

Case #: 46-70227
Child: **ADAM JONES**
D.O.B. 07-17-13

GAL: **Carol Ballent**
GAL Supervisor: **Kristine Inyang**

Date: **Thursday, 12-05-13 – Visit to Adam at Maternal Aunt's (Cecilia Young) House**
Time: **7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

RE: INITIAL VISIT TO ADAM AT MATERNAL AUNT'S HOUSE BY GAL

Observations:

- The maternal aunt (Cecilia) lives in a modest, 3-bedroom/2-bath house where the garage has been converted to a family room/den. The whole house was very neat and clean and a decorated Christmas tree was in the living room.
- Cecilia lives by herself; one son (age 28) lives with his fiancée in North Miami; the other son is away at college in New York and will be home for the holidays. She is very well-spoken and told this GAL many times how much she loved Adam - and did not want him to go into foster care - and wants to stay involved with him, even though she is too old (age 60) to adopt him.
- Adam is almost 5 months old; has big brown eyes, and was friendly and smiley. For most of my visit, he was seated in a bouncy chair and used a pacifier from time to time when he started to get fussy. He babbled and smiled when spoken too and seemed like a happy baby. Cecilia handled him comfortably and said he was an easy baby to take care of. He sleeps in a port-a-crib in her bedroom. (She related that the judge told her he should sleep in her bedroom and she's fine with that.)
- Adam attends La Petite Academy day care, which is not Gold Seal - but it is an Apple accredited and Quality Counts school.
- Adam's 4-month old checkup took place on Nov. 22.

History:

- Cecilia related that when Adam's mother — Elizabeth (now 23 years old) — was growing up, her parents (Elizabeth's father was Cecilia's brother) were very troubled and many times Elizabeth stayed with Cecilia. However, when she was 15 years old, she moved back home permanently with her parents. Elizabeth's parents are now deceased.
- Cecilia had not seen or talked to Elizabeth for a long time and didn't even know she was pregnant. A couple weeks before Adam was born, Elizabeth's boyfriend (Adam's father) called to tell Cecilia that Elizabeth going to have a baby soon.
- When the baby was born, the boyfriend called to tell Cecilia, who then went to visit Elizabeth and Adam on a daily basis in the hospital. Adam had to stay at the hospital extra time because he had marijuana in his system when he was born. A caseworker was assigned who came 3 times a week and some kind of parenting advisor from U of M was working with Elizabeth.
- Initially, the boyfriend and Elizabeth were going to go back to the studio apartment they had been sharing with several other people prior to the baby's birth. However, right before they were discharged from the hospital, they were told by their "roommates" that they could not bring a baby into the apartment. So, Cecilia let them move into her house - against her son's wishes.
- The boyfriend stayed around for a week or so - and then left - never to be seen again.
- Cecilia related that Elizabeth initially seemed to be taking good care of the baby, who has been residing in Cecilia's house since birth.
- Cecilia has not seen Elizabeth since October 31. (She spent the night with Cecilia and Adam on Oct. 30.) Cecilia no longer wants Elizabeth in her house. She feels Elizabeth probably doesn't consider that she has abandoned Adam because Elizabeth knows that Cecilia will take good care of him.
- I explained that if Elizabeth shows up or calls, Cecilia should tell her to contact the case worker - and not let her into the house.

Cecilia's Hopes for the Future:

- Cecilia has worked quite a while with and for a man (age 34) at her job site whom she respects and likes very much. When the Judge ordered her to have a back-up person/place for Adam, she spoke to her male colleague at work. He checked with his same-sex partner (age 35). They agreed to be her back up caregivers — and then told Cecilia that they had been trying to adopt a child for the past two years and would be very interested in adopting Adam — whom her friend had met early on when Cecilia had to bring him to work one day for a few hours.

- They gave Cecilia a booklet with pictures that showed their interests and desires. (Their adoption lawyer had advised them to make this booklet when they started looking into adoption.) Both men are professionals —her friend is a systems analyst — have good incomes, common interests, and have been together for 5 years.
- Cecilia has two fears: (1) that Elizabeth will keep returning and walk in and out of Adam's life; and (2) that Adam will be put in foster care and bounced around. She will do anything she can to avoid this happening as she loves Adam very much and is very attached to him.
- If this couple was able to adopt Adam, Cecilia feels she could still be part of Adam's life - in the role of grandmother.
- As Cecilia's back up, the couple are in the process of being fingerprinted and having a home study.
- Cecilia would like them to start getting to know Adam.

Concerns & Recommendations:

- At this time, Adam is in a safe, loving environment and is well cared for. All his needs are being met.
- It also seems as if Cecilia is working hard to give Adam's future a positive outlook. She definitely seems to have Adam's best interests at heart.