



Agency Name: ACCORD, A Center for Dispute Resolution, Inc.

Program Name: Voices for Children/Court Appointed Special Advocate

Program Success Story:

Brent (5-10-89), Corey (5-11-92) and Ron (4-28-94) are the children involved in this case. The CASA assigned to this case has consistently visited Brent, Corey, and Ron at their respective homes. Brent lives with his biological father and Corey and Ron live with their maternal aunt. The two boys living with their aunt were having problems because the aunt was misusing alcohol and subjecting them to her girlfriends' sexual exploits. One of the girlfriends of the aunt is an adjudicated sexual perpetrator; the other one has three pending felony charges against her. As soon as the CASA became aware of this information, she informed the DSS caseworker. After the information was verified, the children were removed from their aunt's home and placed with their brother in their stepfather's care.

In this case, the CASA has advocated for a change in counselors for the boys because the boys were not feeling comfortable with the counselor they had. After gathering information from the schoolteachers and the school social worker, the CASA discovered that two of the boys were having problems in school and they were not able to get a hold of the father. After an investigation, the CASA discovered that the boys were not giving their dad the notes that the teachers were sending home and that the school had the wrong phone number for the father. Since then, the boys were tested and both of them have IEP's and are now completing their educational plan. The CASA has been able to help the biological father obtain bedroom furniture for all of the boys, sign up for public assistance and learn more about parenting. After about eleven months in the "father's" home, he was given temporary custody of all three of the boys with DSS maintaining supervision over the house for a period of one year. CASA is currently making sure that the "father" has everything set in place for his children, as DSS is getting ready to give permanent custody to him.