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**CASA COURT REPORT**

**Reporting Period from:** September 12th, 2016 – February 13th, 2017

**CASA Appointment:** January 28th, 2015

**Court Hearing:** February 13th, 2017

**Date CASA report completed:** February 3rd, 2017

**CHILD’S NAME: DOCKET NO.: DATE OF BIRTH:**

**Xavier L uther XXXXXXX 06/02/2004**

1. **CASA ACTIVITIES**
   * **RECORDS REVIEWED:** This CASA has reviewed the following: the Court order from the hearing 9/12/16; attended and reviewed notes from FTDM at DSS dated 11/10/16; and, reviewed the results of the IEP meeting from 11/30/16.
   * **CHILD CONTACTS:** During this review period, I’ve had 6 visits with Xavier, two of which were the CASA picnic in September, 2016 and the CASA Holiday Party in December, 2016. All other visits were at his residence at his great Aunt’s home. All were enjoyable and positive.

In addition to these social outings, I attended Xavier’s pre-trial arraignment on 12/28/16 and the initial trial (postponed) on 12/30/17 – Xavier was present at both of these hearings. These legal proceedings were a result of Xavier being charged with Malicious Destruction of Property – he and a friend threw rocks at passing cars and broke someone’s car window.

* + **FAMILY CONTACTS:** I have had several face-to-face contacts with Xavier’s great Aunt, Raven as well as a number of phone contacts with her during this review period.
  + **COLLATERAL CONTACTS:** I’ve had regular contact with Xavier’s DSS social worker, Denise Michaels and attorney Kristina Hudgins. I’ve also established contact with the guidance counselor at Northwest Academy, Mr. Minix. I’ve spoken by phone with Dr. Lilly Lollipop, Xavier’s therapist.

1. **FINDINGS**

**1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

1. **REASON CHILD CAME INTO CARE:**

On 4/4/13 DSS received a report of sexual abuse of Xavier’s 4 year old sister by Xavier (8 years old at the time). Xavier had been residing with his maternal grandmother, S Mathers, since he was 3 months old, but he had contact with his mother, Lauralei B, who had Xavier’s younger sister living with her. During the course of this investigation Ms. B reported that Xavier was becoming increasingly sexually and physically aggressive and had been forced to leave 2 schools. It also became known during the investigation that both Ms. B and Ms. Mathers minimized both the abuse Xavier perpetrated on his sister, as well as kept secret Xavier’s admission that he had been sexually abused. Both mother and grandmother were given a verbal safety plan stating that Xavier and his sister would have no contact during the investigation. Both agreed but later admitted to CPS that they knowingly violated the plan and allowed the children to spend time together. Therefore, Xavier was sheltered to the Department on 4/19/13 and found CINA on 5/20/13.

1. **PLACEMENT HISTORY:**

* St. Vincent’s Villa Diagnostic Center 4/19/13 – 9/13/13
* Ms. Geraldine Griffin, Woodbourne TFC 9/13/13 – 9/18/14
* St. Vincent’s Villa Diagnostic Center 9/18/14 – 10/23/14
* St. Vincent’s RTC 10/23/14 – 4/1/16
* Ms. Raven D (great-Aunt) 4/1/16 – present

**2. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES:** Xavier is in the 7th grade for this 2016/2017 school year at Northwest Academy (same school, but new name for Old Court Middle School). As mentioned, I’ve initiated contact with the school and have spoken with guidance counselor Mr. Minix on 2 occasions. Xavier has an IEP that the school is following. As of 10/28/16 (first marking period) Xavier was passing all of his classes.

**3. MEDICAL ISSUES:** Xavier is in good health with all physical, dental and vision exams current and up to date. According to DSS, Xavier’s last physical was March, 2016; his last dental was in August, 2016; and, his last vision appointment was also in August, 2016. Xavier’s great-Aunt, Raven D, is responsible for ensuring his medical care is up to date.

Xavier is prescribed Focalin XR (ADHD) 10 mg at 8 a.m. and 5 mg at noon; Clonidine (ADHD) 0.1 mg TID; Lamictal (Mood) 50 mg in the a.m. and 25 mg at bedtime; DDAVP (Bed wetting) .02 mg at bedtime; and, Benadryl 25 mg as needed. DSS and Aunt Raven both reported to this CASA Volunteer that Xavier’s medications have not changed; he is monitored by psychiatrist Dr. Popola.

**4. PSYCHOLOGICAL ISSUES:** According to the last St. Vincent’s Treatment Plan in April, 2016, Xavier had been diagnosed with the following:

AXIS 1 – Disruptive Mood Dysregulation; ADHD; Sexual Abuse of Child (victim and perpetrator); Parent-Child Relation Problems

AXIS II – Deferred

AXIS III – S/P Post intra-uterine drug exposure

AXIS IV – Problem with Primary Support Group; Multi-Generational Abuse and Neglect;

AXIS V – GAF – 35

In speaking with Dr. Lilly Lollipop in November, 2016 she reported that she is supposed to be seeing Xavier every 2 weeks for in-home therapy but that scheduling with aunt Raven has been a problem. This CASA Volunteer has tried to follow up with Dr. Lollipop recently but has not yet heard back from her; however, DSS worker Denise Michaels reports that Xavier is indeed seeing her regularly. Dr. Lollipop had noted that there has been no change in Xavier’s diagnoses (as noted above from St. Vincent’s). Dr. Lollipop states that Xavier is doing well in therapy and is making progress.

DSS recently located a program (New Directions) that is providing therapeutic services to Xavier specifically in relation to sexual offending and sexual abuse issues. He’s been assigned a therapist, Matt Taylor, and this CASA Volunteer has attempted to initiate contact as of the writing of this report but hasn’t yet heard back from him. In talking with DSS worker, Denise Michaels, she informs this CASA Volunteer that this more intensive therapy has begun. Eventually, this therapy will incorporate his family when therapeutically appropriate.

**5. FAMILY/SIBLING VISITATION:** Xavier is residing with his great Aunt Raven D. He has regular contact and visits with his grandmother, Ms. S Mathers (Ms. D’ sister), however she has been ill and has been hospitalized and Xavier has been very quiet with how this makes him feel. He has always been very close to his grandmother. Xavier also has contact with his mother, Lauralei B, but this is on a limited and occasional basis (this is both by Xavier’s choice as well as being limited due to not being allowed to have contact with his younger sister, who resides with their mother).

**6. CASA’S IMPRESSIONS OF THE CHILD:** Since being assigned as Xavier’s CASA Volunteer in January, 2015, I have found him to be both pleasant and polite at every visit. As mentioned before, all visits are enjoyable and we have developed a good relationship and I have gained Xavier’s trust.

Xavier lives with his great aunt Raven D and I feel this placement is beneficial to Xavier. Ms. D and I both feel that Xavier’s attitude has improved since living with her and he seems much happier than when he had been at St. Vincent’s.

Xavier has been making progress in school. Knowing his aptitude I know he can do better and he still needs to apply himself more to his studies. Socially, he got into the “wrong” crowd and needs to pick his friends more wisely. With some of these friends he has engaged in some illegal activity (AWOL from school for one day, throwing rocks at cars for fun, etc.) and he seems to be realizing that he needs to be making better choices. Xavier could greatly benefit from some positive activities and has expressed some interest in playing basketball or taking a martial arts class.

In my visits with Xavier, I do see a definite change in his attitude as his life is much more relaxed with less tension. Overall this CASA Volunteer is very pleased with his progress and I hope for continued improvement.

**7. COURT STIPULATIONS:** At the September 12th, 2016 hearing, Judge Bailey ordered the following:

* Permanency Plan continues to be Placement with a Relative for Custody and Guardianship
* CASA report considered and Maintain CASA appointment
* Reasonable efforts were found by DSS
* Xavier remains committed to the Department
* DSS retains limited guardianship
* Visits with mom are liberal and unsupervised and follow therapeutic recommendations
* Visits with dad are not to take place unless he contacts DSS first

Additional order: Lauralei B (mother) and Xavier Charles Sr. (father) each shall: 1. Cooperate with the Department by providing family background information; signing Release of Information forms regarding educational, medical, mental health, and substance abuse services and treatment that are necessary to provide services to the child and family; allowing scheduled and unscheduled home visits; permitting access to the child; comply with service agreements; and maintaining consistent and regular contact with the Department; Lauralei B shall 2. Visit with the respondent and participate in treatment team meetings and be available to consent to health and educational services for Xavier as recommended. Xavier Charles Sr. shall 1. Contact the Department to enter a Service agreement

**8. PERMANENCY PLAN:**

* Custody and Guardianship to a Relative (Xavier is living with his great Aunt Raven D).

**9. CHILD’S WISHES:** Xavier would like to continue living with his great-Aunt where he can also have frequent visits with his grandmother who lives in the same general area. Xavier also wishes that I remain his CASA Volunteer.

**C: RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That Xavier remains in his placement with his great-Aunt, Raven D. Hopefully this will prove to be a long-term living arrangement and perhaps permanent with Custody and Guardianship.
2. That Xavier continues with his new specialized trauma therapy. He should also continue with his regular therapy and his medication should be evaluated and monitored regularly.
3. That Xavier’s school, Northwest Academy, continues to follow his IEP.
4. That this CASA Volunteer appointment continues.

**Respectfully submitted:**

**CASA Volunteer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CASA Supervisor:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date of Preparation:**