

1 **CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS!**

2 “By Court Order, these documents are confidential.
3 If you copy, distribute or disclose these records, you
4 may be subject to contempt of court.”
5

6 **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES
7 OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

8 813 Freedom Blvd.
9 Watsonville, CA 95076
10 Telephone: (831) 761-2956
11 Fax (831) 761-2913
12

13 **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**
14 **JUVENILE COURT**

15 **In the Matter of:** Jake McKinley

16 **Age: 16**

17 **NO.**

18 **CASA REPORT AND**
19 **RECOMMENDATION**

20
21
22 **A Minor**

COURT DATE: August 3rd, 2015

COURT TIME: 8:30am

23
24
25 **REPORTING ADVOCATE:** Larry Samuelson

26 **TOTAL HOURS ON THE CASE:** 287

27 **PERSONS CONTACTED:**

28
29 Therapist

30 Jake

31 Social Worker
32
33
34

1 Younger siblings. Jake has great affection for his younger brother and sisters. In his current placement,
2 he only sees his three sisters and younger brother once each week during scheduled visits.

3
4 **Visitations:** Currently 1 hour per week with younger siblings.

5
6 **Therapy & Medical Needs:** Jake continues to see a therapist from Children's Mental Health and reports
7 that he likes his therapist and wants to continue seeing her.

8 Dr. Mason from Children's Mental Health *tentatively diagnosed* him with high functioning Aspergers
9 Syndrome in June 2015. The treatment protocol continues to focus therapy efforts on the hyper-vigilant
10 and mildly paranoid aspects of Jake's behavior. His therapist reports improvement in this area.

11 Jake received a breathing device for his sleep apnea in October and says that he is sleeping better.

12 He has also gotten prescription eyeglasses, but does not like wearing them.

13 He is receiving physical therapy for tendonitis in his forearm, attributable to repetitive stress caused by
14 making stone tools.

15 Jake's mother has been very active in seeing that Jake's health care needs have been addressed and
16 accompanies him to his appointments.

17 Jake's therapist stated that she was concerned that Jake would exhibit increased stress and agitation if he
18 was placed with his mother, but is currently pleased that this has not been the case. Jake seems stable and
19 is adjusting well to living with his mother.

20 She said that she is confident Jake has the abilities and gifting to be successful and become independent,
21 as long as he has active, intentional direction and support toward that goal.

22
23 **Placement:** Jake is currently placed with his Mother.

24
25 **Permanency:** The current plan is for Jake to continue to be placed with his mother and the case
26 dismissed in September.

1 **ASSESSMENT**

2 I think Jake is doing very well in his current situation. His mood and general demeanor is relaxed and
3 comfortable in his home. He has the space he needs to make a mess with tool making and flint knapping
4 and he enjoys freedom to pursue the skills he is passionate about. He is also getting better at cleaning up.
5 Jake loves his mom and I do not doubt that she loves him. I have heard it said by several people that they
6 share a special bond. He states unequivocally that he wants to live with his mother and siblings. He says
7 that he has no interest in going to college or getting a job. His long-term plan is to “go live in the woods.”
8 I have spent many, many hours in the service of this goal with him; making tools, shelter and hunting
9 implements and gathering animal carcasses from the roadside. I think he will be more inclined to
10 consider other opportunities for independent living only after he has spent time living in the forest. Over
11 the past 26 months his grandmother, therapist, social worker, schoolteachers and caregivers have all tried
12 repeatedly to dissuade him from this goal. I have talked extensively with Jake about what his plan would
13 entail and he has not wavered in the slightest in his desire to see it through. I have come to respect him
14 for his tenacity, if not his wisdom regarding long-term outlook.

15 I think it is possible for Jake to develop a more mature view of what his life could become, but I think
16 this will take a long time and will be less difficult to accomplish with the emotional support of his
17 mother.

18 I have been to his home each week for the past 4 months and it is my opinion that it is a safe place for
19 him and his mother is taking good care of him. She has communicated with me each week about
20 visitation and scheduling, and she is proactive in this regard.

21 I think Jake benefits greatly from the regular therapy he is receiving and I am certain that continued
22 therapy is in his long-term best interest. Whenever I ask him if he wants to keep seeing his therapist his
23 answer is always yes.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32

RECOMMENDATIONS

Therefore, I respectfully recommend:

- 1. Jake continue to be placed with his mother.
- 2. Family Maintenance services be provided for 6 months.
- 3. Jake continues therapy.
- 4. Jake continues attending Santa Cruz High.
- 5. Jake attends Soquel High if unable to attend Santa Cruz High.

By *Larry Samuelson*

Date 5-16-2017

Larry Samuelson
Court Appointed Special Advocate

APPROVED:

Sarah Robey

Sarah Robey
CASA Advocate Supervisor