

FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM ROLES:

The Children's Service Worker and meeting facilitator: The worker is leaning toward recommending the 30 day trial home placement. She has established a good relationship with Jerry and with the children. She has been honest with him about her concerns, as well as pointing out to Jerry his strengths as a parent (loves his kids, enjoys being with them, seems to genuinely care about their welfare, has worked very hard remaining sober and holding a job, has a great sense of humor, willingness to allow kids to have a relationship with their mother despite all that has happened, has offered to take the kids to see their mother in prison, and has followed through with everything asked of him (drug testing, counseling, parenting classes.)

The Children's Services Supervisor: The supervisor is not as convinced as the worker that the children should be placed with Dad. She has concerns about the living conditions of the home. Lori is really blossoming in her foster home and her foster parents desire to keep her in their home.

Foster Parents for Jerry Jr. and Lester: The report that these two rambunctious boys have been difficult to care for. They appear to be anxious to have the kids move on, but express concern that the boys' behavior will make it very challenging to their father. They appear not to have a lot of supervision or structure in the past and can become quite unruly. Jerry, Jr. has recently been kicked out of school for three days for fighting.

Foster Parents for Mary, Ralph and Milton: These children appear to be adjusting well to this foster home. The foster parents are older, grandparent types who have lots of grandchildren that visit often. The children have become attached to the foster parents and to the extended family. Mary, in particular, has become very attached to her foster mother. The foster mother often makes comments to the worker such as "That Mary is a wonderful child. She is so sweet. She gets on so well with my grandkids. We could get used to having her around. We always wanted a girl." She does not have as positive things to say about the boys, although the placement does appear to be stable and the boys adjusting well.

Foster Parents for Lori: Lori is adjusting wonderfully to her placement with these foster parents. This is the first foster child for these young foster parents, who are also interested in adoption. They have been very resistant to working with Jerry Sr., make a lot of excuses as to why Lori should not visit there, are very critical of Jerry, Sr. and are not in favor of Lori being placed there. They have stated very clearly they would like to adopt Lori, if possible. This is getting to be a very difficult issue with the plan being reunification and these foster parents becoming more and more difficult to work with in terms of the reunification plan.

Jerry, Sr.'s attorney: The attorney for Jerry is very supportive and involved in this case. He indicates that Jerry has worked very hard. He is very concerned about the situation with Lori and is LOUDLY expressing his desire that she be moved from this home immediately. He is a "good ole boy" type and grew up in the same community with Jerry. He knows Jerry's history and often speaks of how Jerry has reformed and deserves a chance. He is very negative and hostile toward the foster parents, especially the foster parents for Lori.

GAL: The GAL has been disappointingly uninvolved in the case. S/he arrives at the meeting without having read the case and knows very little about what is going on. S/he keeps getting the facts wrong at the frustration of everyone else in the meeting.

Juvenile Officer: The JO appears to have some strong bias against Jerry. She was Jerry's JO when he was a teen. She does not speak favorably of her impression of him then or now. S/he brings up a concern several times that Jerry and Skipper are still married. She states that this is evidence that Jerry Sr. does not follow through and has not cut ties with Skipper. She has an issue with Valerie being in the home while Jerry is still legally married to someone else. She focuses also on the unstable relationship between Jerry and Valerie. She fears that Jerry and Skipper may even get back together. She does not see Jerry offering to take the kids to see their Mother as a positive thing. She expresses concern that Jerry "doesn't always seem to have a grasp of the law. Does he understand that there is a court order prohibiting contact with the kids' mother?" She often talks about Jerry in the third person, like he is not there. The JO tends to try to take control of the meeting.

Therapist: The therapist is concerned about the lack of contact the kids have had with their mother since custody was taken. S/he continues to throw that concern in, despite the worker clarifying what is going on: the judge is not allowing visits! The therapist doesn't seem to get it. S/he continues to report how the children are exhibiting signs of separation issues from their mother and wants to know when the kids will be able to see her and if it will be possible for them to go live with her.