

SAMPLE CHILD WELFARE REPORT FOR THE SAMPSON FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE HELD TODAY

INTRODUCTION:

My name is Lee Adams and I am the CAS worker and have been working with this family for the past 6 months. The family has had periodic involvement with this agency for almost two years. The assistance to this family has centered on the Jane's struggle in parenting the children due to her misuse and dependency on pain medication. The children came into care one month ago when it was confirmed that they had been left alone in the late hours of the evening. All three children are in the same foster home and they have supervised access visits with their mother.

STRENGTHS:

- Jane is a good parent and attentive to her children's physical and emotional needs when she is not over using her medication
- Jane wants to be drug free and wants her children and husband to be able to rely on her again
- Joe holds a steady job and is a good provider
- Joe manages his finances, he is the consistent parent in the home and the children relate well to their dad
- Janet aged 11 is active in basketball, can be quite independent and enjoys cooking and is good at it
- James aged 8 is a friendly boy who has lots of friends
- Jill aged 6 is a good singer and she tries hard to do well at school
- The maternal grandmother, Mrs. Patterson visits the home regularly and offers help such as babysitting and support
- Janet especially has a close relationship with her grandmother
- Relatives from out west have regular contact with the family and try to offer support and whatever help they can
- The neighbours also have helped out when they could, offering support

CONCERNS/WORRIES

JANE'S DRUG DEPENDENCY/CHRONIC PAIN

Jane became dependent and addicted to prescription medication as a result of dealing with a health condition. A big worry is that Jane's condition is inoperable and incurable, meaning she will have to

cope with it for the rest of the children's growing up years. Her condition leaves her in constant pain and she is often nauseous and it is this pain that is thought to trigger the drug use cycle. Jane is sceptical of alternative treatments. During these periods of active drug use, Jane sometimes leaves the children for a few days at a time. They get scared and worried about what may happen to their mother.

Jane's absence's from the home, as well as the promise she makes to the children and is unable to keep affects the children's ability to trust the adults. In the past, Jane has attended drug treatment programs in the community but was not able to complete them. She does not feel or see herself as the same as other's attending these programs.

NEGLECT OF THE CHILDREN:

When Jane is away from the home, the children are frightened about being left alone, Janet feels responsible for her younger siblings and is forced to take on adult responsibilities like cooking and disciplining. While Janet enjoys being the older sibling, she can be bossy causing problems between her and her brother and sister. The children have little routine and stay up late at night watching TV. Janet has fallen asleep in class showing the strain she is under.

ADULT CONFLICT:

Joe is a truck driver and his job takes him away from home for days at a time, making it impossible for him to step in during the times Jane is away from the home. This has led to conflicts between Jane and Jo. Jo's stress has increased recently to the point where he has shared that he is frightened he will hit Jane and up to now he has been able to restrain himself. The children have told me that their parents' fighting scares them and they are afraid and anxious their mom will get hurt. Sometimes James tries to stop his parent's fights placing him in harm's way and he can be disrespectful towards his dad. Jill on the other hand tends to cling to either her mother or her older sister and she has also started to wet the bed which I believe is a sign of stress and worry.

QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

Where will the children reside and who will be their main caregiver while the worries are being addressed? Any proposed caregiver would need CAS approval.

How will the children stay safely connected with their parents keeping in mind Jane's struggle and the conflict between Jane and Joe and the needs of the children?

BOTTOM LINE:

Jane could be the primary caregiver after she has shown that she using her medication as prescribed for a period of 6 months