

APPENDIX B

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

In the Matter of:
(Child's Name)

Case No.:

Judge:

Report of Guardian *Ad Litem*

As guardian *ad litem* (GAL) for the minor child (child's name), I hereby submit the following report based on my investigation and observations prior to the (type of hearing) scheduled on (date of hearing).

I. General Information

1. Child's Full Name and Date of Birth
2. Parents' Full Names
3. Sibling Information
4. Other parties involved in the abuse and neglect petition

II. History

Provide a brief summary of the procedural posture of the case.

III. GAL's Contact with Child

List the dates of contact with the child and the nature of the contact.

IV. Persons Interviewed

List the name of each person interviewed, the date of the interview, and the person's relationship to the child.

V. Summary of Information Obtained from Interviews/Observations

Provide an objective summary of the information obtained from the interviews and observations obtained from the investigation. Observations may include information regarding the parties' living environments, the child's behavior, and the child's interaction with others.

VI. Summary of Documents Reviewed

List and briefly summarize the documents reviewed during the course of the investigation and attach any documents that are necessary for the court's consideration.

VII. Child's Current Status

1. Placement

2. Visitation

3. Education

4. Medical

5. Services

6. Contact with Siblings/Relatives

VIII. Parents' Current Situation

Provide information regarding each parent's current status and their ability to care for the child.

IX. Child's Expressed Wishes

When appropriate, discuss the child's wishes and any issues that the child requests that the court consider.

X. Recommendation

Analyze any allegations of abuse and neglect and provide a specific recommendation that addresses the best interests of the child with regard to custody, visitation, and permanent placement. Discuss the child's case plan as well as the family case plan. Address any additional factors that are necessary for the court to consider to protect the best interests of the child.

XI. Conclusion

Provide a summary of the most important factors for the court to consider in making its decision and indicate any action that is necessary in order to further the child's best interests.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signature of Guardian Ad Litem) (Date)