

GUARDIAN AD LITEM INVESTIGATION REPORT
Prepared by GUARDIAN AD LITEM JANE DOE
JANUARY 30, 2015

Child: _____ **File#:** _____ **Age:** _____ **DOB:** _____

Hearing Date: _____ **Hearing Type:** _____ **Judge:** _____

Placement: _____

DFCS Case Manager: _____

CASE SUMMARY

What caused the child to come into care?
What is the permanency plan?
Is there prior court or DFCS history relevant to the current action?

RESOURCES

What financial resources and/or benefits are being provided on behalf of the child? (i.e. WIC, TANF, CAPS, SSI, Social Security, Child Support, caregiver subsidies, Medicaid, other health insurance).
Are there any financial resources or benefits that you recommend be pursued on behalf of the child?
What services is the child receiving and who is the provider? Length provided? What purpose? Is service sufficient as per recommendation? (i.e. psychological counseling, speech, occupational and/or physical therapy, etc.)

Information sources: case manager, placement, service providers, caregiver; child (age-appropriate); treatment records and reports

PLACEMENT/CUSTODY

Who has legal and physical custody of the child?
With whom is the child placed?
What is the permanency potential of this placement? (Consider placement willingness, long-term appropriateness for child, etc.)
What is the GAL's recommendation about the appropriateness of this placement?
What is the placement history?
Who is the child bonded to?
Are there relatives who should be considered for visitation and/or placement?
Are there any other adult connections who should be considered for visitation and/or placement?
If the current placement is not permanent and/or not appropriate, what is your recommendation regarding placement?
If there are siblings, are they placed together? If not, why not? Is there appropriate sibling visitation?
What are the child's wishes regarding placement, custody, sibling and parent/guardian visitation?
(Consider immediate and long term)

Information sources: child, case manager, caregiver, relatives, fictive kin, home visit, teacher, school counselor, service providers

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EDUCATION

Where is the child in school and what grade is the child in? What grade should the child be in?
How is the child doing in school academically and behaviorally?
Does the child have a 504 Plan or and IEP? If so, based on what disability? Are the accommodations being provided working/appropriate? (This question often requires research of child's historic school records. Were there educational intervention plans prior to child entering care? Was child being evaluated for education issue or accommodations?)
Is the educational setting appropriate?
What are the child's thoughts and wishes regarding educational placement?
Is the child participating in or interested in any extracurricular activities?
What is your recommendation regarding extracurricular activities?

Information sources: caregiver, case manager, teacher (current and former), school counselor (current and former), Individualized Education Plan, 504 Plan, child, coach, extracurricular activity providers

MEDICAL

Who is the child's pediatrician?
Does the child have or has the child had any medical **or developmental** conditions requiring treatment?
Are there suspected medical or developmental conditions that have not been diagnosed?
Does the child see any specialists? If so, who? For what purpose? Treatment regimen?
Is the child current on immunizations?
Is the child current on dental examinations?
Is the child current on eye examinations?
Are there any dental or optical needs?
Child's recent medical/health appointment history?
Have you reviewed any medical records as part of your investigation? If so, describe what you found therein. If expert review is used, provide name, credentials and conclusions/report of the expert.
If the child is under 3 years old, has he/she had a Babies Can't Wait assessment? If so, what were the recommendations? If not, do you recommend one be done?
Is the child due for any other evaluations? When will they be completed?
Is the child on any medications? List medications, who prescribed, when and what they are intended to treat.

Information sources: case manager, caregiver, child, doctors, specialists, medical records, expert review and summary of medical records

PSYCHOLOGICAL/EMOTIONAL

Does the child have any special psychological, emotional and/or behavioral needs?
Is the child in need of a psychological evaluation (or a developmental evaluation for younger children)?
When and by whom? Is an updated one needed?
What were the recommendations of the psychological/developmental evaluation?
Was any other pertinent information gleaned from the psychological/development evaluation?
Does the child have any DSM-IV diagnoses? If so, what are they and how are they being treated?
Is the treatment for any psychological, behavioral or emotional needs appropriate?
Who are the treatment providers?

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Is the child on any medications? List medications who prescribed, when, and what they are intended to treat, especially any psychotropic medications.

For psychotropic medications, who is the prescribing physician? Is it a psychiatrist or a pediatrician or some other medical specialist?

Does the medication regimen appear appropriate? If expert review is used, provide name, credentials and conclusions/report of the expert. (Beware of competing treatment plans! Consider ALL medications-mental health, developmental, medical)

What does the child think about his/her psychological services and/or medications?

Does child comply with treatment plan? Medications? Does child understand purpose? Does child complain of side-effects or issues related to treatment or medication?

Information sources: psychologist, psychiatrist, therapist, counselors, physician, caregiver, case manager, child, psychological evaluation, therapy notes and summaries, other psychological records, expert review and summary of records

PARENT/GUARDIAN

What is the permanency plan?

If there is a reunification plan in place, what are the parents' goals and progress toward completing each of those goals?

What case plan goals (if any) remain incomplete?

What services are being provided to the parent and by whom?

Has the parent had any evaluations? If so, what were the recommendations? Are those recommendations being followed by the Department and the parent?

What is the visitation plan between the child and parent? Is it appropriate? How are visits going?

What are the child's wishes in terms of permanency plan?

What permanency plan do you recommend and what specific facts provided in this report support that permanency plan?

Information sources: parent, case manager, parent's service providers, transporter, visitation supervisor, child

COMMENTS / CONCERNS / RECOMMENDATIONS

What specific issues would you like the Court to address at this hearing?

What are your recommendations with regard to those issues?

What other overarching comments or concerns do you believe the Court should be aware of?

What additional information do you need in order to make any outstanding recommendations?

Respectfully submitted,

JANE DOE
Guardian ad Litem
Georgia Bar No. 101010

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EXHIBIT "A": CLIENT/WITNESS CONTACT

DATE	WITNESS / CONTACT	DESCRIPTION
1/1/2015	Case manager Sammy Smith	Telephone call
1/2/2015	Child Johnny Johnson	Home visit
1/2/2015	Foster parent Bobby Bobberson	Field interview
Etc	Etc	Etc