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**CASA COURT REPORT**

**TYPE OF HEARING**

(e.g. Child in Placement Hearing, Six Month Review, Permanency Planning Review, Guardianship Review, CIP Review/Contested Hearing) This information will be found in Quest.   
**DATE**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

Child’s Name

Petition #

DOB (Date of Birth**)** & Age

**Date of child's CASA appointment (This is the date on your CASA court order)**

**CASA ACTIVITIES (**record of contacts made with interested parties**)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Relationship To Child** | **Type of Contact**  **(Calls/visits)** | **Dates of Contacts** |
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**CLIENT CONTACTS**

Where and when you visited with your CASA Child and what you did during the visit (s).

**RECORD REVIEW** e.g. BCDSS Records, Therapy Records, Education Records, Medical Records, Psychosocial Evaluations

**Orders from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hearing:** (previous hearing)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Ordered** | **Status** |
|  | (implemented, partially implemented, or not implemented) w/short explanation |
|  |  |
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**HISTORY**

A **brief** factual history to include the specific circumstances that brought the child(ren) into care.

* If this is the first court report for the case, this section should summarize when the case came to the attention of DSS, why, placement history, date found CINA, permanency plan and when CASA was appointed to the case.
* If this is not the first report for this case, use the history section from the previous report and add the last report current situation as well. Note where the child is currently placed and the date that they were placed there.

**CURRENT SITUTATION**

**Remember, we report facts only. Be objective. Do not write what you think the Court wants to hear. Always cite the source of information and use quotations to reflect their statements.**

The CURRENT SITUATION briefly focuses on pertinent information that will alert the Court to the child’s development, progress or needs AND on any and all changes in circumstances of child(ren) or family since the last court hearing. Expound upon the current situation in each section below.

**PLACEMENT**

Which placement (the number) is this for the CASA child? What kind of placement (in home, relative care, out-of-home, foster care home, group home placement, or residential treatment center)? How is the child adjusting to the placement? How has the CASA assisted the child in this adjustment?

Compliance or noncompliance with previous court orders.

**VISITATION**

Who does the child have visitation with (parents, siblings, extended family members)?

Is the visitation supervised? By whom, and where does the visitation take place? How often do the visits take place? How consistent are the visits? Does the child have phone contact/email/texting contact with parents, siblings/extended family members? How does the child and other parties feel about these visits? Does the child/other parties want more frequent visits, overnights, not want to continue with the visits? What does the caregiver, therapist or worker say about the visits and the child’s behavior before or after the visits? Are there any concerns or issues? Does the child miss their family? Does the child cry after, during and/or before visits? Does the child interact with the family, ignore the family? How do the parents, siblings and child interact with each other? Are they happy to see each other, are they disinterested? Who provides transportation to and from the visits?

Compliance or noncompliance with visitation plan.

**EDUCATION**

Where does child attend school? What grade? Does the child receive special education services? Does the child have a current IEP (Individual Education Plan)? Progress report re: report card/attendance? Share all information pertinent to the child’s presence and behavior in school. Extra-curricular activities or tutorial services need to be mentioned if provided or needed.

Compliance or noncompliance with previous court orders.

**THERAPY**

If child is in therapy, therapist’s name and what organization they are associated with, how often? Does the child participate in individual, group and/or family therapy? If family therapy, the names and relationship of who participates. When did they begin participating in therapy? How often do they meet? Where do they meet? Has therapy been consistent, why or why not?

What are the goals of therapy? Are they making progress? Why or Why not? What are the therapist’s concerns/thoughts? How does the child feel about therapy? What are the therapist’s recommendations?

What is his/her diagnosis? Who diagnosed and when? If prescribed medication for mental illness, who prescribes it, what it is? How much and when is it dispensed? Any significant side effects of medication?

Does the child have a substance abuse problem? Are they being treated for it? Are they in substance abuse counseling? Are they having random urinalysis? What are the therapist’s recommendations?

**PARENTS’ PROGRESS**

Review the last court order to determine what the parent is supposed to be doing. Possible topics may include:

* 1. therapy-individual and/or family
  2. urinalysis/drug treatment
  3. parenting classes/parent education/parent aid
  4. housing
  5. employment
  6. medication management

Is the parent/s complying with the court order? Why or why not?

**ANY REMAINING ISSUES FOR THE CHILD**

Mentor? Name of the mentor, how long has the child been working with the mentor, what does the mentor have to say about the child (not previously mentioned), any issues or concerns?

Other agencies working with the child (not previously mentioned)

DJS involvement? disposition, upcoming hearings, attorneys and workers involved with the child

Child’s medical, dental, vision needs.

**NEEDS/WISHES OF THE CHILD(REN)**

Include all needs of the child that must be met in order to achieve a safe, permanent home and eliminate the need for continued court involvement. What does the child desire re: placement, visits, etc. Include your observations about the child’s current placement, permanency plan, visitation, school placement, therapy, and your observations about parent’s progress, if applicable.

**CASA RECOMMENDATIONS**

**THIS IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE REPORT AND WHAT JUDGES AND COURT MASTERS READ FIRST. CONSIDER BOTH THE SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM NEEDS FOR THE CHILD(REN)’S BEST INTEREST IN TERMS OF PLACEMENT AND PERMANENCE AND HOW THESE GOALS CAN BE ACHIEVED. IF STABILITY IS AN ISSUE, FOCUS ON HOW TO ACHIEVE THAT IN THE SHORT TERM. THIS IS ALSO THE PLACE TO RECOMMEND SERVICES THAT WOULD ADDRESS ANY EDUCATIONAL, BEHAVIORAL OR THERAPEUTIC ISSUES. Be sure to include recommendations that address the specific court domains (e.g., compliance with visitation, mental health, educational assessments, child’s needs and wishes, etc.).**

1. **PLACEMENT: The child's placement should be/should continue to be\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

What should happen after the court hearing? Where should child(ren) live after the court hearing? Is the child’s physical, emotional and therapeutic needs being met in the current placement with the current caregiver? Is this the least restrict placement? Are there any additional services that could be provided to the child and the caregiver in the current placement to stabilize the child’s behavior?

**Rationale:** support from the text of the report to back up this recommendation

1. **PERMANENCY PLAN: The child’s permanency plan should be/ should continue to be** Reunification, Custody & Guardianship, Adoption or APPLA (Another Planned Permanent Placement). If you are considering recommending independent living for your youth, please discuss this with your supervisor. If your youth already has a permanency plan of APPLA, please discuss with your supervisor to determine if making a recommendation to change it is in the youth's best interest.

Should the permanency plan remain the same as at the last hearing or should it be changed and why? When is the date for that plan to be achieved? Is there progresstoward achieving permanency? If there are barriers to the achievement of that plan, what services can be put in place to break down those barriers?

**Rationale:** support from the text of the report to back up this recommendation

1. **SERVICES: The services provided for the child should be/should continue to be…** Are services or evaluations needed that would be in the child’s best interests? Consider how recently the child has been evaluated for educational, behavioral, and therapeutic services and what experts have recommended.

**Rationale:** support from the text of the report to back up this recommendation

1. **VISITATION: Visitation be implemented/continued to be/discontinue...**

How is visitation benefiting or not benefiting the child? Is visitation instrumental to the child’s permanency?

**Rationale:** support from the text of the report to back up this recommendation

1. **The CASA appointment continues.** CASA will continue to independently monitor and advocate for child’s best interests. (Under no circumstances will CASA recommend our appointment discontinue.)

**Rationale:** support from the text of the report to back up this recommendation

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, CASA Volunteer

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

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Ciara M Huff, Executive Director

CC: Juvenile Court

Name, BCDSS Legal Services

Name, Child’s Attorney (Law firm)

Name, Mother’s Attorney (Law firm)

Name, Father’s Attorney (Law firm)

Name, DSS Case Manager