

CASA Kane County Guardian ad Litem Report to Court

630.232.4484 Fax: 630.232.4562

PURPOSE OF HEARING

Disposition

Privileged and Confidential

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, kindly notify us immediately.

CASE NUMBER(S)

2021 JA 49, 2021 JA 50

TEMPORARY CUSTODY DATE

01/25/2021

ADJUDICATION DATE

04/21/2021

HEARING DATE

05/13/2021

TYPE OF HEARING

Disposition

Children**HOW MANY CHILDREN IN THIS REPORT?**

2

Child 1**NAME**

Demarcus Anderson

DATE OF BIRTH

05/02/2016

AGE

5

MOTHER

Brenda Cline

FATHER

Levar Anderson

LEGAL, PUTATIVE, OR N/A

Legal

Child 2**NAME**

Samantha Winters

DATE OF BIRTH

01/03/2020

AGE

16 months

MOTHER

Brenda Cline

FATHER

Samuel Winters

LEGAL, PUTATIVE, OR N/A

Legal

Interviewed for this Reporting Period

Name	Title
Lisa B.	Paternal Grandmother of Demarcus Anderson, Foster Mother of Demarcus Anderson and Samantha Winters
Brenda Cline	Mother
Annie Porter	Daycare Provider for Samantha Winters
Tammy Richmond	LSSI Caseworker
Samuel Winters	Legal Father of Samantha Winters
Grace Zolotar	Kindergarten Teacher for Demarcus Winters

Reports and Materials Reviewed

Date	Title
01/22/2021	Carpentersville Police Department Incident Report
04/01/2021	Integrated Assessment

Dates of Child Visits

Name	Dates of visits since last court hearing	In-Person Or Virtual
Demarcus Anderson	01/30/2021, 02/13/2021, 02/24/2021, 03/12/2021	in person
Demarcus Anderson	04/16/2021	virtual
Samantha Winters	01/30/2021 02/13/2021, 03/10/2021, 03/12/2021	in person
Samantha Winters	04/16/2021	virtual

WERE THERE ANY MONTHS WHERE THE CHILD WAS NOT VISITED EITHER IN-PERSON OR VIRTUAL?

No

ICWA

No

Case History

On January 22, 2016, Officer T. S. Riley (Badge Number 615) of the Carpentersville Police Department, while responding to a 911 call regarding loud screaming from an apartment at 27 Oxford Drive in Carpentersville, Illinois, found Brenda Cline and Samuel Winters engaged in a domestic altercation. Brenda Cline was holding their one-year-old daughter, Samantha, and Officer Riley observed injuries on Samantha's upper back. The injuries consisted of four linear marks approximately 2 inches long and 1/2 to 3/4 inches in diameter. Neither parent was able to present an explanation of the injuries. A hotline call was made. A Department of Children and Family Services investigator was dispatched and removed Samantha Winters and her half-brother, Demarcus Anderson from the home.

Foster Placement History

Child Name	Placemen t No.	First Name Last Initial	Type	When to When
Demarcus Anderson	1	Lisa B.	Relative - Paternal Grandmother	01/25/2021 to present
Samantha Winters	1	Lisa B.	Fictive Kin	01/25/2021 to present

Child 1

NAME	AGE
Demarcus Anderson	5

PLACEMENT/LIVING SITUATION

Demarcus resides with Samantha in the home of Lisa B. On January 30, 2021, CASA/GAL observed that Demarcus does not have a bed in the home. Lisa B. reported that Demarcus sleeps either in bed with her or on the couch. CASA/GAL spoke with Tammy Richmond, the LSSI caseworker, about this and Ms. Richmond responded that she would address this situation in the near future. On April 16, 2021, CASA/GAL observed that Demarcus was still without a bed.

Lisa B. stated to CASA/GAL that she was committed to keeping Demarcus as long as necessary but did report that Demarcus exhibited some problematic behaviors. She shared that Demarcus does not always respond appropriately to her requests and that he can be bossy and demanding. CASA/GAL has observed Demarcus yelling “no” at Lisa B. when asked to put his dishes in the sink and again when asked to turn off the TV. Demarcus asked Lisa B. about watching an R-rated horror movie, and when she replied that he couldn’t, he stomped the floor repeatedly.

According to Lisa B., Demarcus has had some nightmares since coming to live with her, but Demarcus was unable to tell her about the content of those nightmares.

During two visits it was observed by CASA/GAL that Demarcus appeared to be a caring older brother to Samantha. CASA/GAL observed him hug and kiss her and do things to make her laugh. He also told CASA/GAL stories about Samantha during each visit. CASA/GAL observed one instance of Demarcus grabbing Samantha’s foot and causing her to cry. Additionally, it was observed that Demarcus took Samantha’s stuffed animal away twice, even after Lisa B. scolded him and asked him to stop. Lisa B. told CASA/GAL that she thinks this is just normal sibling behavior and does not consider it a serious issue in the home.

DAYCARE/SCHOOL

Lisa B. told CASA/GAL that Demarcus was doing well in his new kindergarten class at Parkview Elementary School. She said that he was learning to read and worked hard on his homework each night. Lisa B. also reported that she had received two phone calls from Demarcus’ teacher regarding his aggressive behaviors. CASA/GAL has no further information about the two phone calls.

On February 24, 2021, CASA/GAL observed Demarcus in his classroom and saw that he listened well to the teacher and seemed engaged, working on a math activity. When he realized CASA/GAL was present at the back of the room, he proudly showed CASA/GAL around his classroom and shared a paper on which he had received a gold star. At snack time, CASA/GAL observed Demarcus push a couple of students in a rush to be first in line and, as a result, his name was written on the board for inappropriate behavior. When CASA/GAL asked Demarcus who his friends were, he did not point to or name any specific students. CASA/GAL spoke briefly with Demarcus’ teacher, Ms. Grace Zolotar, regarding setting up a future appointment to talk about his academic progress and social interactions.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

On January 30, 2021, Lisa B. informed CASA/GAL that Demarcus was current with his immunizations and dental exams. He is currently in good health and has no medical issues.

SERVICES

According to the Integrated Assessment dated April 1, 2021, Demarcus should be referred for individual counseling. As of the date of this report writing, counseling has not begun.

VISITATION WITH PARENT(S)

Mother, Brenda Cline, has attended all twelve scheduled visits with Demarcus held at the agency office in Elgin, Illinois. Ms. Cline is also allowed to visit with Demarcus at Lisa B.’s home, with Lisa B. supervising the visit. Lisa B. recently reported to Ms. Richmond that Ms. Cline made five visits during the twelve weeks that Demarcus has lived in her home. During CASA/GAL’s April 16, 2021, child visit, Ms. Cline was also visiting her children. CASA/GAL observed that Demarcus followed his mother’s wishes and seemed to enjoy building Legos and reading books with her. She showed affection, kissing Demarcus several times. CASA/GAL observed Demarcus kissing and hugging his mother at various times during the visit. Ms. Cline successfully redirected Demarcus when his behavior warranted it. She appeared comfortable interacting with Lisa B., asking questions about each child and laughing with her when Demarcus made silly faces for

Samantha.

CASA/GAL learned from Ms. Richmond that Levar Anderson, Legal Father, father has a history of criminal activity, so his visits are supervised by Ms. Richmond at the agency office in Elgin, Illinois. The visits are scheduled weekly, and so far, Mr. Anderson has attended ten out of a possible twelve visits.

VISITATION WITH SIBLING(S)

N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Demarcus is a bright and active boy who likes to watch television, play with Legos, and play outdoors. According to his Foster Mother and Paternal Grandmother, Lisa, B., he shows care and concern for his half-sister, Samantha Winter. CASA/GAL observed no developmental issues during any of her five visits with Demarcus.

Child 2

NAME

Samantha Winters

AGE

16 months

PLACEMENT/LIVING SITUATION

Samantha resides with Lisa B., Foster Mother, who is the paternal grandmother of Demarcus. On CASA/GAL's first child visit with Samantha, she had just woken from a nap and was shy and a little fussy. Lisa B. held her most of the time CASA/GAL was there. During a subsequent child visit, Samantha was content but somewhat sedentary. She seemed to enjoy watching Demarcus' antics but stayed seated in one spot on the floor for quite some time. She did later walk a few steps but was not very steady on her feet. Aside from one stuffed animal, CASA/GAL has not observed any other age-appropriate toys for Samantha in Lisa B.'s home.

CASA/GAL observed that Samantha does not yet have a crib at Lisa B.'s home; Lisa B. told CASA/GAL that Samantha sleeps in the bed with her or on the couch with Demarcus. CASA/GAL spoke with Ms. Richmond about this, and Ms. Richmond responded that she would address this situation in the near future. On April 16, 2021, CASA/GAL observed that Samantha was still without a crib.

DAYCARE/SCHOOL

Samantha spends most weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the home of her daycare provider, Annie Porter. Lisa B. reports that Samantha loves going to Ms. Porter's and seems very attached to her. CASA/GAL visited Samantha at Ms. Porter's and observed that there were many age-appropriate toys and books, and a carpeted play area. There is one other child being cared for by Ms. Porter on a daily basis, a cousin of Samantha's who is 3 years old. Ms. Porter showed CASA/GAL Samantha's highchair and crib and stated that she is an easy toddler who eats and sleeps well. She stated that she encourages Samantha to crawl and walk and doesn't believe in holding children constantly. She reported that Samantha was still a bit clumsy when walking, and that she topples over often if she squats or bends over to pick something up.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

Lisa B. advised that Samantha is up to date with her vaccinations and has no other medical or health issues.

CASA/GAL observed that Samantha has some difficulty walking and maintaining balance when bending. Ms. Richmond told CASA/GAL about Samantha's recent developmental screening which indicated Samantha is at age-appropriate levels in communication, problem solving, and social skills. The screening report recommended that Samantha's gross motor skills be monitored.

SERVICES

No services have been recommended for Samantha.

VISITATION WITH PARENT(S)

Per Ms. Richmond, Ms. Cline has visited with Samantha weekly at the agency office in Elgin; those twelve visits have been supervised by the caseworker or a case aide. On April 16, 2021, when CASA observed Ms. Cline with her children at Lisa B.'s home, she was at ease parenting them. She showed affection, cuddling with Samantha. CASA/GAL observed the Samantha kissing and hugging their mother at various times during the visit.

According to Ms. Richmond, Samantha has had three supervised visits with her Legal Father, Samuel Winters and that Mr. Winters missed three of his visits in February as well as one visit that was set for March 17, 2021. The case aide who supervised the visits shared that Mr. Winters had shown interest in Samantha by getting down on the floor to play with her. He also brought a snack for Samantha to the visits. The aide reported that he left one visit 20 minutes early, and that on another visit, he raised his voice to the case aide in front of Samantha when describing how unfairly the system was treating him.

VISITATION WITH SIBLING(S)

N/A

Overview for the Parent(s)

HOW MANY PARENTS ON THIS REPORT

3

Parent 1

NAME	TITLE AND CHILD'S NAME
Brenda Cline	Mother of Demarcus Anderson and Samantha Winters

SERVICES OR REFERRALS (IF KNOWN)

Ms. Richmond provided CASA/GAL with information about Ms. Cline's portion of the Integrated Assessment; including a recommendation for individual counseling and services for victims of domestic violence. Ms. Cline has been referred to Pathways for individual counseling and to the Community Crisis Center for domestic violence services. As of the date of this report, services have not begun.

OBSTACLES TO CHILD VISITS

CASA/GAL is unaware of any obstacles to child visits

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On March 21, 2021, CASA/GAL received a call from Ms. Richmond indicating that there had been a new incident of domestic violence between Ms. Cline and Mr. Winters. Mr. Winters had been arrested and, at the time of the phone call, was still incarcerated. Ms. Cline had sustained a black eye and some red marks on her neck, but she told the caseworker that she had chosen not to seek medical treatment for her injuries.

During an interview, Ms. Cline told CASA/GAL that she was feeling depressed about her situation. She said she was "done with" Mr. Winters and wanted to end that relationship and move on with her life.

PARENT 1 / CHILD VISITATION SHOULD

Be supervised

PLEASE STATE WHY UNSUPERVISED VISITS ARE NOT BEING RECOMMENDED AT THIS TIME

Too early in the case

Parent 2

NAME	TITLE AND CHILD'S NAME
Levar Anderson	Legal Father of Demarcus Anderson
SERVICES OR REFERRALS (IF KNOWN)	
Ms. Richmond advised CASA/GAL that an Integrated Assessment interview has been scheduled with Levar Anderson. The date is unknown to CASA/GAL at this time.	
OBSTACLES TO CHILD VISITS	
CASA/GAL is unaware of any obstacles to child visits	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Ms. Richmond has shared that that Demarcus typically spent several weeks in the summers and many weekends in the care of his father and Lisa B. Ms. Richmond noted that due to Mr. Anderson's history of incarceration, there have been periods of time when Demarcus did not see him.	
CASA/GAL has attempted to reach Levar Anderson by telephone on two occasions, but no one answered the phone either time.	
PARENT 2 / CHILD VISITATION SHOULD	
Be supervised	
PLEASE STATE WHY UNSUPERVISED VISITS ARE NOT BEING RECOMMENDED AT THIS TIME	
Too early in the case	

Parent 3

NAME	TITLE AND CHILD'S NAME
Samuel Winters	Legal Father of Samantha Winters
SERVICES OR REFERRALS (IF KNOWN)	
According to Ms. Richmond, the Integrated Assessment for Mr. Winters includes recommendations for evaluations related to individual counseling, substance abuse, and domestic violence. Mr. Winters had been referred to the Renz Center for the individual counseling and substance abuse evaluations and to the Community Crisis Center for the domestic violence evaluation. As of the date of this report writing, it is not known if Mr. Winters attended any of the evaluations.	
OBSTACLES TO CHILD VISITS	
CASA/GAL is not aware of any obstacles to child visits	
PARENT 3 / CHILD VISITATION SHOULD	
Be supervised	
PLEASE STATE WHY UNSUPERVISED VISITS ARE NOT BEING RECOMMENDED AT THIS TIME	
Too early in the case	
RECOMMENDATIONS	
MINOR BE MADE (OR REMAIN) A WARD OF THE COURT?	
Yes	
CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP SHOULD BE GRANTED TO (OR REMAIN WITH) DCFS	

Yes

FOR THE MINOR, THE COURT SHOULD CONSIDER THE PERMANENCY GOAL OF

Return home within twelve (12) months

THE CLIENT SERVICE PLAN AND SERVICES ARE APPROPRIATE

Yes

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Demarcus Anderson should be provided with his own bed at Lisa B.'s home.
Demarcus Anderson should be referred for individual counseling according to the Integrated Assessment.
Due to nightmares and inappropriate social interactions, Demarcus Anderson should be assessed to determine whether a mental health evaluation is necessary.
Samantha Winters should be provided with a crib at Lisa B.'s house.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY CASA/GAL

Chris J.

DATE

04/22/2021