

Introducing the Johnson Family

On April 18, 2012, the police were called to the Johnson family home for a domestic violence dispute between Kim and her husband, Ken. When the police arrived, Ken was trying to leave the scene and ran over a police officer's foot. The police searched his car and found a substantial amount of prescription drugs. The police suspected both parents were under the influence of drugs and Kim admitted to recent prescription drug use. Ken had been injured during the incident; therefore Kim was arrested for assault. Ken was charged with possession, intent to distribute a controlled substance, and aggravated assault of a police officer.

Three children were present at the time of the incident. Lisa is 16 years old and is the child of Kim and her late husband, Russell. Paul, 11 years old, and Brandi, 5 years old, are the children of Kim and Ken. All three were removed from the home on an emergency basis and placed with a sister of Ken's and her husband who then became foster parents.

At the start of the case, Kim made a commitment to receive the addiction treatment she needed, entered inpatient rehab, and graduated to an intensive outpatient program. Throughout the summer of 2012, Kim visited with Paul and Brandi on a regular basis and had negative urine screens. In September of 2012, Kim suffered a setback and her compliance with court ordered services became sporadic. She had two positive urine screens in October. She did, however, maintain fairly consistent contact with her caseworker as well as the CASA volunteer.

Lisa has had less consistent visitation with her mother Kim since she went into care – sometimes Kim says she does not want to go “it's all her fault that the family is broken up and I want nothing to do with her” and sometimes Kim fails to appear for scheduled visits. Lisa also did not get along with Ken's sister that the three children were placed with and she asked to be removed from that home. The aunt and uncle agreed as they felt that Lisa was “unmanageable” and also that Lisa “wasn't their blood” Lisa is now in a foster home without her siblings but she does visit regularly with Paul and Brandi.

The caseworker is currently saying that all three children's permanency plans will be changed from reunification to TPR because of Kim's lack of compliance with visits and her positive drug screens and because Ken continues to be incarcerated. The aunt and uncle who have the two younger children said that they are now willing to have Lisa back in their home “if she behaves” and that they will adopt all three children.

Today - Permanency Hearing

There is a permanency hearing scheduled in court today for the matter of the Johnson family. The court report indicates that Kim has not been complying with services and has failed to maintain contact with the caseworker and that Ken is incarcerated and not always responsive to the caseworker. Lisa remains in her foster home. Paul and Brandi are residing with their relatives. Ken remains incarcerated but was transported from the jail for the permanency hearing. Kim is present but looks to be in bad shape and Lisa is also present. The younger children have not been brought to court.