

**CASA of Middlesex County
Report to the Court**

Child's Name:

Mariah Redd

DOB February 5

FN 11-7-012345-7

CASA Volunteer:

Mollie Kuether
(Appointed 7/8/15)

Date of Hearing:

Date of Report: 8/11/15

Contacts (since last hearing)	Telephone	Written/Email	In Person
Mariah Redd, Child			Date (1), Date (2)
Julia Budd, Resource Mom	Date (1)		Date (1), Date (2)
Kim Ellis, Case Worker	Date (1), Date (2)	Date (1)	
Willy and Pearl Monroe, [?]	Date (1)		Date (1)
Sierra Redd Thomas, Maternal Aunt	Date (1), Date (2)		Date (1)
Lela Jones, Grandmother	Date (1)		Date (1)
Charles Jones, Step Grandfather			Date (1)
Carlton "Buddy" Redd, Half Brother			Date (1)
Clarissa Ann Redd, Mother	Date (1)		

Background:

On February 5, the day of Mariah Redd's birth, the local hospital notified CPS that Mariah had tested positive for PCP. Mariah was taken into custody of DCP&P and the child's mother, Clarissa Ann Redd, was discharged the day after the birth. Ms. Redd did not return to visit the child. Mariah was kept in the hospital for a five-day detoxification period, and then placed in the resource home of Julia Budd.

Mariah remained in the care of resource mom Julia Budd until she was two months old. At two months, she and her mother Clarissa Redd entered Fresh Start, a mother/baby residential treatment program. According to DCP&P social worker Kim Ellis, however, they did not complete the program, and Mariah was returned to the resource home of Julia Budd after two months on [date].

The child's mother, Clarissa Ann Redd, reported to DCP&P social worker that she had been using "sherm" (cigarettes dipped in PCP), which she had started using when she was 18 years old. Clarissa Redd has two other children in addition to Mariah: 10-year-old Carlton Redd is in the legal custody of his grandmother, and 7-year-old Tyrone Monroe is in the custody of his father.

Current Situation:

Since last court hearing, the CASA has met with Mariah and resource mom Julia Budd on two occasions. Resource mom has three children of her own, ages 15, 13, and 10. According to the resource mom, Mariah has been happy and healthy. She reports that the entire family cares very much about Mariah and expressed strong interest in adoption. CASA observed the resource family holding and playing with Mariah, and Mariah's laughter and playful behavior indicate that she has bonded with them.

Medical records from County Health Clinic show that resource mom Julia Budd has been on schedule with inoculations and well-baby care for Mariah. After Mariah tested positive for PCP at birth, the DCP&P social worker referred Mariah to a county program for high-risk infants. According to monitoring reports by the county program, Mariah shows no signs of developmental delays or neurological deficits. However, the reports do also mention one possible abnormality that needs to be investigated further in a follow-up appointment.

Mariah's mother, Clarissa Redd, expressed to the CASA her desire to "do whatever it takes" to regain custody of Mariah. She stated that this would include submitting to drug testing. DCP&P social worker Kim Ellis reported that Ms. Redd did not complete the Fresh Start mother/baby residential treatment program, but according to DCP&P records, Fresh Start has agreed they would be willing to let Ms. Redd reenroll if she showed she was committed to sobriety. Ms. Redd also reported that she would secure employment if she regained custody of Mariah, but she has so far been unsuccessful in her job search. According to Ms. Redd, she is only allowed visits with Mariah once every other week, and she expressed her desire to be allowed more time with her child.

CASA also met with Clarissa Redd's sister, Sierra Redd Thomas. Ms. Thomas's husband is on active military duty, but is currently home for an undetermined time period. The couple is caring for their own son and a four-year-old niece. Ms. Thomas expressed to CASA that she and her husband would be interested in adopting Mariah, and that this would allow Mariah to stay within her family. Ms. Thomas reports that she has informed DCP&P social worker Kim Ellis of her interest in adoption, but that no further steps have been taken to investigate the family's circumstance or the viability of placing Mariah with them.

Recommendations:

- **Mariah should remain with her current resource family for the next six months while two alternative placement options are fully investigated.** Based on CASA's observations and reports by resource mother and DCP&P social worker, the resource family is a safe, stable, and potentially permanent placement for Mariah while other placement options are fully investigated.
- **Alternative placement with Mariah's maternal aunt Sierra Redd Thomas should be investigated.** DCP&P should conduct an investigation to determine whether placement with Ms. Thomas's family is a viable permanent placement option. This investigation should be completed and a determination of viability made within the next six months.

* Home study

- **Mother's progress should be monitored by DCP&P for six months to determine whether reunification with her daughter is a viable option.** Over the next six months, DCP&P should provide support to the mother in accessing the following services:
 - Substance abuse treatment program with regular drug testing upon completion
 - Parenting classes
 - Psychological evaluation with follow-up therapy as needed
 - Assistance locating and securing employment
- **Mariah should be assessed for Early Intervention needs and services.**
- **DCP&P should continue to monitor Mariah's health to ensure that any medical needs are timely addressed.** This includes ensuring Mariah is scheduled for a follow-up appointment to investigate the "potential abnormalities" mentioned in County Health Clinic's medical report.
- **DCP&P should attempt to locate Mariah's father to determine his interest and ability in parenting.** If the father is located but determined not to be a suitable permanent placement option, he should be required to pay child support.

Respectfully submitted,

Mollie Kuether
Court Appointed Special Advocate

PC Name
CASA Peer Coordinator

*This is an
extremely
well-written example.
Great job!*