

Ashton (12 years old) & Rain (3 months old)

Ashton has been in care since he was seven years old. On Thanksgiving Day in 2005, Ashton awoke to find his mother crying over his father who was deceased from an overdose. For the remainder of the weekend his mother continued to use meth. When Ashton did not arrive at school the following Monday and his mother did not arrive at work, his grandmother was called by the school as the emergency contact. She had not seen them on Thanksgiving and called several times, but no one answered. She contacted the police, and at the home the responding officer found the home in a deplorable condition; the deceased Jim, Ashton's father, was on the couch, and Joannie, Ashton's mother, was high and sitting in the living room chair next to her deceased husband. Ashton was found emaciated in his room with bruises on his body and garbage thrown about the room. Ashton was taken into custody and placed with his grandmother until a custody hearing two days later. He lived with his grandmother for a few months until she said she could no longer handle Ashton.

Ashton went on to live with four foster families, and during that time he was failing school, getting into fights with peers, running away, and he was charged with five disorderly conducts for fighting at the different schools he was in. In his last foster home prior to the Joneses, Ashton ran away and was on the streets for three weeks, which resulted in the foster family giving their notice. When the police found Ashton, he was taken to Shelter, where he stayed briefly until a family was identified for him. Nine months ago, at the beginning of the school year, he moved in with the Jones family in Wisconsinville. Initially he struggled in the home, but as the Jones family provided structure, support and consistency, Ashton began to turn around; for the past six months Ashton has begun to do better in school. He has an IEP and is working with specialists at the school on reading and math skills, because despite his efforts, he is still a grade level behind his peers. Ashton has been diagnosed with ADHD, ODD, depression, Reactive Attachment Disorder, and mood disorder NOS; he is prescribed daily medications to address the symptoms and is under the care of a psychiatrist. Ashton still struggles at school with authority figures, however, he has taken a liking to the basketball coach. He has a few friends who are on the basketball team and are positive influences on him. He really enjoys basketball, and has been playing on the school team since he moved in with the Jones family.

Last week, after spending three months in the hospital, Ashton's three-month old brother moved into the Joneses home. Rain, Ashton's half-brother, was born three months premature, weighing 3 lbs. 8 oz., was positive for controlled substances, and his mother had no prenatal care. He was on a ventilator following birth until three weeks ago. After the birth, Joannie did not respond to him, and neither she nor her family had any desire to participate with his care while he was in the hospital. He is difficult to soothe and does not sleep for long periods of time at night due to continued withdrawal

issues. The entire Jones foster family is adjusting to having a baby in the house. Ashton is excited that his brother is in the home with him, yet he has shown some jealousy and frustration with the attention Mrs. Jones is paying to Rain since his arrival. Mr. Jones does not like assisting with babies, but Mrs. Jones talked him into allowing Rain to come live at the home. Mrs. Jones stays home with Rain so he does not have to go to a childcare setting. Mrs. Jones has never parented an infant and is thrilled to have a baby in the home. Mrs. Jones is seeking additional information to assist in caring for an infant. The Jones family is willing to adopt both Ashton and his brother, however, Ashton is unsure if he wants to be adopted. He has enjoyed his relationship and the security of the Joneses, especially Mr. Jones who has worked with him on his basketball skills and taken him to do many father-son outings, but Ashton remains hopeful that his mother will be ready to take him home soon. Ashton has a more strained relationship with Mrs. Jones because, as he tells her, he already has a mom and doesn't need another one. His interactions with Mrs. Jones are most problematic following visits with his mom.

Joannie is a high school drop-out who has had intermittent employment over the last several years. She often lives with family and friends, however was homeless just prior to giving birth to Rain. She has been in and out of rehab for the past several years. Joannie knows Ashton is doing well with the Jones family, and her mother takes her to meet with the Joneses and her children twice a month when the Joneses meet her one and a half hours from their home. Joannie is not comfortable going to their home because she feels that they are much more financially secure than she is and she is intimidated by their home. Joannie does not have a home and has been reluctant to have the children come to her mother's house, even though her mother is willing to have the children come for an overnight. Joannie continues to abuse drugs and knows that she is not able to provide her children with the stability they need. She requested placement of Rain with the Joneses and is hopeful if a termination of parental rights occurs that the Joneses would be willing to adopt both of her children to keep them together. Joannie would like to always be a part of their life and believes the Joneses would allow her to continue to have contact with the children.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones are raising Mr. Jones' children from his previous marriage. He was widowed ten years ago. Their three oldest are in college and they have two still in high school living at home. In addition to his birth children, the Jones family consists of three children in foster care. The Joneses became foster parents after much consideration and hearing about foster care at church several times from other families who foster. They are licensed as a Level 3 foster home with a private child placing agency. They have been foster parents now for six years and are considering adopting for the first time. Ashton is the first boy that either Mr. or Mrs. Jones have raised. Mr. Jones has enjoyed raising a son and has a special bond with Ashton, and Ashton has benefited

from having a positive male role model. Ashton talks most about learning about money management and the stock market from Mr. Jones, and is practicing budgeting with the allowance that he receives for completing his chores and other responsibilities. Mr. Jones is an engineer for the state of Wisconsin. Their extended family lives in the area and provides a tremendous amount of support for them with their busy family.

Permanency Goals

Ashton- Adoption (primary) & Reunification (concurrent)

Rain- Adoption (primary) & Reunification (concurrent)