



What Should I Recommend?

I'm Dave DeHaven, a Newberg resident and volunteer with Yamhill County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). I try to find happier endings for children who have been abused or neglected.

Last week, I began telling the story of a recent case that was both straight-forward and puzzling to me. Two children were living with their dad's aunt while I helped decide what would be the best permanent situation for them.

I talked to the children. They were happy. They wore clean clothes and were eating meals regularly. It was clear that they loved their aunt, who was enthusiastic about parenting them. She had a wonderful spirit, saying, "I can do this, I know I can do it."

Still, it was possible the mother could work to regain custody of her children. The state found her living

in Albany, but she was still using drugs. She came to one of the three court hearings but wouldn't talk to me. Although she told the judge she wanted her children back, she hadn't visited them despite being given several opportunities.

I visited the imprisoned father. He wanted what was best for his children. He swore he was changing his life, but liked the idea of his aunt raising his children if he couldn't. At least he could still visit them.

If the aunt were given permanent custody, would she be able to meet the many needs of two young children while also working? She would be in her late 70s before the children were grown. Was that fair to her or to the children?

Two young lives would be greatly influenced by my recommendation. As their CASA, it was time for me to be their voice.

To be continued on Wednesday
Read Part 1 at www.yccasa.org

Yamhill County Court Appointed Special Advocates are volunteers who are trained to serve children who have been abused or neglected.



CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

More information is at
www.yccasa.org or (503) 434-6668

Our next training begins Sept. 19.

Apply online or request more information.

Some of the details of this case have been changed to preserve the anonymity of the people involved in it.

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