

Savannah/Chatham County CASA Court Report

CASA: Joe Smith

Type of Hearing: Deprivation, Review,
TPR, or Extension

Case Name: CASA Case

Date of Hearing: 11/14/01

1. **CASA's Recommendation** for physical and permanent custody.

My recommendation is that temporary custody of child be placed with DFCS while parent undergoes a drug assessment/evaluation, attends a drug rehabilitation program (Gateway) and obtains employment. The program at Gateway may also assist with in-home aid and assistance.

Due to child's sickle cell and seizure disorder, I would recommend that a case plan for reunification be set forth that is specifically geared toward teaching her the skills to parent a child with medical needs.

2. **Background Information** - Children's names and ages, problems that brought the the family to court, etc. (reason for petition)

CASA Child	Male	13 years old	DOB
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An allegation was lodged by the school social worker that child has been physically abused by his older sister and brother, to wit: beating said child in the area of his head and suffering beatings about his torso. Said child is left to baby sit his sister's one-year old twins and is left home alone at night while his mother works, which is contrary to child's medical needs as he should be supervised at all times. Child has Sickle Cell Anemia and a diagnosed seizure disorder that require continuous medical attention. Child has repeated the 6th grade three times due to parent's failure to ensure child's regular attendance. From November 1999 to December 2000, DFCS had an open CPS case on the family due to medical neglect, truancy and lack of supervision of child.

3. **Investigation** - Who you talked to, summary of information from interviews, documents reviewed, etc.

Contact: Pat Preer, Supervisor, DFCS

Case manager was unavailable this week but Ms. Preer had most of the file in her office and I was able to review medical records and the last recorded visits with mother by case worker. Also included were reports of prior DFCS involvement in November 1999.

Contact: Parent of child

Parent states that child no longer baby-sits his sister's children. She further stated that her daughter is 16 and she and child fight as most siblings do, which is what occurred regarding the incident alleged in the petition. Parents admitted failing a drug test recently at Goodwill where she had been participating in a work program. Prior to the test, she went out and "did something stupid and smoked marijuana". She states she has contacted Gateway in reference to this and has another appointment with them in a few days. She states it has been difficult working and caring for child. Parent told me child has missed many school days due to his seizure disorder. When they occur in the morning, he becomes lethargic and is unable to function at school. She admits that there have been absences because child missed the school bus and she has no other means of transporting him to school.

Parent also informed me of a surgical procedure that is scheduled for child on November 20th to improve his seizure disorder. She states it has been very difficult juggling employment, medical appointments and her living situation. She also states that daycare is reluctant to take child due to his medical condition and potential harm to other children.

Because parent does not have a telephone, the home visit was impromptu. Upon my arrival, parent was helping the child with his math homework. His older sister was not home. However, her children were in the care of parent.

Contact: Child

I met with child on 11/14. He was well groomed and working on his homework. Child stated he is aware of the upcoming hearing and did not wish to leave his mother. He stated he loves his sister and nieces and would miss them if he had to leave. He interacted well with his family. He is very verbal and spoke mostly of his impending surgery to correct his seizure disorder. He also spoke of the embarrassment he suffers at school and on the bus when he has a seizure.

Contact: Ms Deborah Anderson, School social worker, Derenne Middle School

Left message with Ms. Anderson. Due to time constraints, was unable to meet with her prior to the hearing.

4. Reasonable Efforts-What services did DFCS offer, what were the results? If no services were offered, why? Was it and immediate removal, why was it necessary? What other services could/should be offered? What current efforts are being made toward the permanency plan?

DFCS had an active CPS case on family from Nov. 99 to Dec. 2000 due to medical neglect, truancy and lack of supervision.

5. Summary of assessment.

Parent is clearly having difficulties managing the daily responsibilities of caring for the medical needs and providing sufficient supervision for child. Although parent states she no longer works nights, she has still occasionally left the child in the care of his older sister who is alleged to have physically abused child. This has been an ongoing problem since the initial case in November 1999.

6. **Follow-up**-What do you need to know to further assess what's in the best interests of the child and what needs to be done to comply with the case plan to ensure permanency plan.

To review drug assessment and evaluation.

Amendment: My recommendation may be subject to change pending the outcome of the hearing and information obtained.