



The CASA Project, Inc
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**3rd CASA/GAL REPORT
WORCESTER JUVENILE COURT
WORCESTER SESSION**

This report is of a confidential nature prepared for the Court. Copies are distributed to counsel to be reviewed with the parties. No additional copies of this report may be made.

(Report is to be sent to your supervisor 10 days before court date)

DOCKET NUMBER: **JUDGE:**
REGARDING: **DOB:** Spell out date
HEARING DATE:
CURRENT PLACEMENT TYPE: Kinship/Foster Care/Residential Placement
NUMBER OF PLACEMENTS SINCE THE CHILD CAME INTO CARE:
DAYS IN DCF CUSTODY:
DCF SOCIAL WORKER

ALLEGATIONS LEADING TO REMOVAL

CURRENT STATUS

CHILD

- Lists dates of visits and if they were in person, by Zoom or FaceTime
- What the child would like to tell the judge
- What the child has said about their placement, visits, therapy, and/or other significant events • Indicate if the child is unable to make a statement
- If child is nonverbal, CASA can state relevant observations o Example: Jessica is 2 years old and nonverbal. Jessica continues to struggle to speak and mostly communicates through sounds, physical gestures, and cries. Jessica very much enjoys engaging in interactive and pretend play.
- Does the child have any particular needs: technology, clothing, shoes ?
- Is there anything the child wants to do (lessons, sports, etc.)?
- Does the child have unmet needs?

CURRENT PLACEMENT:

- Type of placement, foster home, kinship placement group home or other facility. The placement address should not be on the report.
- Who else is living in the home?

- Where does the child sleep, do they share a room?
- Are foster parents getting child to appointments?
- General condition of the foster home

EDUCATION:

- Name of school and grade, or daycare.
- Educational rights holder—if not the parents when the rights were limited.
- Identify if the child is in special education and date of the most recent IEP.
- Post-secondary plan.
- Current grades or other examples of how the child is doing.
- The services referred to, providers and status

MENTAL HEALTH:

- Is the child in therapy? With whom? Provide date of start. In person or tele-health
- What type of therapy: Family? Group? Individual?
- How frequently are they scheduled? How often do they attend?
- Does therapist feel as though child is making progress

MEDICAL • The services referred to, providers and status.

- How is the child's medical health overall?
- Date of the last well-check and results of it. For children under 3 years, list developmental milestones and when they were achieved.
- Are the annual dental and physical examinations up to date? Provide dates of exams.
- Is the child on any medications? List all meds.
- What is the medication for?
- Is the child compliant with medications?
- Does the child see a specialist?

VISITATION

- What is the visitation schedule with parents? Supervised/Unsupervised
- How do the foster parents describe the child's behavior prior to, during, and after visits: Is the child anxious or acts out? Excited, reluctant, ambivalent?? Who gave you that information?
- Discuss with your supervisor if you should be attending a supervised visit.

PARENTS

ACTION PLAN COMPLIANCE: (reasonable efforts)

- What is the DCF goal: Reunification? Adoption?
- If reunification, is there a reunification plan.
- What are the specific safety issues that are preventing the child from returning home?

Docket # Honorable Judge (enter name) Month date, year (of writing court report)

- Is DCF working with the family to provide services?
- Are all parties compliant with the action plan? Address each task and whether the parties are compliant:
 - Have the parents signed consent forms for CASA to obtain info from service providers? I
 - Is the DCF worker meeting with the child regularly?
 - Does the child have a transition plan (if aging out of foster care)? When was the last time it was reviewed?

DCF GOAL

Is CASA in agreement – if not, specify with one or two bullets why not

- Parents are not engaging in services.
- Child is unstable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Example:

- 1. DCF conduct a home study for the maternal grandmother*
- 2. That the child receive physical therapy*
- 3. Parent/child visits be increased*
- 4. That parent/child visits cease, by recommendation of the child's therapist*

REPORT WRITING NOTES

CASAs provide the factual information on which they base their opinions and recommendations. This section should contain only the facts that were found during visitations, interviews, and research since the last court report. Behaviors, situations, and important information from reviewed materials are also to be described. All information should be given with its source and can include direct quotes from the people interviewed. Quotes must be correct and not taken out of context.

This section should contain descriptions of the CASA's visits with the child and the interviews with people about the case. Descriptions should include the child's placement, development (emotional and physical), academic work, and any services received. The CASA should also address the services that have been provided to the parents. Descriptions should not include the address of where the child is staying or the last name of the foster parents. Services should be explained by the type offered, how often the child receives the services, who is providing the services, and the results of the services.

For the child's academic needs, court reports should address how the child is doing in school. Note any changes, positive or negative. Also, the report should contain descriptions of any learning disorders or special needs that have or have not been met, including the services offered for these special needs.

Depending on how far along the case is you will want to describe your experiences with the parents of the child. Visitations with the child are to be described, how well the parents and child interact, and any services that are needed by the family to allow the child to be returned home, if appropriate.

Court reports must be objective. Any statements or observations must be supported by factual information, witnesses, and quotes. Without a basis in fact, assessments can be challenged as being biased and uninformed. Court report descriptions should also be as short and direct as feasible. Important details cannot be left out, but clear descriptions do not need redundancy.

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1990 requires that "reasonable efforts" be made to prevent or eliminate the need for removal of a dependent, neglected, or abused child from the child's home and to reunify the family if the child is removed.

Reasonable Effort: 1) to keep family together; 2) to reunite families; 3) to enable a child to have some other permanency plan.

The reasonable efforts requirement is designed to ensure that families are

provided with services to prevent unnecessary disruption and foster care drift. To enforce this provision, the juvenile court must determine whether the required reasonable efforts have been made.

CASAs should be addressing several issues with respect to reasonable efforts.

There should be a brief description of the action plan, including any progress made and obstacles to fulfilling the action plan. In thinking about reasonable efforts you will want to include explanations of any services being recommended and provided to the parents and child. This explanation must state whether the services are being completed, if they are having success, and any obstacles to the success of the services provided.

Example:

The DCF goal is to reunite the children with their biological mother, with a target date of 1/20/21. DCF has identified the following tasks for the parents' completion:

Parenting classes = Mother has attended all ten of her course meetings and participated in each session.

Father has attended one course and did not participate during the discussions.

James has been provided with therapy to address his emotional and behavioral problems. His behavior has not improved.