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TAHJA LUJAN,
Appellant,
vs.
CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF FAMILY SERVICES; L.L.S,
MINOR,
Respondents.

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Nov 26 2019 02:24 p.m.
CASE NUMBER: 20124
Elizabeth A. Brown
Clerk of Supreme Court
DISTRICT COURT: J-17-341672-P1

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1	Document	Bate No.
2	Nevada Initial Assessment Report	001-006
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Nevada Initial Assessment Report

Case: 1418541 - LUJAN, TAHJA

Report: 1722080

Date Case was Assigned to Investigative Worker: 01-20-2017

Response Time Assigned: PRI 1 W/IN 3HR

Initial Face to Face Contact: 01-20-2017

NIA Created: 02-06-2017

NIA Last Modified: 02-14-2017

Present Danger Assessments:

Date	PDA Summary	Effective	Status
01-20-2017	Present Danger is Identified	02-07-2017	SUPRVSRAPPROVAL

NIA Participants:

ID-Name	DOB	Age	Role
2173602 - STOVALL, LAYLONNIE, L.	07-10-2016	0	Child
2173601 - LUJAN, TAHJA	08-19-1998	18	PARENT TEEN

Assessment Area One: Maltreatment

Extent: What is the extent of Maltreatment and your Finding?

☐ Maltreatment was not found: Unsubstantiated

☒ Maltreatment was found: Substantiated

Allegations of 17N- Abandonment will be SUBSTANTIATED against Tahja Lujen. Tahja brought her 6 month old daughter, Laylonnie to a CPS office and told the caseworkers that she is not able to care for her. Tahja wanted to place her child in foster care until she could be more financially stable. Caseworkers attempted to talk to Tahja about community services and resources, but Tahja refused them, telling CPS to place Laylonnie in care.

Assessment Area Two: Nature

Nature: What surrounding circumstances accompany the Maltreatment?

The description must include what was going on around the time the Maltreatment occurred; Caregiver explanation; acknowledgement and attitude; intentions. Assess frequency, history of Maltreatment and CPS involvement, progressing patterns of severity.

Answer:

This report was received by this Department as a Priority 1 case for concerns of abandonment in regards to 6 month old Laylonnie. It was reported that natural mother, Tahja, was at a CPS office asking for her baby to be put into protective custody because she could not care for her.

This caseworker responded to the CPS office and met with natural mother, Tahja. Tahja told this caseworker that she wanted to place minor Laylonnie into care because she cannot provide for her. Tahja states that she has been staying with an elderly couple and that she must start back into school to receive her survivor's benefits. Tahja states that she has no one to watch Laylonnie because the elderly couple she lives with is in poor health. Tahja states that the baby's father, Joseph, is also unable to care for the baby because he is on juvenile probation and "is doing his own thing." When asked if Joseph knew what she was doing, Tahja stated that she told him and that he said, "Do what's best for the baby." Tahja states that her mom lives in a senior home and cannot help her care for Laylonnie. Tahja also told this caseworker that she cannot financially provide for her daughter. Tahja states that she has no income until she can enroll back into high school and get her survivor benefits from Social Security re-instated. Tahja told this caseworker that she has tried asking for help, but no one will help her care for Laylonnie. Tahja admits that she is overwhelmed and "just can't do it." Tahja states that she does not want Laylonnie to remain in care as when she gets her survivor benefits she will be able to provide for Laylonnie.

This caseworker was unable to locate the named father of Laylonnie, Joseph Stovall. This caseworker tried several addresses and a phone number with no success. It was told to this caseworker by a collateral source that Joseph is aware that Laylonnie is in protective custody "and doesn't care." The collateral source also told this caseworker that



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Tahja gave Joseph this caseowkr's business card but Joseph has not called.

(Interviews with Tahja Lujan 1-20-2017, Anthony 2-2-2017)

Impending Danger Threats:

- ☐ Y ☒ N 1. Living arrangements seriously endanger the physical health of the child(ren).
☐ Y ☒ N 2. One or both parents/caregivers intend(ed) to hurt the child and show no remorse.
☐ Y ☒ N 3. One or both parents/caregivers cannot or do not explain the child's injuries and/or conditions.

Assessment Area Three: Child Functioning

Child Functioning: How does each child function on a daily basis?

The assessment must include physical health and development; emotion and temperament; intellectual functioning; behavior; ability to communicate; self control; educational performance; peer relations.

2173602 - STOVALL, LAYLONNIE, L. DOB: 07-10-2016 Age: 0 Role: Child

Answer:

Laylonnie is a 7 month old female, born at Mountain View Hospital on July 10th, 2016. There were no complications during the pregnancy or the birth. Laylonnie weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces when she was born. Laylonnie drinks Similac Advance and appears to be appropriate height and weight for her age. Laylonnie does not have any on-going medical issues, although she presented with bronchitis at the time of removal. Tahja had taken her to the doctor and filled her prescriptions for the bronchitis just prior to Laylonnie being removed. Tahja describes Laylonnie as "a happy child" and said that she does not cry a lot. Tahja states that when Laylonnie does cry, she is easily calmed by being picked up. Tahja states that Laylonnie does not crawl yet, but is starting to sit up on her own and roll over onto her stomach. Laylonnie presented as a friendly child, and smiled often at this caseworker. Laylonnie appeared to be very bonded with her mother and was content being held by her throughout the interview.

(Interviews with Tahja Lujan 1-20-2017, caseworker observations)

Impending Danger Threats:

- ☐ Y ☒ N 4. A child is extremely fearful of the home situation.

Assessment Area Four: Adult Functioning

Adult Functioning: How does each adult function on a daily basis?

The assessment must include current and recent history of mental and physical health, substance use, employment, criminal behavior; social relationships; must include behavior, communication skills, intellectual functioning; problem solving; reality perception and coping.

2173601 - LUJAN, TAHJA DOB: 08-19-1998 Age: 18 Role: PARENT TEEN

Protective Capacities:

Behavioral

☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Controls Impulses

☐ Y ☒ N ☐ U Takes Action

Cognitive



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☐ Y ☒ N ☐ U Is Self Aware
☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Is Intellectually Able
☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Recognizes Threats

Emotional

☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Meets Own Emotional Needs
☐ Y ☒ N ☐ U Is Resilient
☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Is Tolerant
☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Is Stable

Answer:

Behavioral: Tahja is an 18 year old female, not currently employed and still attending high school at Desert Rose. Tahja does not have any medical concerns and is not currently taking any medication. Tahja reports that she has never been arrested and has no criminal history. Tahja appears able to control her impulses and told this caseworker that she does not use drugs or drink alcohol and does not understand why people would do that. Tahja states that she likes having the ability to make clear decisions. Tahja appeared to think out her decision to place her child into protective custody and talked to this caseworker about some of the other options she thought of, such as asking someone to help her. While Tahja does certain things to provide for herself and Laylonnie, she seems to need a lot of motivation and wants others to do things for her. Tahja is able to talk to this caseworker about her need for employment and housing, but had no idea what the first steps were and appeared apprehensive about filling out applications and applying for services. Instead of trying to see what resources are available for her and Laylonnie, she decided to place Laylonnie into protective custody.

Cognitive: Tahja does not appear to be self-aware as a caregiver and is unable to understand the impact her decisions have on Laylonnie. Tahja still appears to be making decisions based on herself, such as going back to school when she has no one to care for Laylonnie, and not being able to understand the effect that being separated from her mother would have on Laylonnie. Although Tahja may be slower functioning, she does not possess a significant cognitive disability that would affect her daily functioning. Tahja is able to retain and apply information, although it seems that she must be told several times. Tahja told this caseworker that she has never been on an IEP but does have trouble learning in school. Tahja is able to recognize threats and told this caseworker that Laylonnie is better off "in the system" so that she does not get taken from her. Tahja acknowledges that she is not able to provide for Laylonnie and that Laylonnie's father is also not appropriate.

Emotional: Tahja appears able to meet her own emotional needs as she has a boyfriend that she has been seeing for several months. Tahja states that she will take a break from Laylonnie and try to have some alone time with her boyfriend or will read on the bus home from school. Tahja admits that she does not have a lot of friends or family, but says that she is close with her mom, who lives in a senior apartment. Tahja does not appear to be resilient and instead of coping with being overwhelmed as a parent, she took extreme measures to have CPS take her child into custody. Tahja depends on other people to provide for her and appears to wait for people to solve her problems for her. Tahja does appear to be tolerant and is able to see the big picture of placing her child into protective custody, even if the outcome is not what she desires. Although they are not together anymore, Tahja appears to be understanding of Joseph and his situation and talked about the reasons he cannot care for Laylonnie. Tahja appeared emotionally stable each time this caseworker met with her and denies a history of mental health illness. Although the situation was very emotional, Tahja was able to keep calm for Laylonnie and did not get upset when saying good-bye



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to her. Tahja is currently living with an elderly couple that is a friend of the family, and Richard told this caseworker that Tahja is very responsible and that he supports whatever decision she makes.

(Interviews with Tahja Lujan 1-20-2017, Richard 1-25-2017, caseworker observations)

Impending Danger Threats:

- ☐ Y ☒ N 5. A parent or caregiver is violent and no adult in the home is protective of the child(ren).
- ☐ Y ☒ N 6. One or both parents/caregivers emotional stability, developmental status or cognitive deficiency seriously impairs their ability to care for the child(ren).
- ☐ Y ☒ N 7. One or both parents/caregivers cannot control their behavior.
- ☒ Y ☐ N 8. Family does not have resources to meet basic needs.

Assessment Area Five: Parenting Discipline

Parenting Discipline: How does each Parent/Caregiver discipline?

Describe approach to discipline, purpose, and intention, specific methods, ability to maintain self-control, parenting knowledge related to discipline and age appropriateness, routines/boundaries/rules, and parent/caregiver's perception of effectiveness.

2173601 - LUJAN, TAHJA

DOB: 08-19-1998

Age: 18 Role: PARENT TEEN

Answer:

Tahja told this caseworker that Laylonnie is too young to discipline. Tahja admits that she has not really thought about how she will discipline Laylonnie when she is older, and says that she is open to ideas. Tahja states that she does not want to use physical discipline and does not believe in it. Tahja states that she will likely try time-outs, talking to her and taking things away from her.

(Interviews with Tahja Lujan 1-20-2017)

Assessment Area Six: Parenting General

Parenting General: What types of general parenting skills does each parent/caregiver have?

The description must include history of protective behavior; parenting style; sensitivity to child's needs, expectations for children and self; satisfaction as a parent, knowledge of parenting/child development; demonstrated skills.

2173601 - LUJAN, TAHJA

DOB: 08-19-1998

Age: 18 Role: PARENT TEEN

Protective Capacities:

Behavioral

- ☐ Y ☒ N ☐ U Sets Aside Own Needs for Child
- ☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Demonstrates Adequate Skills
- ☐ Y ☒ N ☐ U Adaptive as a Caregiver

Cognitive

- ☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Recognizes Child's Needs
- ☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Understands Protective Role



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☐ Y ☒ N ☐ U Plans and Articulates Plans for Protection

Emotional

☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Expresses Love, Empathy, Sensitivity to the Child

☐ Y ☒ N ☐ U Is Positively Attached with Child

☒ Y ☐ N ☐ U Is Aligned and Supports the Child

Answer:

Behavioral: Tahja is a young mother of 7 month old Laylonnie. It appears that Laylonnie's father, Joseph, was helping care for the baby for a period of time, but is now not involved and has not contacted this caseworker. Tahja does not appear to set aside her own needs for her daughter as she made the decision to enroll back into school full-time, knowing that she did not have anyone to care for Laylonnie. Tahja was given resources by the staff at the MLK office before Laylonnie was taken into protective custody but she refused them. Tahja demonstrates adequate skills as a caregiver and can perform basic duties such as feeding and supervising Laylonnie. Tahja showed that she can easily soothe Laylonnie when she was crying and did show concern for how Laylonnie has been while in foster care. Tahja does not appear to be adaptive as a caregiver as she is not flexible with her school and does not appear able to come up with solutions on her own. Tahja appears to be overwhelmed as a parent as she was not open to ideas presented to her to prevent removal of her daughter.

Cognitive: Tahja appears able to recognize Laylonnie's needs and verbalizes that she cannot provide them for her. Tahja understands that an infant needs constant supervision and financial support for diapers, formula and medical care. Tahja told this caseworker that she was not able to afford to get Laylonnie's antibiotics for her bronchitis until 3 days after she was prescribed them. Tahja is able to verbalize what a protective parent is and her responsibilities as a parent, but does not appear able to plan for protection. Tahja does not take responsibility for Laylonnie's protection and is depending on the Department to ensure that Laylonnie's basic needs are being met.

Emotional: Tahja does appear to love her child and was constantly holding her and soothing her when talking to this caseworker. Tahja openly showed affection and warmth towards Laylonnie. Tahja does not appear to be positively attached with her daughter, as she has not maintained good contact with this caseworker to see how Laylonnie is doing and how she has adjusted to being in foster care. Tahja has expressed interest in visitation, but has not communicated well with this caseworker to set them up. Tahja does appear to be supportive of Laylonnie as she made sure that Laylonnie went to the doctor for her bronchitis and spent most of the interview trying to soothe Laylonnie when she was crying. Roger told this caseworker that Tahja is a good mother, but has no help.

(Interviews with Tahja Lujan 1-20-2017, Richard 1-25-2017, caseworker observations)

Impending Danger Threats:

☐ Y ☒ N 9. No adult in the home will perform parental duties and responsibilities.

☐ Y ☒ N 10. One or both parents/caregivers have extremely unrealistic expectations.

☐ Y ☒ N 11. One or both parents/caregivers have extremely negative perceptions of a child.

☒ Y ☐ N 12. One or both parents/caregivers fear they will maltreat the child and/or request placement.

☒ Y ☐ N 13. One or both parents/caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills, and motivation which affect child safety.

☐ Y ☒ N 14. Child has exceptional needs which the parents/caregivers cannot or will not meet.



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Assessment Area Seven: Conclusion

Safety Assessment Conclusion:

- 8. Family does not have resources to meet basic needs.
- 12. One or both parents/caregivers fear they will maltreat the child and/or request placement.
- 13. One or both parents/caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills, and motivation which affect child safety.

Child Conclusion:

2173602 - STOVALL, LAYLONNIE, L.

Safe []

Unsafe [X]

NIA Conclusion and/or Transfer Summary:

- [x] Impending Danger Threats exist for one or more children in the home. Case will be open (for Permanency Services or SAFE FC). Conduct the Safety Plan Determination immediately unless a Present Danger Plan is in place.

No Impending Danger Threats exist, but case will be open for Voluntary Services.

Child(ren) is safe. Case closed.

Case Status:

Describe immediate needs that were addressed during or at the conclusion of the NIA and efforts made to connect the family with Agency and/or community based resources and services.

Impending danger was identified: Family does not have resources to meet basic needs and caregiver lacks parenting knowledge, caregiver fear they will maltreat the child and request placement, skills and motivation which affect child safety. Natural mother, Tahja, does not have the resources to financially provide shelter, clothing, formula or diapers. Tahja also does not have anyone to help her watch the baby while she is in school. Tahja does not appear to be positively attached to her child and does not appear to want to be a parent. Tahja requested that her child be placed into protective custody, even after being offered resources to prevent the removal. This case will be transferred to an on-going caseworker.

Assessment Area Eight: Approval

Status	Effective	Created	Created By	Explanation
SUPRVSRAPPROVAL	02-15-2017	02-15-2017	LAW, JEREMY	
PENDINGAPPROVAL	02-08-2017	02-08-2017	BRUNSON, KACEY, M.	CHANGES MADE TO THE NIA BY A WORKER AFTER APPROVAL
SUPRVSRAPPROVAL	02-07-2017	02-07-2017	LAW, JEREMY	
PENDINGAPPROVAL	02-06-2017	02-06-2017	BRUNSON, KACEY, M.	
DRAFT	02-06-2017	02-06-2017	BRUNSON, KACEY, M.	

Contact Log

Date	Time	Name and Relationship	Contact and Location
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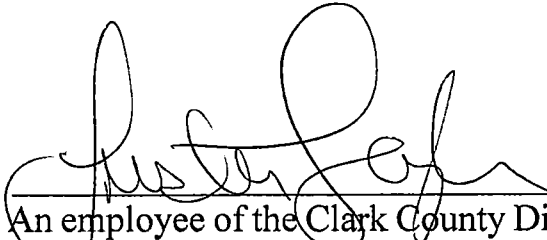
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of the Clark County District Attorney's Office, Juvenile Division, and that on the 26th day of November 2019, I served by electronic means to the following:

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