

## Caregiver's Report to the Court

Child's Name: **Jane Doe**

Legal Case Number: **DUAL**

Hearing Date: **03/05/2018**

County with Legal Jurisdiction: **King**

Caregiver Name/Person providing information: **Your Name**

Child's Assigned Social Worker: **Kelly Jacob**

**Please return Caregiver Report Form (via email, US Postal Service or in person) to the child's assigned social worker and/or guardian ad litem.**

### TOPICS:

1. Child's strengths, hobbies, gifts, talents, participation in extra-curricular activities/events:

**Jane is a loving, kind, little girl. She likes attending pre-school, going to the park, and has recently completed another session of swimming lessons.**

*Jane is an inquisitive, observant, and creative 4 year-old little girl. She attends pre-school three mornings per week, is becoming more interested in books, is learning to sing her ABC's and is able to count 10 now with minimal errors. Within the past two months Jane is noticing familiar locations and recognizing environmental print for store names. She also constantly comments on the things she spies in nature during outings. Jane loves art and requests to use her paints or crayons daily. She also really enjoys spending part of each day playing on the swings or finding bugs in the yard. Jane completed her third round of swimming lessons in January and has finally lost her long-time fear of the water. She will now jump in the water from the pool side, blow bubbles, and fully submerge under water. **(Cultural activity can be incorporated into this section)***

2. Child's social interaction with caregiver family, peers and siblings:

**Jane is loving, caring, and affectionate with us, giving hugs often and telling us all the time that she loves us. She struggles at times with her pre-school peers and frequently gets frustrated with her younger brother. It has been very sad and hard for us lately with leaving Jane. When I take her to school or one of us leaves the house she is worried and asks, "Mommy are you going to come get me and bring me home?" or "Is Daddy going to come back?" Since visitation started again Jane is worried I am going to leave and asks me several times a day if I am leaving and wants me to help her do things she already knows how to do.**

*Jane can be a loving, caring and affectionate child. She likes to help by "getting things" and "putting things away" for us and seeks opportunities for hugs several times a day. While the first thing Jane does when being picked up from pre-school is hug and kiss her younger brother, this is typically the only time she shows this affection. She easily becomes frustrated with him, especially when he doesn't do what she wants when playing together, which more often than not results in her hitting and yelling at her brother. Jane becomes defiant when disciplined for these behaviors; often screaming, crying, and trying to hit us. These same behaviors are being addressed at pre-school when Jane behaves in similar ways toward her peers.*

*In the past 3 months we have seen what appears to be an increase in Jane's insecurity and dependence on us. She constantly asks if I am leaving and asks me to help her with things she used to want to do independently; such as put on her coat and shoes, brush her hair, and even asks me to feed her at least during one meal each day. When taking Jane to pre-school she asks 5-10 times in the 15 minute drive if I am coming back to get her.*

3. Child's school progress and adjustment:

Jane has attended the same pre-school, Kids World in Kirkland, since she came to us, but she still has a hard time getting started each time she attends. She should be moving up to the next class, but has not yet due to her still needing to be watched a lot by teachers.

*Jane has attended the same pre-school since we began caring for her in January of 2017, but she continues to take a few minutes to adjust to the environment every time she attends. She typically will not talk to anyone and chooses to stand off against the wall for at least the first 10 minutes each day. Jane requires consistent encouragement from a teacher to get involved in the morning activity and requires consistent redirection when involved in independent activity. If left to her own, she will more often than not engage some form of "rule breaking."*

*Jane has had increasing struggles with peer to peer and small group activity over the past 3 months. She more often than not will become aggressive, yell and sometimes hit her peers if they don't do things the way she thinks they should. Jane is working on sharing: toys, attention, and supplies with her peers. Despite these challenges, at daily pick up time, Jane is all smiles and tells me, "I love school!"*

4. Child's physical health (state results of medical and dental appointments):

**Jane is a healthy girl, up to date on all vaccinations and her well-child check is up to date. She had a dental Appointment this summer and everything looked good.**

*Jane had her well-child check on June 28, 2017. She is up to date on all her vaccinations. Jane's pediatrician did not have any physical health concerns. She had an additional appointment on February 5<sup>th</sup> for a persistent cough after having had a cold in mid-January. Upon the recommendation of Jane's social worker, I also spoke with the pediatrician at this appointment regarding what seems to be an increase in Jane's negative behaviors over the past 3 months. The doctor referred us to the Harbor View Foster Care Clinic for evaluation. The evaluation appointment is scheduled for February 28, 2018.*

*Jane had a dental appointment on August 23, 2017 and is scheduled for her 6 month cleaning and checkup on February 21, 2018. The dentist had no concerns at the August 23<sup>rd</sup> appointment, but did recommend we have Jane use a fluoride rinse after she brushes her teeth before bed, which we have done.*

5. Child's emotional health and well-being ( counselor or therapist appointment schedule):

**Jane has several tantrums during the day, especially if things don't go her way. She still has a hard time going to school, often thinks things "aren't fair" especially when it comes to her brother. She doesn't do well if something is "out of schedule." Jane has an appointment for an assessment in February.**

*Jane has several tantrums during the day, especially when she is asked to do something she does not want to do or if something is either genuinely or just perceived by her as out of her routine. The requests that trigger her tantrums appear to be anything from asking her to eat breakfast, brush her teeth, get dressed, or go to pre-school, all things which she states she loves. Her typical tantrum response will be to cry, scream, and literally not move. These behaviors have fluctuated in their frequency over the year we have been caring for Jane. While they have been manageable for us, the behaviors seemed to have increased in the past three months and according to her SW seem to be behaviors she displayed consistently in her other 4 placements. Upon the recommendation of Jane's social worker, we spoke with Jane's pediatrician and he referred her for an evaluation with Harbor View's Foster Care Clinic. Jane's appointment is scheduled for April 28, 2018.*

6. Child's adjustment to caregiver family and caregiver family expectations:

Jane has fit into our family perfectly and has called us Mommy & Daddy since moving in with us a year ago and she loves her new older sisters. She has learned her rules even though she struggles to follow a lot of them.

*Jane appears to have settled well into our home and seems to have the ability to develop relatively secure attachments with us as her foster parents. She has been sleeping through the night for almost 6 months now, whereas she woke up screaming 2-3 times a night for the first 6 months we cared for her. She seems to know now that if she needs us, we will be here to help. We have worked to be consistent and reasonable with our behavioral expectations of Jane. While she knows what the expectations are, she continues to struggle to follow them without redirection or fit throwing.*

7. Child's visits with parent(s) and sibling(s):

**Jane has had a few visits with her mother and a couple with her father in the last 4 months. She visits her older brother and sister and grandma on occasion.**

*Jane began having visitation with her mom again 5 months ago in October 2017. The visits are scheduled for 2 hours 2 times per week. Jane has visited with her mom 13 times out of the 30 scheduled visits. Jane missed 2 of those visits during the week of January 15<sup>th</sup> as she had a very bad cold. According to the visit supervisor, the other visits did not happen because Jane's mom either cancelled or didn't come to the visit. Jane has visited with her dad 10 times out of the 30 scheduled visits, which were at the same time as mom. The visit supervisor told us that Jane's dad also cancelled or didn't come to the other visits.*

*We have taken Jane and her younger brother to visit monthly with her older siblings and maternal grandmother for the past 6 months. We have spent on average 4 hours together on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon going to parks, the zoo, swimming, ice skating, and eating a meal together.*

*Since Jane struggles with changes in her routine, we start preparing her for the scheduled visits the day before. Jane's behavior has become increasingly negative, after visitation, during the past 3 months, whether she sees her mom and/or dad or the visit is unexpectedly cancelled. She is crying when arrives back at our home, she typically refuses to eat dinner, fights routine activities like getting ready for bed, choosing a story, brushing her teeth, etc. None of these behaviors were occurring during the visitation that was happening last year from January 2017-April 2017 before the parents stopped visiting in May 2017.*

8. Your view on the needs of the child:

**Jane needs to know who she can trust and believe in. She needs to learn how to control herself and act positively. She needs stay placed with her younger brother and see healthy family members. She needs to have her basic needs taken care of and not have any more negative surprises in her life. Jane needs to be able to "get over" the trauma inflicted on her due to her parents' choices.**

*Jane needs to be able to establish secure trusting relationships. She needs to learn how to respond in a healthy and positive way to her sometimes confused and strong emotions. Jane needs to have her medical, dental, and mental/emotional health needs tended to on a regular basis. She also needs to continue to have her educational and social concerns met. Jane needs to not be in a separate placement than her younger brother and continue to build her relationship with her older siblings and grandmother.*

9. Your thoughts on how these needs can be addressed:

**Jane needs to not have people coming in and out of her life. She needs to not move anymore and have time to work through the harm she has experienced with a permanent family who will make sure all her needs are met.**

*We believe Jane will continue to grow and thrive in a predictable and reliable living environment with caregivers who will provide this type of structure as well as advocate for her in the areas identified in #8 above. Providing Jane with consistent supervision, teaching and modeling will help her learn how to make good choices in independent and social activities with peers. Remaining in a pre-school program and having caregivers and teachers who partner to provide consistency in behavioral and learning expectations at both home and school will greatly benefit Jane. The assessment with the Harbor View Foster Care Clinic needs to occur and any recommendations need to be followed in her home and educational environments. Jane knowing as soon as possible where she going to stay for the long-term and with caregivers who will love her and be patient with her will help her settle and overcome her challenges. If Jane cannot return home, she needs caregivers who will maintain meaningful contact with Jane's older siblings, maternal grandmother, and mom and dad if possible. Jane's needs will be best met through establishing permanency.*

10. Your thoughts on Department's case plan:

**As of the hearing date, Jane will have been in foster care for over 2 years and the Department is still trying to reunify Jane with her mom or dad; we do not agree with this plan. We think, worry, plan and care for her every moment of every day. We are the ones tending to her every need. We volunteered to be foster parents, but we love, care for and are devoted to Jane. We think Jane needs to be with us permanently as we are mom and dad to her and are the ones she counts on to love and protect her. She deserves stability and permanency.**

*As of the hearing date, Jane will have been in care for 768 days. While the majority of these days have been in our care, we are her 5<sup>th</sup> foster placement. The Department is still attempting to have Jane go home with her mom or dad. The Department seems to have an undefined timeline for Jane's mom and/or dad to "be ready" to care for Jane. We agree it is best for Jane to be with one or both of her parents, but only if her parents are able to care for her safely in the next 2 to 3 months.*

11. Other child/case specific information you wish the court to consider:

*Jane will be starting kindergarten in the Fall and will need enough time to adjust to living with her mom and/or dad again if she is going to be successful in school. If Jane is not able to be safely cared for by her family in the very near future, we believe the next best thing for her would be to remain permanently in our care with her younger brother. If Jane is going to go home, we think a transition plan needs to begin within the next 30 days in order to best support Jane and we believe keeping her in her current pre-school will be a provide some consistency which will help her adjust. While we have done our own research and would like to learn more about the children's Native American heritage and know of opportunities to better involve the children in the traditions and culture, we have not yet received sufficient support in this area from the Department or tribe.*

Caregiver's Signature:

Signature Date:

Caregiver's Printed Name: