

COURT REPORT WRITING BOOTCAMP NOTES FROM THE ROBINSON CASE

You are the CASA on the Robinson case. You were appointed 2/16/16.

The contacts are:

Tammy Robinson: Natural Mother (NM)

Fred Robinson: Natural Father (NF)

Todd Grassley: Boyfriend of Ms. Robinson

Joe Robinson: Age 12, son of Tammy and Fred (DOB: 1/4/2004)

Ella Robinson: Age 3, daughter of Tammy and Fred (DOB: 10/1/2012)

Joe and Ella are placed together in the foster home of Edith and Raymond Gerst, maternal grandparents, in Vinita, Oklahoma. The Gerst's live on a farm off of Highway 69.

The petition alleges that on 11/29/2015, Fred Robinson returned home from a family gathering drunk and high. Tammy Robinson was preparing supper for the children, Joe and Ella. Mr. Robinson arrived to the home angry and upset because he learned from a friend earlier in the day that Mrs. Robinson was cheating on him with Todd Grassley, a friend of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson's. Mr. Robinson grabbed Mrs. Robinson by her ponytail and began punching her in the face and torso. Joe told the DHS investigator that when his father arrived, he could tell that there was going to be a fight, as his father was intoxicated and very red in the face. He grabbed Ella by the hand and took her to a bathroom, where they barricaded themselves in. Joe states that fighting between Mr. and Mrs. Robinson is common and that the severity of the fighting depends upon Mr. Robinson's level of inebriation. At some point, the grease Mrs. Robinson was cooking with caught fire and the home quickly filled with smoke. Mr. and Mrs. Robinson stopped fighting long enough to look for the children, however, the flames spread quickly and they were unable to get down the hallway to look for the children. The home did not have a fire extinguisher or working smoke detectors. Joe told investigators he and Ella were coughing and heard Mr. and Mrs. Robinson yelling for the children to get out of the house. Joe opened the bathroom door and saw smoke. He told Ella to get down close to the floor and to crawl ahead of him. They exited the home by a rear entrance at the end of the hallway. Claremore Fire Department officials were dispatched to the scene. They contacted DHS for a joint investigation.

CASA Interviews –

CASA met Joe and Ella at their foster home on 2/28/16. Joe is a husky 12-year-old boy who is "all boy." He enjoys playing football and baseball. His room is filled with trophies from his football and baseball activities. Ella is a petite, three-year-old blonde, with a ready smile. CASA played doll house with her. Joe is very quiet and had a hard time opening up to CASA. He is very protective of Ella. She is very dependent on Joe, who she calls "Bubby." Joe enjoys living on a farm with his grandparents. He has chores such as feeding and brushing the horses, loading and unloading the dishwasher, and making his bed and keeping his room clean. Joe attends a private Christian school in Big Cabin and has excellent grades.

CASA visited with Mrs. Gerst, the kinship foster mother on 2/28/16. She said that Joe is in therapy with Annie Hill. Miss Hill is working with Joe on letting go of his need to "parent" Ella. Mrs. Gerst said that she has talked to Joe and explained to him that he doesn't need to worry about Ella anymore. However, she said that after visits with both his mother and father, Joe becomes agitated and reverts back to parenting Ella.

CASA met with Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Grassley at their apartment in Pryor, Oklahoma on 3/15/16. Mrs. Robinson is expecting a child and states that she is about six months along. Mrs. Robinson admits that she had been having an affair with Mr. Grassley since about June of 2015. She stated that Mr. Grassley knew about the domestic violence between her and Mr. Robinson and he would help her after Mr. Robinson beat her. Mrs. Robinson stated that she has a long-standing addiction to marijuana that she wants help for. She stated that when Mr. Robinson would beat her, she would smoke marijuana to alleviate the pain. She showed CASA several scars and places where bones were broken and not set properly. She stated that Mr. Robinson has broken her nose at least two times. Mrs. Robinson has filed for divorce from Mr. Robinson. Mrs. Robinson is due 6/30/16.

CASA checked Mr. Grassley's background. He is a registered sex offender. He was convicted of lewd molestation against a minor in Tulsa County in 2007. Mr. Grassley never mentioned this to CASA during the visit on 3/15/16. Mr. Grassley also has drug charges out of Tulsa County from 2000, 2002, 2008, and 2014. The DHS Report says nothing about Mr. Grassley's background and Mr. Grassley does not have a treatment plan.

CASA saw Joe and Ella at their kinship foster home on 3/28/16. Joe was working on a project for school building a salt map of the United States. CASA helped him put together state flags on toothpicks for the project. While CASA was working with Joe, he said that he doesn't like the way Mr. Grassley holds Ella at visitations. He says Mr. Grassley is too affectionate with Ella. Ella is very wiggly and won't sit on Mr. Grassley's lap, but Joe still feels uncomfortable. Ella was dressed as a princess and was watching a Cinderella cartoon while CASA was visiting. She likes CASA to use a "magic wand" to turn her into a princess. Ella is a happy child who enjoys pretending. Mrs. Gerst gave CASA a copy of Joe's grades at the end of the third nine weeks of school.

CASA met with Mr. Robinson at the Claremore McDonald's on 4/1/2016. Mr. Robinson admits that he has a long-standing addiction to alcohol and heroin. He states that he knows he needs help and he has an appointment with Rogers County Drug Abuse Program to complete an intake interview. Mr. Robinson stated that he hates Tammy Robinson and Todd Grassley. He is very angry that they are together. Mr. Robinson's demeanor changed dramatically when he was talking about Mrs. Robinson. Mr. Robinson did not mention Joe or Ella once during CASA's interview. His focus was completely on Mrs. Robinson and what she was or was not doing.

CASA met with Annie Hill on 4/3/16. Miss Hill states that Joe is a very responsible and protective young man. She states that Joe has told her that he does not want to leave the Gerst's home, even if his mom and dad do everything they are supposed to do. He does not like Mr. Grassley at all. Miss Hill states that she is working with Joe on processing anger and learning life skills that will help him as he enters his teen years.

Mr. Robinson was arrested on 4/7/16 for public intoxication. He is currently in the Rogers County Jail on \$1,000 bond.

CASA observed a visit between the children and Mrs. Robinson and Mr. Grassley on 4/11/16. CASA observed Mr. Grassley's affection toward Ella and saw why Joe was uncomfortable. Mr. Grassley insists on holding Ella, even when she wants to get down and play and he kisses her repeatedly on the lips and cheeks. Afterwards, CASA spoke to Dennis Lee, the DHS worker to ask if he knew that Mr. Grassley was a registered sex offender. He said that he did not know this. CASA provided him with a printout of Mr. Grassley's sex offender registration and a copy of the conviction out of Tulsa County.

CASA met with Mrs. Robinson on 4/12/16 while Mr. Grassley was at work. CASA asked if she knew that Mr. Grassley was a registered sex offender. She said that she did know, but that he has changed. CASA asked her if she had any concerns about the way Mr. Grassley interacts with Ella during the visits and she said she did not. She states that he is a very affectionate person and likes to hug and kiss her and Ella. She states that this was one of the things that attracted her to Mr. Grassley.

You have a court report due on 4/13/16.