

Sample Court Report: Bleux Case

CASA OF IMAGINARY COUNTY
100 Best Interest Dr.
Wildflower, Texas 75022
(555) 555-5555 FAX (555) 555-5555

Cause No. D-1-FM-18-097542
Status Hearing

IN THE INTEREST OF:

DESHAWN BLEUX

CHILD

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF

IMAGINARY COUNTY, TEXAS

126TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

DATE OF HEARING: AUGUST 7, 2018

CHILD/SITUATION

Deshawn Bleux

DOB: 03/12/2018

4 months old

Deshawn Bleux is currently living in a foster home in Wildflower, TX, where he was placed on May 23, 2018.

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) was granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship (TMC) of Deshawn Bleux on May 29, 2018, with a dismissal date of May 31, 2019. This case was initiated due to the severity of injuries sustained by the child, Deshawn Bleux.

PERMANENCY PLAN

The DFPS Permanency Plan is Family Reunification, with a concurrent plan of Relative Adoption. CASA is in agreement with this plan.

SUMMARY OF CONTACTS SINCE LAST REVIEW

- Deshawn Bleux, the child
- Antoinette Bleux, the mother
- Miles Bleux, the father
- The DFPS caseworker and supervisor
- The District Attorney
- The mother's attorney
- The father's attorney
- The attorney ad litem
- The child's doctor
- The county health coordinator
- The visit supervisor

- Sabine Lee, the maternal aunt
- The foster parents
- CASA read the police report on May 28, 2018
- CASA attended a Family Team Meeting (FTM) on June 6, 2018

CASE SUMMARY SINCE LAST REVIEW

Deshawn Bleux (4 months old) is a wide-eyed and curious infant boy with a tuft of dark, curly hair on the cap of his head. CASA has observed that Deshawn dislikes having socks on his feet, getting particularly fussy anytime he is dressed. When Deshawn was first placed in his foster home, his responses to being held were mixed; at times he would appear soothed, and others he would cry for an hour or more. The foster parents also reported initially having difficulty in setting a sleep and feeding routine. While having successes, the foster placement stated they have the most difficulty on the days after visitation, when Deshawn appears inconsolable through the evening. Deshawn now appears to be settling into a routine in the home, with only the occasional setback.

Health/Development

Deshawn came into this case with a series of injuries, which were diagnosed as the following: subdural hematoma (blood pooling outside of the brain, creating pressure), bleeding and swelling on the brain (blood collecting inside of the brain), and retinal hemorrhaging (blood pooling inside of the eye wall). **Medical professionals have determined Deshawn's injuries appear non-accidental in origin.** A subsequent criminal investigation is occurring concurrent to this DFPS case.

Since his release from the hospital, **Deshawn appears to be doing well and developing on track.** He appears to be a developmentally appropriate length (24.5in) and is currently on the lower end of the appropriate weight spectrum (12lbs, 2oz). Overall, he appears to be a healthy infant boy. **His doctor reports that Deshawn will require routine medical check-ups to continue to monitor his developmental health.** Deshawn is scheduled for another appointment on August 1, 2018. CASA will verbally update the court about the findings of this appointment. Deshawn's parents report that they are concerned by how dry and brittle Deshawn's hair appears during visits, and CASA recommends that Deshawn's foster parents study hair care techniques for African American infants.

Antoinette Bleux (mother) is currently living with Deshawn's father, Miles Bleux, in a two-bedroom apartment. Mrs. Bleux reports that she works full-time and attends community college courses for nursing in the evenings. Mrs. Bleux states that she always wanted to be a mother, and a photo of herself and Deshawn is her phone's wallpaper. Mrs. Bleux further shared that while the timing of her pregnancy with Deshawn may not have been ideal, she loves her son and is upset that this DFPS case is happening. Mrs. Bleux states that her schedule is stressful, and she felt increasingly overwhelmed by it at the end of her pregnancy and in the first months after Deshawn's birth.

Mrs. Bleux reported that she does not know the origin of Deshawn's injuries, and said that Deshawn should be at home with his parents. Mrs. Bleux has shared with CASA that she

believes Deshawn was taken from her and Mr. Bleux because DFPS thinks that they are “too young” to parent.

Mrs. Bleux reports that she and Mr. Bleux do occasionally fight, and that this has escalated lately. She says that their fights typically include yelling, though on one occasion she reports that she threw a picture frame at Mr. Bleux. Mrs. Bleux states that most of the arguments she and Mr. Bleux have are around finances, and Mr. Bleux’s “lack of dependability and responsibility,” and that they also argued about Deshawn’s daily schedule. At the FTM on June 6, 2018, Mrs. Bleux described yelling and hitting Mr. Bleux in the emergency room the night Deshawn was hospitalized.

Mrs. Bleux was ordered to participate in the following: complete a psychological evaluation and follow all recommendations; complete individual therapy focused on domestic violence with a goal of couples’ therapy; complete nurturing parent classes; attend weekly supervised visitation; and attend a medical education course for children diagnosed with shaken baby syndrome. Mrs. Bleux states that she is willing to cooperate and participate in the recommended services, but stated that she does not fully agree she needs all the services that have been ordered.

Miles Bleux (father) currently lives with Antoinette Bleux in their two-bedroom apartment. Mr. Bleux is employed as a dishwasher in a local restaurant, and shared that he aspires to be a chef like he was in his father’s restaurant back in Louisiana. Mr. Bleux reports that finances are a struggle but stated that he and Mrs. Bleux make it work most of the time. He said that since Deshawn’s birth the family has just gotten by paycheck to paycheck. Mr. Bleux states that he loves Deshawn and wants him back home. Mr. Bleux also stated that he does not know the origin of Deshawn’s injuries.

Mr. Bleux admits that he and Mrs. Bleux fight “almost every other night.” Mr. Bleux shares that most fights are heated verbal exchanges, though Mrs. Bleux can occasionally do “more than that.” Mr. Bleux states that Mrs. Bleux had fallen down their front steps while holding Deshawn two days before the child’s hospitalization, though Deshawn did not appear injured at the time.

Mr. Bleux was ordered to participate in the following services: complete a psychological evaluation and follow all recommendations; complete individual therapy focused on domestic violence with a goal of couples’ therapy; complete nurturing parent classes; attend weekly supervised visitation; and attend a medical education course for children diagnosed with shaken baby syndrome. Mr. Bleux states that he is willing to participate in whatever services he is required to get Deshawn back.

Family Visitation

Family visitation is currently scheduled twice weekly (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30–5:30 pm) supervised at the Department. At this time, the parents are visiting together. During the visit that CASA observed, Mrs. Bleux arrived with Sabine Lee, Deshawn’s maternal aunt. Ms. Lee was invited into the visit by both parents.

CASA observed both parents holding and attempting to soothe Deshawn, who alternated between calm and crying during the two-hour span. Both parents appeared to be happy to see

Deshawn but CASA was concerned that they appeared tense in their interactions. Ms. Lee was respectful with both parents and was calm gentle in her attempts to sooth Deshawn. After this visit, Mrs. Bleux has requested the ability to address her concerns about Deshawn’s hair during subsequent visits. CASA agrees that the parents should be able to care for Deshawn’s hair during visits.

Family Support

Sabine Lee (maternal aunt) lives approximately two miles from Deshawn’s parents in Wildflower, Texas. Ms. Lee shared with CASA that Mrs. Bleux has slept at her place “once or twice” since Deshawn was taken into the hospital. Ms. Lee is Mrs. Bleux’s older sister by four years and is a stay-at-home mother to a three-year-old girl. Ms. Lee states that she adores Deshawn, and was especially excited when Deshawn was born since there were “almost no boys” in their family. Ms. Lee shares that she is grateful that she can visit with Deshawn and is willing to be a support to Deshawn, her sister and her brother-in-law however she is able. Ms. Lee participated in the FTM on June 6, 2018 and reiterated her support. Ms. Lee acknowledges the severity of Deshawn’s injuries and states she has been studying how to care for an infant with this type of physical trauma. Ms. Lee expresses concerns that neither parent has been able to explain Deshawn’s injuries. Ms. Lee also states she is willing to be a placement for Deshawn while her sister and brother-in-law “work on themselves” through this case. **CASA recommends that DFPS perform a home study on Ms. Lee, and that placement with Ms. Lee be granted by agreement of the child advocates.**

AREAS OF CONCERN

- That Deshawn’s extensive injuries were deemed non-accidental and are of an uncertain origin at this time.
- That Deshawn was removed from his biological parents so early in his development.
- That Mrs. and Mr. Bleux share they have ongoing difficulties in their relationship.
- That neither Mrs. nor Mr. Bleux participated in services that were offered through FBSS prior to Deshawn’s hospitalization.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above summary and observations, CASA of Imaginary County, Inc. respectfully recommends:

1. That the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services be granted Temporary Managing Conservatorship of Deshawn Bleux;
2. That the child’s current placement be continued and approved while family placement options are being sought;
3. That DFPS perform a home study on Sabine Lee, Deshawn’s maternal aunt;
4. That placement with Sabine Lee occur upon agreement of the child advocates;

5. That Deshawn continue receiving medical and developmental care consistent with his injuries;
6. That Antoinette Bleux participate in a psychological evaluation and follow all recommendations;
7. That Antoinette Bleux engage in individual therapy with a focus on domestic violence and healthy relationship dynamics;
8. That Antoinette Bleux engage in a nurturing parenting education class;
9. That Antoinette Bleux engage in a medical education class pertaining to shaken baby syndrome;
10. That Miles Bleux participate in a psychological evaluation and follow all recommendations;
11. That Miles Bleux engage in individual therapy with a focus on domestic violence and healthy relationship dynamics;
12. That Miles Bleux engage in a nurturing parenting education class;
13. That Miles Bleux engage in a medical education class pertaining to shaken baby syndrome;
14. That this case be reviewed within three months.

_____ _____
Volunteer name Date
CASA Volunteer

_____ _____
Supervisor name Date
CASA Supervisor