

## **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE REPORT**

This report is confidential and for the benefit of the Court. It may be distributed only to parties to the proceeding.

**NAME OF CHILD:**

**AGE:**

**CASE NO:**

**TYPE OF HEARING:**

**DATE:**

**TIME:**

### **PERSONS INTERVIEWED:**

< Be specific in regard to a person's title (i.e. Science Teacher, Smith Elementary School) and describe how he or she is related to the child (i.e. Maternal Grandmother instead of just Grandmother.) Do not list foster parents names unless it is a relative.>

### **SITUATION:**

< This section should be a summary describing the shelter date and circumstances that brought the family to the attention of DHS (original allegations and specific safety concerns, etc.) Once written this section can be cut and pasted into the next report unless significant events occur that materially affect the status of the case. >

### **SPECIAL INFORMATION:**

<This section should include how long the child/children has been in care and how many placements. (Please note if placement is relative or non-relative.) If more than one placement briefly explain why (foster parents requested move, child's behaviors, etc.) This is also a good place for a short narrative describing the child, how he or she is doing at home and/or school, and any other information to help the court know this child. Other information could include specifics on the placement (how many children (bio and foster) are in the home, what are the ages, etc.), education (academic progress, educational needs, achievements, school changes), visits (are they happening, how often and with whom?), mental health/medication (any treatment plans, wrap services, significant therapist notes, prognosis, have medications started or stopped?)>

### **ASSESSMENTS:**

<This section is more focused on the parents and their case plan compliance. Suggestions might include: Are parents engaged in court-ordered or other non-court-ordered services (counseling, CD, parenting classes, etc.), are they working their action agreement, showing up for visits (if applicable) and if so, are visits going well? Are they incarcerated? If so, for how long? Do you think parents understand DHS' expected outcomes? Has there been a psychological evaluation? If so what were the recommendations? What is the status of housing, employment, establishing natural supports, avoiding unsafe people, etc.>

### **CONCERNS:**

<This is the WHY of your recommendations and should directly relate to information already provided in your report above. In short summarize what concerns you have about the case as it relates to the child's best interest. Offer fact-based information gathered from interviews, observations, visits with the child, reading discovery, speaking with the service providers and

your common horse sense. If you have concerns about how the parents are doing or how the case is progressing (or being handled) list it here. Examples might include too many delays (hearings reset), not enough FDMs, visits that should or should not occur, services that could be offered, if the current placement is meeting the child's needs and how the child is managing as a ward of the state. If you have no concerns this is where you would state this.>

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

<Here you condense all your conclusions into small nuggets of recommendations. If possible keep them brief and bulleted. Based on your investigation, monitoring and (now) reporting, what do you think is in your child's best interest? What do you want the judge to know?

Some Examples could be:

- \* Permanency needs/actions – should DHS remain involved in the case, plan change, etc?
- \* Placement – should children remain in current placement?
- \* Education Needs – should children be on an IEP?
- \* Mental/Physical Health – Do children need counseling, medical attention, medication changes?
- \* Visitation – More, less, sibling visits - are they happening?
- \* Court-Ordered Services - Are parents making sufficient progress?
- \* Relative Search – Are all options being explored?

**Respectfully Submitted by Court Appointed Special Advocate; YOUR NAME HERE**

Type your name here  
CASA Name

Type today's date  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
CASA Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Cc: DHS Caseworker <Fill the names in this section out please>  
Attorney for Child  
Attorney for Father  
Attorney for Mother  
AAG, Simonne Weyand