

Vignette 1: Introduction and Purpose of Permanency Hearing

Court Service Officer [Calls the court to order, introduce the judge, the Honorable _____]

Introduction by Judge –

Judge: Good Morning, this is the Johnson matter Please state your names for the record

Prosecutor: I'm _____, on behalf of the state.

GAL: I'm _____, on behalf of the children, Lisa, Paul and Brandi. Lisa is here in court today Your Honor.

Mom's Attorney: I'm _____, on behalf of Kim Johnson who is also present today.

Dad's Attorney : I'm _____, on behalf of Ken Johnson who is also present here brought from jail.

CASA: I'm _____, the CASA volunteer for the children.

Caseworker: I'm _____ on behalf of St. Francis/KVC

Judge: May the parties be sworn.

Court Service Officer Do you swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Caseworker, Lisa, Kim, Ken and CASA Volunteer stand: Yes.

Judge: This case started when a domestic violence incident occurred between spouses, Ken and Kim. Both Ken and Kim were arrested at the time and the three children, Lisa, Paul and Brandi were removed from the home and placed with relatives who thereafter became foster parents. Kim has had substance abuse issues and has been receiving drug treatment. We can talk about that more in a couple of minutes. Ken has remained incarcerated since the incident on April 18th. The CASA report also indicates that Lisa did not do well in that placement and is now in a separate foster home. I am very pleased to see everyone here today for our Permanency Hearing.

Today we are here for a Permanency Hearing. I expect to hear as to what the proposed permanency goals are for each of the children and what efforts have been made towards achieving permanency for each of the children. I would like to hear about the status of the parties and make sure that the children achieve permanency as quickly as possible. The court must assess the long-term interests of the children and determine what is in their best interests moving forward.

Does anyone have any questions about what we are going to do today?

Get audience to talk about what a permanency hearing is and in particular the decisions that the Judge has to make