



## **2023 OCR SPRING CONFERENCE | CASE SCENARIO FOR TRACK A SESSIONS**

### **Children:**

Youth, Kai (age 13)

Jasmyn (age 2)

### **Parents:**

Mother, Jennifer

Father 1 (of Kai), Lucas

Father 2 (of Jasmyn), Brandon

Location: Grand Junction

The initial referral was based upon allegations of housing instability, domestic violence between mother and father of Jasmyn (Father 2), and substance abuse. After the parents failed to comply with a safety plan, the children were placed into foster care (the parents did not provide the names of any relatives or kin who could care for the children)

During diligent search, Department learned of Maternal Grandmother, Dorothy, who lives in Denver area ("Dorothy"). The older child, Kai, resided with Dorothy when he was 5 to approximately 9, and then on and off since then.

When first contacted, Dorothy indicated that she wanted Kai to return to live with her, but she did not feel she could care for Jasmyn too. Dorothy reported health issues which made caring for a toddler difficult. Also, Dorothy wanted Mother to have a chance to have Jasmyn back in her care, and since Dorothy lived in Denver and Mother in Grand Junction, Dorothy was concerned that Mother would not be able to visit with Jasmyn if she lived with Dorothy.

Dorothy has a criminal history, but nothing that would automatically prevent either child from being placed with her. Her last conviction was check fraud and it was approximately 5 years ago. Kai has some memories from when he lived with Dorothy, and he recalls some unsuitable and concerning situations when he would live with her. However, Dorothy appears to have settled down a lot in recent years and no recent concerns have materialized.

At the start of the school year, a couple months into the case, Kai transitioned to Dorothy's care in Denver. Kai has remained in her care since that time and is doing okay. He is failing some classes and sometimes gets in trouble in school. But he reports that he wants to stay with Dorothy in Denver, and Dorothy wants him to stay with her. Kai's therapist knows a lot about Kai's current struggles, but he generally agrees that Kai should probably stay with Dorothy.

Jasmyn has remained with the same foster family since removal, and the foster family has made it clear that they want to adopt her.

The parents entered admissions and agreed to treatment plans. However, none of the parents have meaningfully engaged with their treatment plan. Reunification is not looking likely at this point.

About 10 months into the case, Dorothy changed her mind and expressed interest in having Jasmyn come live with her and Kai. Kai also wants Jasmyn to live with them. The CFY/GAL has investigated Dorothy, visited with Kai and Dorothy, and ultimately decided that Jasmyn should transition to live with Dorothy, if financial support can be arranged. The Department and foster family oppose this and believe that the parent's rights to Jasmyn should be terminated, and she should be made available for adoption by the foster family, citing concerns with bonding and attachment.