

1 Billy Bob became a Dependent of the Court on 2/11/14 due to substantiated neglect and
2 physical abuse by his step father dating from 11/13/13. His mother was under the influence and
3 unable to provide adequate supervision. Billy Bob's father died 4/21/11 and his mother has a
4 long history of substance abuse starting before Billy Bob was born. Billy Bob was previously
5 under a family maintenance order from 9/28/06 to 10/30/08.

6 The current case remained in family maintenance until 8/25/16 when he and his younger
7 sister Kamala were found to be spending long periods of time home alone without supervision.
8 At this time both children were moved to out-of-home care. After a very brief period in a foster
9 home, Billy Bob has lived in a group home.

10 I was appointed Billy Bob's CASA in September 2016. A year earlier both Billy Bob and
11 his mother had expressed opposition to having a CASA but Billy Bob was quite open to meeting
12 and having outings when I first met with him in September. Billy Bob can be very nervous
13 about going out on visits, he frequently cancels at the last minute, and several weeks can go by
14 when he doesn't want to meet with me. However if we are able to go on an outing he quickly
15 opens up and we've had a number of successful outings: a visit to the zoo, horse riding, archery,
16 golf, laser tag, and movies.

17 Billy Bob is bright and enjoys sports and animals. While academically capable, he has had a
18 number of behavioral incidents at school one of which led to a suspension. Billy Bob can shut
19 down and not communicate with adults, and gives the impression of being quite lonely in his
20 group home.

21 22 **CURRENT STATUS**

23 **School**

24 Billy Bob started 6th grade at School of Rock Middle School in August, just before he was
25 taken into care and moved to the group home. His education rights remain with his mother.
26 Billy Bob has a 504 plan but does not need special education.

27 Billy Bob had a rocky start at his new school, with a number of absences recorded by the
28 school and his teacher reporting him being disruptive in class. He did settle down after a while
29 and his first quarter grades ranged from A- to D, with a GPA of 2.0. His teacher reported that the
30 lower grades were mostly from work that Billy Bob had failed to hand in, even though she has a
31 policy of accepting work right to the end of the quarter. She didn't have academic concerns for

1 Billy Bob, judging that he is capable of doing the work if he can remain focused. His second
2 quarter had a promising start but once again suffered from incomplete work. He got an F for
3 social science in this period, bringing his second quarter GPA down to 1.667.

4 5 **Extra-Curricular Activities**

6 Billy Bob is signed up for after school programs three days a week. In February the school
7 reported that he wasn't attending the after school program and instead hanging out around the
8 basketball courts until he was collected by his group home, who thought he was attending class.
9 Billy Bob is now attending the program.

10 Billy Bob really enjoys participating in sports. He really wanted to be on a football team, but
11 wasn't able to sign up in the fall. He didn't make the tryout for basketball, but his school
12 counselor helped him get onto the flag football team in January. Unfortunately his grades fell
13 below 2.0 GPA and so he wasn't allowed to play on the team, much to his disappointment. He is
14 currently on a YMCA basketball team, which he does enjoy.

15 16 **Relationships**

17 Billy Bob tells me that he gets on well with his sister Kamala, and I've heard from the social
18 worker that they have a close relationship. However I've not seen Billy Bob and Kamala
19 together and so have no firsthand experience.

20 Billy Bob has a very good relationship with his maternal aunt Elizabeth, who I've met on
21 several occasions. Billy Bob really enjoys his visits to his aunt and has often canceled meetings
22 with me when they conflict with a visit to her home. Billy Bob and I have visited the restaurant
23 where Elizabeth works on two occasions and she has been really happy to see us, and she told me
24 that she really hopes to be able to provide a home for Billy Bob.

25 Billy Bob seems to have some volatile relationships with children his age. At the group
26 home I've observed him being very close to one of the other residents who is his age, and on the
27 next visit they have had a big falling out and are not communicating with each other.

28 29 **Visitations**

30 Billy Bob is supposed to have two supervised visits a week with his mother, along with his
31 sister. These had been somewhat erratic, with his mother arriving late or not at all on many

1 occasions. One time I had an outing arranged with Billy Bob after a visit with his mother, but
2 she failed to show up and Billy Bob went home with his aunt instead. I understand from Billy
3 Bob's group home that these visits are currently taking place regularly, on Tuesdays and
4 Thursdays. I also understand from Billy Bob that she is currently in a rehab facility and that she
5 is expecting another baby this summer.

7 **Therapy & Medical Needs**

8 Billy Bob is assigned to mental health services and sees his therapist regularly. He also
9 regularly takes medication for ADHD.

11 **Placement**

12 Billy Bob is generally well behaved in the group home.

14 **Permanency**

15 Currently reunification services are being provided for Billy Bob, Kamala and their mother
16 Susan. The SW tells me that the concurrent plan is with his aunt Elizabeth. She has already
17 been approved as a caregiver if she can find appropriate accommodation. Elizabeth has told me
18 that she'd really like to provide a home for Billy Bob but is finding housing very expensive.

21 **ASSESSMENT**

22 Billy Bob is having a very difficult time away from his mother, and appears quite depressed
23 at times. He was initially hopeful that he would be able to move in with his aunt, but seems to
24 have become discouraged as time passes and nothing changes.

25 His current placement in a group home is not suitable for a 12 year old boy. The other
26 residents are all female and, apart from one, much older. There is a large pool of staff members
27 which makes consistent supervision of homework very difficult, with no one really looking out
28 for Billy Bob's needs. I've seen him become much more withdrawn in the last few months, and
29 he is very reluctant to go on outings from his house.

1 I am still hopeful that his Aunt Elizabeth will be able to care for Billy Bob, but three months
2 have passed since she was approved by the department, subject to finding suitable housing. If
3 this can't happen soon then a foster home should be pursued.

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6 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

7 Therefore, I respectfully recommend:

- 8 1. Billy Bob be placed in more suitable care, preferably with his aunt Elizabeth;
9 2. Visitation with Mom and sister be continued;
10 3. Billy Bob continues therapy; and
11 4. That Billy Bob's mother be offered six more months of reunification services.

12
13 By _____ Date _____

14 Johnny Depp

15 Court Appointed Special Advocate

16 **APPROVED:**

17 _____

18 Arnold Schwarzenegger

19 CASA Advocate Supervisor