

CASA Kane County Guardian ad Litem Report to Court

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PURPOSE OF HEARING

Permanency

Privileged and Confidential

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CASE NUMBER(S)

2016 JA 200, 2016 JA 201, 2016 JA 202

TEMPORARY CUSTODY DATE

01/19/2016

ADJUDICATION DATE

03/03/2016

DISPOSITION DATE

04/04/2016

LAST CHILD/FAMILY TEAM MEETING

08/28/2016

HEARING DATE

10/03/2016

TYPE OF HEARING

Permanency

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

3

Child 1**NAME**

Ben Harris

DATE OF BIRTH

08/10/2002

AGE

14

MOTHER

Kathy Price

FATHER

Jason Harris

LEGAL, PUTATIVE, OR N/A

Legal

Child 2**NAME**

Robert Price

DATE OF BIRTH

06/14/2006

AGE

10

MOTHER

Kathy Price

FATHER

Ernie Price

LEGAL, PUTATIVE, OR N/A

Legal

Child 3**NAME**

Rose Price

DATE OF BIRTH

04/17/2015

AGE

17 months

MOTHER

Kathy Price

FATHER

Ernie Price

LEGAL, PUTATIVE, OR N/A

Putative

Interviewed for this Reporting Period

Name	Title
Anne F.	Foster Mother of Rose Price

Mary Flynn	Teacher of Ben Harris
Carol H.	Foster Mother of Ben Harris and Robert Price
Bob Johnson	DCFS Caseworker
Yolanda Martinez	Speech Therapist for Robert Price
Ernie Price	Legal Father of Robert Price, Putative Father of Rose Price
Kathy Price	Mother of Ben Harris, Robert Price and Rose Price

Reports and Materials Reviewed

Date	Title
03/10/2016	Integrated Assessment
04/10/2016	Client Service Plan
09/09/2016	Speech Therapy Report for Robert Price

Dates of Child Visits

Name	Dates of visits since last court hearing	In-Person Or Virtual
Ben Harris	04/05/2016, 05/02/2016, 06/21/2016, 07/19/2016, 08/09/2016	In person
Ben Harris	09/06/2016	Virtual
Robert Price	04/11/2016, 04/26/2016, 05/12/2016, 06/13/2016, 07/21/2016 08/12/2016, 09/08/2016	In person
Rose Price	04/13/2016, 05/05/2016, 06/13/2016, 07/21/2016, 08/2/2016	In person

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

Yes

IF YES PROVIDE THE NAME OF THE CHILD, THE MONTH AND THE REASON THE VISIT WAS NOT COMPLETED

No child visit for Rose Price for the month of September. Rose was diagnosed with COVID.

ICWA

No

Case History

On 1/15/2016, Officer J. R. Gooden (Badge Number 499) of the Aurora Police Department responded to a complaint call at 1220 Second Avenue, Apartment 408, in Aurora, Illinois. Officer Gooden found Ben Harris, Robert Price, and Rose Price alone in the apartment with no food or milk to be found. According to the children, their mother had been absent for more than 72 hours. A hotline call was made. Paramedics were

dispatched to attend to Ben, who was having breathing difficulties. The paramedics transported Ben to the hospital, and an investigator from the Department of Children and Family Services took protective custody of Robert and Rose.

Foster Placement History

Child Name	Placeme nt No.	First Name Last Initial	Type	When to When
Ben Harris	1	Carol H.	Relative - Maternal Aunt	01/19/2016 to present
Robert Price	2	Carol H.	Relative - Maternal Aunt	03/04/2016 to present
Robert Price	1	Anita D.	Relative - Paternal Grandmother	01/19/2016 to 03/04/2016
Rose Price	1	Anne F.	Traditional	01/19/2016 to present

Child 1

NAME

Ben Harris

PLACEMENT/LIVING SITUATION

Ben continues to live with Carol H., her husband and their two sons ages eleven and thirteen. CASA/GAL observed that Ben has his own bed and a dedicated area for his belongings in a room he shares with his cousin. He has stated that he enjoys playing basketball with his cousins. Carol H. has shown a willingness to enrich Ben's life with a vacation to Wisconsin Dells, WI, a visit to see the 4th of July fireworks and a family birthday party with Ben's siblings at her home.

DAYCARE/SCHOOL

Mary Flynn, Teacher, provided that Ben ended the school year with straight A's. On several occasions, Ben shared with CASA/GAL that his favorite subjects were math and science. He reports that in gym class, he enjoyed playing basketball and has mentioned that he was not enrolled in a team sport. This fall he began his freshman year. Carol H. provided an update to CASA/GAL that Ben is adjusting well and making friends, continues to excel in math and science and has needed tutoring in English. She states that he is still not enrolled in a team sport.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

According to Carol H., Ben has not had an asthma attack since March. CASA/GAL confirmed with school personnel that his asthma medication, prescription, and signed permission slip are on file at school. Carol H. states that she believes that his asthma is brought on by stress, therefore the lack of asthma attacks could be a sign that his stress levels have decreased significantly since the beginning of the year. Carol H. shared that he is still experiencing bouts of worry, however, and even missed two days of school in the spring because of it. She believes this to be from his inability to release himself from his "caretaker" family role.

SERVICES

Per the I/A, it was recommended that the agency provide referrals for Ben to receive counseling and to have a Healthworks Physical/Asthma treatment and action plan. It was also recommended for Ben to be

enrolled in a recreational activity promoting individual security and confidence, which would help him feel less responsible for the care of his siblings. The Client Service Plan dated 4/10/2016 does not include referrals for any of these services and of this hearing, none have begun.

VISITATION WITH PARENT(S)

Ben has had limited visitation with his Legal Father, Jason Harris. They have met 2-3 times, supervised, to play basketball and have lunch together. According to Ben, Mr. Harris did follow through with his promise to participate in a family outing to a Kane County Cougars game.

Back in the spring, Ben had visited twice with his mother, Kathy Price. He expressed anger, sadness and worry at these visits because of Ms. Price's continuous crying. During the summer, Ms. Price's visitation with her children was postponed until after her completion of the Breaking Free program. Once completed, at the end of June, there was a noticeable change in Ben's reaction to his mother's visits. He began to express excitement at seeing her and even asked when the siblings could all go back to living with Ms. Price again.

VISITATION WITH SIBLING(S)

Starting in the summer Ben has been able to see his siblings, Robert and Rose, twice a month. He has expressed a desire to see them as often as possible, particularly Rose. Carol H. has allowed his siblings to come over to their house twice, once for a sleepover, and again for a group birthday party.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ms. Flynn has stated to CASA/GAL that Ben appears to be stuck in a "care-taker" role and finds difficulty in letting go of worry and situations that are not his responsibility. Ms. Flynn remarked that he acts "too old for his age".

Child 2

NAME	AGE
Robert Price	10

PLACEMENT/LIVING SITUATION

Robert continues to enjoy living with Carol H. and her family, along with his brother Ben. The two boys have indicated multiple times to CASA/GAL that they love being together again, playing basketball, hanging out with their cousins, and eating pizza.

DAYCARE/SCHOOL

Carol H. states that Robert's attendance at school has been uninterrupted. He has kept the same teacher he had last year promoting a good foundation in classroom stability and a reduction in potential stress. According to Carol H., Robert has been enjoying school and doing well.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

At the end of Spring, Robert was showing signs of heightened stress, culminating in being absent from school for two days. He was continuing to stutter and wet his bed at night. By the summer, Carol H. remarked that his stress levels had subsided, as had bedwetting. After an evaluation at the Center for Speech and Language Disorders, Robert was diagnosed with 'Moderate Stuttering Disorder with Potential Relationship to Stressful Situations.' He is currently having individual speech therapy sessions at school. As of August, his stuttering has "lessened considerably" according

SERVICES

Per the Integrated Assessment, it was recommended that the agency arrange for Robert to receive an IEP evaluation outlining his need for speech therapy and an individual counseling referral. As of this hearing, Robert has had his Speech Therapy Evaluation and individual speech therapy sessions. He has not had a Mental Health Evaluation and referral to individual counseling which would evaluate the possibility that his stuttering and bedwetting are emotional reactions vs. developmental issues.

VISITATION WITH PARENT(S)

Robert has had regular contact with Mr. Price while at the home of Carol H. Mr. Price has shown increased acceptance of parental responsibility, such as taking off work to stay with Robert when he was home from school with stress. Mr. Price also followed through with his promise to take Robert to a Chicago Bulls game and a Kane County Cougars game. Robert has expressed excitement when visiting with his dad.

In the Spring, Robert was distressed when having visitations with his mother, Ms. Price, due to her frequent crying. During the summer, Ms. Price's visitation with her children was postponed until after her completion of the Breaking Free program. Once completed, at the end of June, there was a noticeable change in Roberts's reaction to his mother's visits. He began to express enjoyment at her visits, but still did not voluntarily bring her up to the CASA/GAL unless asked.

VISITATION WITH SIBLING(S)

Starting in the summer, Robert has been able to see his siblings, Ben and Rose, twice a month. Robert's maternal aunt, Carol H. has been allowed to host overnight visits with Robert and Ben at her home. She has also hosted a joint birthday party for all the siblings at her home.

Child 3

NAME	AGE
Rose Price	17 months

PLACEMENT/LIVING SITUATION

Rose resides with Anne F., along with two other foster children ages four and nine. CASA/GAL observed that Rose has her own crib in a bedroom with age-appropriate toys and activities.

DAYCARE/SCHOOL

Rose is not currently in daycare.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH

Anne F. continues to follow all the recommendations made in the Comprehensive Health Evaluation concerning Rose's severe vitamin deficiency from malnutrition. Rose had reached the normal stage of development for a 1-year-old and a Developmental Evaluation has been scheduled for October, 24, 2016. Rose was diagnosed with COVID at the end of August by her pediatrician, but did not show major symptoms. Anne F. kept her home and quarantined for the required period of time and her symptoms subsided within 2 weeks. At the date of this report writing, she has tested negative for COVID.

SERVICES

According to the I/A, Rose should be referred for a Fetal Alcohol Screening. This referral is not included in the Client Service Plan.

VISITATION WITH PARENT(S)

In the Spring, Ms. Price had 2 supervised visits with Rose. During the first visit, Ms. Price refused to make

eye contact with Rose or speak to her. She ended up leaving the visit early and in tears. At a subsequent visit, it was observed by Anne F. that Ms. Price was playing with Rose. During the summer, Ms. Price’s visitation with her children was postponed until after her completion of the Breaking Free program. Once completed, she began having weekly visits with Rose. It is unknown if her response to Rose has improved.

Mr. Price has indicated that he would be willing to begin consistent visitation once paternity is established.

VISITATION WITH SIBLING(S)

Starting in the summer, Rose has been able to see her siblings, Ben and Robert, twice a month. Rose recognizes Ben during the visits, becomes visibly excited, and calls him “Ba.”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since being placed with Anne F., Rose has shown significant improvements in development. She has gained weight, can pull herself up, make pre-speech baby noises, roll over and crawl. CASA/GAL observed that Rose’s positive behaviors increase with each visit. By June, Rose was within the normal range for her height and weight.

Overview for the Parent(s)

HOW MANY PARENTS ON THIS REPORT

3

Parent 1

NAME

Jason Harris

TITLE AND CHILD’S NAME

Legal Father of Ben Harris

SERVICES OR REFERRALS (IF KNOWN)

Per the I/A, it was recommended that Mr. Harris enroll in parenting classes. As of this hearing, he has attended 1 out of 6 classes and his attendance has not resulted in any apparent parenting improvements in his visits with Ben as indicated by Caseworker, Bob Johnson.

OBSTACLES TO CHILD VISITS

Mr. Harris’s wife is an obstacle for increased parenting autonomy as she will not allow Ben to spend the night in their home, per Mr. Johnson. Mr. Harris’s lack of commitment to services and ACR meeting attendance is also an obstacle for any future permanency placement of Ben. It was reported to CASA/GAL by Ben that Mr. Harris will not allow the child to speak of his mother or have any contact with her which could make coordinating future unsupervised visits difficult.

PARENT 1 / CHILD VISITATION SHOULD

Be supervised

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

Parent still engaged in services.

Parent 2

NAME

Ernie Price

TITLE AND CHILD’S NAME

Legal Father of Robert Price, Putative Father of

SERVICES OR REFERRALS (IF KNOWN)

Status of services is unknown.

OBSTACLES TO CHILD VISITS

None

PARENT 2 / CHILD VISITATION SHOULD

Continue to be supervised

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

Status of services unknown.

Parent 3

NAME

Kathy Price

TITLE AND CHILD'S NAME

Mother of Ben Harris, Robert Price and Rose Price

SERVICES OR REFERRALS (IF KNOWN)

Per the Integrated Assessment, it was recommended that Ms. Price complete a Substance Abuse Assessment and follow recommendations, possibly including Inpatient/Outpatient treatment for alcohol abuse. Ms. Price shared that she was admitted to the Breaking Free Program in April, which she had completed by May. Starting on May 6, 2016, she began attending Alcoholics Anonymous. She states she an average of 4 meetings per week, and by September she had attended over 60 meetings.

The Integrated Assessment also recommended that Ms. Price enroll in parent coaching classes and family therapy once the reunification process has begun. As of this hearing, Ms. Price states she has not had a Mental Health Evaluation or referral to a psychologist in order to understand the effects that alcohol abuse and anger have on her and her children.

OBSTACLES TO CHILD VISITS

Ms. Price's work schedule has proved to be an obstacle to her visitation with the children. She often leaves visits early in order to arrive at work on time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On April 15, 2016, Ms. Price was hospitalized after being found in a non-responsive state from a neighbor. According to Carol H., the ER doctor diagnosed Ms. Price with "acute alcohol poisoning" and she was placed on a regimen of fluids and vitamins administered intravenously. At the hospital, she admitted to CASA/GAL that she was an alcoholic and requested help for substance abuse.

By June, after having completed the Breaking Free program, CASA/GAL observed that Ms. Price was wearing make-up to visitations and dressing neatly. Ms. Price mentioned that she was resolved to stay sober. By September, she had been sober for 4 months per the ACR meeting with Mr. Johnson.

PARENT 3 / CHILD VISITATION SHOULD

Other

OTHER

Visits with Ben and Robert recommended to be changed to unsupervised. Visits with Rose recommended to remain supervised until Ms. Price completes parent coaching and has demonstrated skills learned in order to care for an infant.

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

No

PLEASE STATE WHY THE CLIENT SERVICE PLAN IS NOT APPROPRIATE

Ben Harris should receive a Mental Health Evaluation and follow all treatment recommendations including individual counseling sessions, as indicated in the Integrated Assessment.

Ben Harris should be provided with extracurricular opportunities to participate in recreational activities, as indicated in the Integrated Assessment.

Robert Price should receive a Mental Health Evaluation and follow all treatment recommendations, including individual counseling sessions, as indicated in the Integrated Assessment.

Rose Price should be referred for a Fetal Alcohol Screening, as indicated in the Integrated Assessment.

Kathy Price should be enrolled in parent coaching classes and family therapy once the reunification process has begun, per the Integrated Assessment.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Sibling visits between Ben Harris, Robert Price, and Rose Price should be increased from twice a month to weekly.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY CASA/GAL

Sandie C.

DATE

09/19/2016