

~~████████████████████~~ Trial Notes
Best Interest Argument
4/6 & 9, 2015

The desires of the child

Both ~~████████~~ and ~~██████████~~ when asked that they want to live with their mom but not their dad.

~~████████~~ always states that she wants to live with "meme", a former foster mom named ~~██████████~~. CASA has spoken personally to ~~████████~~ and she has expressed an interest in possibly taking ~~████████~~ in the future.

The emotional and physical needs of the child now and in the future

~~██████████~~ has been diagnosed with **Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood and Neglect of Child.**

- He is currently in a foster home and has responded well to the structure and stability in the home
- All of his physical and emotional needs are being met at this time
- He is in counseling to address the issues which brought him into care
- He is in after-school programs at Boys and Girls Club and is doing well in school

~~████████~~ has been diagnosed with **Adjustment Disorder and ADHD.**

- He is currently in a foster home and has responded well to the structure and stability in the home.
- All of his physical and emotional needs are being met at this time.
- He is in counseling to address the issues which brought him into care
- He is in 2nd grade and is doing better in school. He was significantly behind but is catching up.

~~████████~~ has been diagnosed with **Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Physical Abuse of a Child (victim).**

- ~~████████~~ is responding to the structure in the RTC where she is currently placed. She still has outbursts and temper tantrums, particularly when she does not get her way.
- All of her physical and emotional needs are being met at this time.
- She is currently in group and individual counseling
- She is doing well in school (3rd grade) and is passing all classes. The school reports no behavior issues at this time.
- ~~████████~~ is on the following medications: Carbamazepine, Abilify, Trazadone, to help with sleep, reduce aggression, depression, mood swings, and ADHD

The emotional and physical danger to the child now and in the future

- All three children suffer emotionally from the trauma they have experienced repeatedly in their lives

- All three children have experienced physical and emotional abuse at the hands of their parents
- They have seen their mother and dad fight
- All three children have stated that they do not want to live with their father

The Parenting abilities of those seeking custody of the children

- All three children were returned to their mother in August, 2014, and three week later she tested positive for drug use.
- During that time she had not enrolled all the children in school nor had she followed up with medical appointments for the children

The Plans for the Children by the Agency and CASA

- After repeatedly asking both parents for names of kin that the children could possibly live with, CASA conducted a SENECA Search and have been in contact with several paternal family members who have very much expressed a desire to have the children live with them- either all together in one home or spread out among the family. CASA and CPS are exploring these options at this time.
- CASA has also reached out to a former foster parent for [REDACTED] who has expressed interest in possibly becoming a long-term or adoptive home for [REDACTED]. CASA and CPS are also in communication with this person.
- **It is my belief that these children will be placed with family members if that becomes an option.**

The Stability of the parents

- As far as CASA knows, the parents are living in a hotel. That was the last information provided to me on 2/16
- Mom did well and the children were returned to her but she relapsed on drugs after **only 3 weeks**
- CASA is not aware of any jobs or other means of support by either mom or dad.

Acts or omissions of the parents which may indicate that the existing parent-child relationship is not a proper one

- Physical and emotional abuse of the children
- Lack of stable housing, means of support, safe and stable drug-free environment