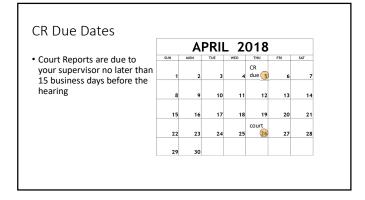
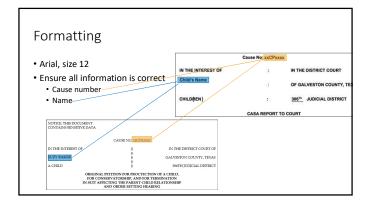
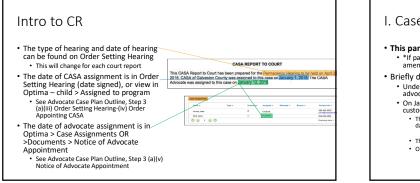


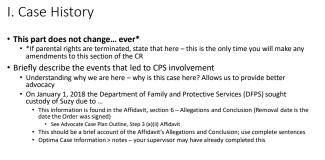
### General Guidelines

- Always obtain firsthand information
- Always speak in third person
   This CASA
- All information beyond the Case History should change with every court report
- If there is no change, report that do not leave it the same
- The better your Optima notes, the easier this will be
- Refer to Advocate Case Plan Outline for assistance
- This is your chance to share all you can with the judge do it









### Note

- From this point on, all information needs to be CURRENT to the hearing

   No information from previous CR unless it is still the current information we are UPDATING the court; not summarizing the whole case!
   CR due tomorrow, next CR due in 3 months, but next dentist appointment is scheduled for 4 months from now and no dental issues occur within those 3 months
   Parent has completed an item on service plan
- Spell out acronyms the first time you mention them
   Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS)
- Always spell out dates
- Correct: February 2, 2018
   Incorrect: 2-2-2018, Feb 2, February 2018
- Adults are referred to as "First Name Last Name", then "Mr./Mrs./Ms. Last Name" for the rest of the CR

### II. Child(ren)

- List children in order from oldest to youngest
   Names of children and birthdates are listed on the Petition and Affidavit
- · Always speak in third person "this CASA"

#### Suzy Baker:

- Suzy Baker was born on January 20, 2013 and is currently 5 years old. This CASA observes Suzy to be a generally happy child who enjoys... In a short paragraph, describe interactions with the child, their likes/dislikes, demeanor, extracurricular activities, interests bring the child to life!
  - Include all visits between present and previous hearing see Advocate Case Plan Outline, Step 7 Visit the Child/Children
  - If child is 16+, include whether child has social security card, birth certificate, and ID/Driver's License; if not, include date requested from CPS and status

This should be changed as the case progresses – each CR should have new observations, do not build on past CR

### II. Child(ren) – Placement

- Information about current placement
  - · Where placed (foster home, facility), date placed (longevity of placement) · Do not include full placement history, just placements since last court hearing
  - Who they are placed with (if applicable) and interactions/relationship with caregivers
  - · If placed with a foster placement, do not include identifying information (Mrs. Smith = Mrs. S.) · Describe the child's space
  - Adequacy, bed sharing, size of home, etc.
  - See Advocate Case Plan Outline, Step 8 Interview Foster Parents, Caregiver, Case Manage

# II. Child(ren) - Education

- · Education must be included if child is of school age
- School, grade, teacher, attendance summary, grade summary
- Include any speech/language, special education services, IEPs, 504 Accommodations, and behavior reports
  - Include name of person who signs IEP
     Note that you have contacted person responsible for IEP to ensure they believe child is receiving all services based on plan
- Source of information and when it was obtained (Use Optima notes!!!) This CASA spoke by phone to Brenda Jones, attendance clerk at City Elementary, on January 30, 2018. Ms. Jones stated that Suzy has been absent 5 days since January 1, 2018 and tardy 3 times...
- See Advocate Case Plan Outline, Step 9 Contact Schools

### II. Child(ren) – Medical

- Includes medical, vision, specialists
   If a child has multiple medical providers there should be a paragraph of information for each Who they saw, where they saw them, date, what happened, any follow-up needed, next
  appointment, immunizations, medications prescribed (not for mental health)
  - Do not need too much detail beyond this information for routine appointments, unless
    there are concerned. there are concerns
- Source of information and when it was obtained
- This CASA spoke with nurse Bruce Walker at UTMB on February 2, 2018. Mr. Walker stated that Suzy did attend her February 1, 2018 appointment and noted no concerns. He confirmed that all immunizations are up to date. Suzy is scheduled to return June 8, 2018.
- ALWAYS obtain first-hand information
   If you requested records, include date requested and method (fax, email, mail, etc)
- See Advocate Case Plan Outline, Step 10 Contact Physicians

# II. Child(ren) – Dental

- · Include information about Dentist seen, where they saw them, date, what happened, any follow-up needed, next appointment
- Include who you spoke to and date
- ALWAYS obtain first-hand information

If you requested records, include date requested and method (fax, email, mail, etc)

# II. Child(ren) – Psychological Health

- Include any therapy/counseling information
  - Therapist/counselor's name, name of practice, frequency of therapy, date spoken, dates seen
     Discussion between the spoken and the sp
  - Discuss whether you have reviewed goals of therapy and whether or not counselor has included/informed you about progress child has made
- Include whether psychological evaluation has been completed
- Psychotropic Medications
- List any medications related to mental health the child is on, dosage, and any information about who prescribed them, where, when, why
- Next medication review (should be every 90 days)
- See Advocate Case Plan Outline, Step 11 Contact Therapist

# II. Child(ren) – CANS Assessment

- Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment
   Children over age 3
- Include date completed, name of practitioner, and any recommendations from assessment

II. Child(ren)

- Complete the same sections for each additional child
- Start with the oldest child and end with the youngest child

STATUS HEARING

# STATUS HEARING

Note: Status Hearing Court Reports and Permanency Hearing Court Reports will differ primarily in the Parent section

STATUS HEARING

STATUS HEARING

### STATUS HEARING

### III. Parent(s)

• If parental rights have been terminated, this section is eliminated

#### Martha Baker, Mother

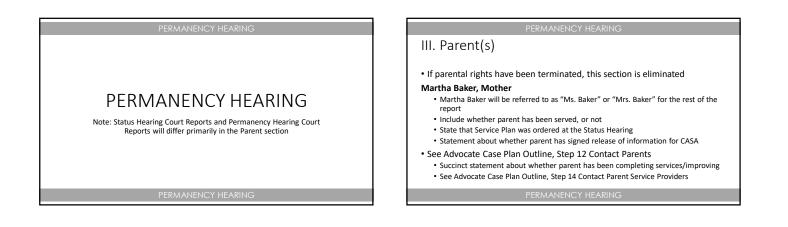
- Martha Baker will be referred to as "Ms. Baker" or "Mrs. Baker" for the rest of the report
- Include whether parent has been served, or not
- Include whether the service plan was agreed to at mediation
   Detail the services included in the service plan
- Statement about whether parent has signed release of information for CASA
- See Advocate Case Plan Outline, Step 12 Contact Parents

STATUS HEARING

# III. Parent(s)

Complete same information for father(s)

STATUS HEARING



#### PERMANENCY HEARI

### III. Parent(s)

- Succinct statement about whether parent has been completing services/improving
  - See Advocate Case Plan Outline, Step 14 Contact Parent Service Providers
- Each subheading of CR will correspond with a requirement of the service plan – subheadings may vary greatly from case to case depending on services ordered
  - · The first few sections will indicate service plan compliance
  - If parenting classes have not been ordered, DO NOT include that as a subheading

PERMANENCY HEARIN

### III. Parent(s)

#### Psychological

- Compliance with services such as: psychological evaluation, psychosocial evaluation, individual counseling, family counseling, anger management, domestic violence
- Detail how and when you have verified this information
- Observed documentation
- Spoken with provider
- Substance Abuse
  - Compliance with random drug testing, attendance at NA/AA meetings, completion/attendance in substance abuse treatment programs
  - · Detail how and when you have verified this information
    - Observed documentation
      Spoken with provider

MANENCY HEARING

#### PERMANEN

### III. Parent(s)

#### • Parenting Classes

- Compliance with attendance in parenting classes
- Detail how and when you have verified this information
   Observed documentation
- Spoken with provider
- Employment
  - Report current employment and duration
  - Detail how and when you have verified this information
    - Observed pay stubs
    - Spoken to employer

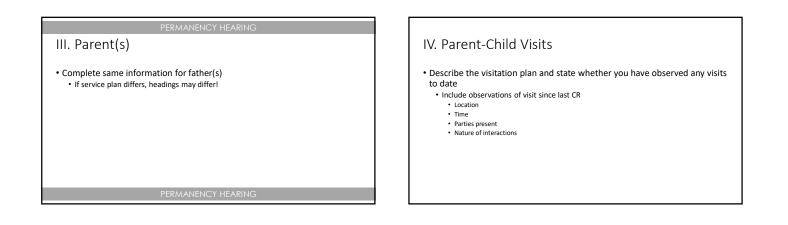
ERMANENCY HEARING

### III. Parent(s)

#### Housing

- · Report current living arrangement and duration, whether rent is current,
- conditions/observations of home
   Detail how and when you have verified this information
- Especially duration of housing
- Child Support
  - Report amount of child support ordered at Status Hearing (if none, eliminate this section)
  - Whether they are paying ordered Child Support
     Detail how and when you have verified this information

#### PERMANENCY HEARIN

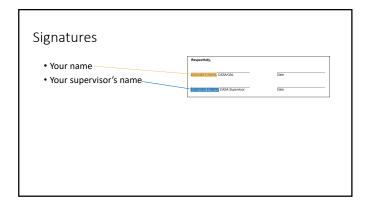


### V. Concerns

- Describe any concerns for the child(ren)
  - Begin with the oldest child and end with youngest, then listing any concerns pertaining to parents, then any other concerns not related to child or parent Fact-based
  - First-hand knowledge
  - This CASA is concerned that Suzy is not speaking much and has not been evaluated for Speech Therapy.
  - This CASA is concerned that Ms. Baker and Suzy have not participated in family therapy.
  - No new information should be disclosed in concerns; all concerns should relate back to some fact or statement in the body of the court report

### VI. Recommendations

- The culmination of your court report
  - This CASA respectfully recommends: Begin with any recommendations for the children first – starting with placement, then most
    - critical concerns Suzy remain in her current placement
       Suzy participate in a speech evaluation
    - · Follow with any recommendations for parents
    - Ms. Baker completes her parenting classes
      End with any other recommendations not related to child or parent
    - A home study be completed on Ms. Baker's sister



### Contacts

- Always begin with the child!
  - Suzy Baker, child
  - Martha Baker, mother
- Brenda Jones, attendance clerk, City Elementary
- Bruce Walker, nurse, UTMB Chris Smith, caseworker