

CASA Volunteer Court Report Format: To Prepare a Termination of Parental Rights Report to the Court

Cover Sheet

- ✓ Complete all information on standard court report cover sheet.
- ✓ In child's placement history, use dates of placement to bring attention to the length of time the child has resided in any specific placement.

The Facts

- ✓ List place and date of all visits with children, before describing the status of each child separately.
- ✓ List all contacts/witnesses and any record obtained or examined.
- ✓ Summarize the case from the filing of the petition to the present time, delineating court activity, dates, compliance issues, etc. Use bold lettering for findings of abuse, neglect, or dependency.
- ✓ Highlight specific facts that support the grounds.
- ✓ Justify the TPR action or why it should be denied.
- ✓ Elaborate on facts that support the best interest of the child.

The Needs of the Child

- ✓ Explain what termination will provide for the child. Address issues of permanence, age of child, literature on attachment/separation issues, concern about delays, etc.
- ✓ Explain to the court any current unmet needs of the child.

Available Resources

- ✓ Is there a plan for adoption? What resources can that family offer that address the unmet needs of the child?
- ✓ Describe community resources available to address the child's needs.

Issues for the Court's Attention

- ✓ The primary issues in a TPR are:
 - Do the grounds that are alleged in the petition exist?
 - Is it in the child's best interest for the TPR to be granted?
- ✓ The court can also address issues of unmet needs, visitation and/or a goodbye visit, and services to be provided to the child.

Recommendations

- ✓ Grant or deny TPR.
- ✓ Custody with _____.
- ✓ Child Protective Services proceed with adoption placement.
- ✓ Recommendations about ongoing services and/or unmet needs.
- ✓ Next court date within ninety days with same judge