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

6  
7       **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES**  
8       **OF Santa Cruz COUNTY**  
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11      Telephone: (831) 761-2956  
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13  
14                           **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**  
15   **JUVENILE COURT**

16  
17   **MEMO TO THE COURT**

18       **In the Matter of:** Grace E. Bell

19       **Age:** 20

20   **NO:** 15JU00XXX

21   A Minor

**COURT DATE:** July 4<sup>th</sup> 2017

**COURT TIME:** 8:30 am

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23  
24       I first met Grace in January 2017 when she spoke to our advocate training class as a  
25 representative of the Independent Living Program. The entire class was moved by her brave and  
26 honest portrayal of her experience with the foster care system, group homes, and non-minor  
27 dependency. I was delighted to be assigned as her CASA in January 2017.

28  
29       In the past five months, we have communicated mostly by phone and text, interspersed with six  
30 in-person meetings. This has been an incredibly difficult time in Grace’s life, both emotionally  
31 and financially, due to the removal of her daughter Claire from her care. She has reached out to  
32 me many times for support, specifically for assistance in communicating with Claire’s social  
33 worker. Despite some frustrating setbacks, Grace has told me multiple times how grateful she is  
34 for the support and assistance she has received from the Family and Children Services  
35 Department, her attorney, her Foster Ed Liaison, ILP, and CASA.

1 Grace is working her case plan for Claire and her Supervised Independent Living Placement  
2 while keeping involved in multiple community service activities, and planning for her future  
3 after she turns 21. She volunteers with the Foster Youth Advocacy Project via the Museum of Art  
4 and History (MAH). Through Encompass, she was nominated to serve on a youth advocacy  
5 working group for the Homeless Action Project (HAP). She attends a Moms' Group at the  
6 Parent's Center. She has done inspirational speaking to many audiences, including the talk at  
7 CASA. Grace is an advocate with the Rising International organization, raising funds to support  
8 women in impoverished and dangerous conditions throughout the world.  
9

10 She has a support system of professionals as well as friends and siblings. She is pursuing  
11 interests in healthy living and parenting. She is planning to attend community college in the  
12 summer or fall. She is passionate about public speaking, advocacy, and community organizing.  
13 Her life experiences and talents will serve her well in these goals, and she has already developed  
14 a local network of professionals in this area. Her primary goal at this time is reunifying with her  
15 daughter. She finds strength in her faith and remains unbelievably optimistic through all of the  
16 challenges she faces.  
17

18 It has been a privilege getting to know Grace, and I hope to remain in contact in the future.  
19  
20  
21

22  
23 By \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

24  
25 Court Appointed Special Advocate

26 **APPROVED:**

27 \_\_\_\_\_

28 SUPERVISORS NAME  
29 Advocate Supervisor