

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR _____ COUNTY, FLORIDA
JUVENILE DIVISION**

IN THE INTEREST OF:

CASE NO: 2015 DP 000XXX

DOE, John

DOB: 09/05/2008

Child _____ /

GUARDIAN AD LITEM REPORT TO THE COURT

Guardian ad Litem: Jane Volunteer

Type of Hearing: Permanency Judicial Review

Date of Hearing: April 6, 2016

Length of Time Children in out of home care: 12 months

Number of Placements: 5

Date of Report: March 25, 2016

I. Recommendations and Observations of the Guardian ad Litem:

A. The Guardian ad Litem respectfully makes the following recommendations:

- 1. Placement/safety:** Although John was previously placed with his maternal, he was removed from this home due to the caregivers violating terms of the safety plan. After being in a group home for a short time, on March 25, 2016, John was moved to a traditional foster home in Venice, Florida. Although John misses his grandparents, he is adjusting to the new foster home where all his needs are met and there are safety concerns. The Guardian ad Litem recommends John stay in this foster home as it is the best possible placement for him.
- 2. Observations of sibling visitation:** John has two older siblings who are not part of this dependency case. Both siblings have substance abuse issues, and one brother is incarcerated. At this time, it is not in John's best interest to have contact with them.
- 3. Observations of the child/normalcy recommendations:** John appeared to be clean, appropriately dressed, and healthy during the Guardian ad Litem's visit. He was involved in playing a video game with the foster parents' teen-age son. John told the Guardian ad Litem he is happy to be at this home since "it is much better than the last place." Additionally, for normalcy purposes, John is permitted to spend monthly overnight visitation at a friend's house and is involved in a weekly youth group at his local church. The Guardian ad Litem recommends that it is in John's best interest that he continues participating in these age-appropriate activities.

- 4. Observations of parental visits/interactions:** The mother, Doris Doe, would visit John when he was living with his maternal grandparents. But since his removal in February 2016, Ms. Doe has not contacted the case manager to schedule a visit. It is the Guardian ad Litem's opinion that the mother's visits remain supervised. John's father is unknown.
- 5. Services needed for child:** It is the Guardian ad Litem's opinion that John might benefit from some therapy to deal with the trauma of removal from his family. He is currently up to date with his routine medical and dental care.
- 6. Permanency recommendations:** The current case plan goal is reunification with a goal date of April 16, 2016. The Guardian ad Litem believes that it is in John's best interest for the Court to change the goal to adoption.

B. The Guardian ad Litem respectfully submits the following statement of the wishes of the child: John, age seven, wishes to live with his mother. If that is not possible he prefers to be in a traditional foster home instead of a group home.

II. Child's Status: John was recently enrolled in his new elementary school in Venice, Florida. This will be the third school he has attended this year. John says he enjoys school and does well in class. He enjoys playing video games with his new foster brother. He also enjoys baseball.

III. Other: The Guardian ad Litem's recommendations are based on the parent's compliance and other best interest factors. The mother has never completed a drug screen and she has never provided proof of income or housing. On February 20, 2016, Ms. Doe was arrested in xxxxxxxx County, Florida, for assaulting the maternal grandmother and the maternal aunt. Since her arrest, she has had no contact with the case manager and has not visited John. Although the Guardian ad Litem believes there is a tight bond between John and his mother and Ms. Doe loves John, it is the Guardian ad Litem's opinion that Ms. Doe does not have the ability to properly care for him.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Volunteer
Guardian ad Litem

____/____/____
Date

Wiley E. Coyote
Child Advocate Manager

____/____/____
Date

**GUARDIAN AD LITEM REPORT TO THE COURT
DOE, JOHN; CASE NO: 2015 DP 000XXX
PAGE 3 OF 3**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I reviewed/read the above Guardian Ad Litem's Report and that it is being filed herein pursuant to Fla. Statute(s) 39.701 (2)(b); 39.807 (2)(b); or 39.822(4).

By: _____

Adam Attorney, Esq.
Child's Best Interest Attorney
Guardian ad Litem Program
FBN: XXXXX
ADDRESS

_____/_____/_____
Date