal grandfather, in Cantonment. FFN reports that the mother is actively engaged in working on her case plan tasks. Ms. Garnett completed her bio-psychosocial assessment, has attended six of eight parenting classes, has been testing negative on urinalyses, is participating in substance abuse classes at Lakeview Center and attending support group meetings at WISE, and has been visiting with the baby regularly. While the mother is unemployed, the maternal grandfather is supportive of her and the baby living in his home.

The father, Joseph Cunningham, had been residing with the mother in the maternal grandfather's home and was visiting consistently with the baby while living with the mother, but he has since moved out and is unemployed as of this writing. Mr. Cunningham began but has not completed his bio-psychosocial assessment, so we do not yet know additional case plan tasks will be recommended, although he has attended most of his parenting classes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Guardian ad Litem Program respectfully recommends to the Court that:

- Michael be reunified with the mother, with the condition that she live in the maternal grandfather’s home, and remain under Protective Services Supervision for a minimum of six months;
- the father continue to have unsupervised visitation until he completes his bio- psychosocial assessment and begin working on any additional tasks that might be recommended; and
- the parents ensure that the baby attend any and all medical appointments that might arise.

Roseann Markham, GAL Volunteer

Date

Suzanne Brody, GAL Case Coordinator I

Date

Joseph H. Tramont, Program Attorney
Florida Bar Number: XXXXXX

Date

In Review

- Visit your child monthly
- Provide the information to your CAM
- Provide the information to the court