

SESSION 3 GREENE CASE

CASE NOTES FOR THE GREENE CASE

INITIAL CASE NOTES FOR THE GREENE CASE

CPS Case File

Last Name of Case:		Greene			
Legal Number(s):		08-5-54321-5			
Child(ren) 's Name	DOB	Age	Ethnicity	Sex	Current Location
Marky Greene	02/15	8 years	C	M	Home of bio mother & father

Current Caregiver(s)	Address	Phone
Bio Mother: Judy Greene	4810 Old Mill Rd	555-5454
Bio Father: Roy Greene		

Attorneys for:	Attorney's Name	Attorney's Phone Number
Mother	Darlene Wright	555-6000
Father	Walt Harris	555-8727
CPS Caseworker	Robin Jackson	555-6552

Indian Child Welfare Act Status:

Court has established that ICWA does not apply in this case.

CASE HISTORY

Two weeks ago: A call was made to the CPS hotline by the kindergarten teacher and school nurse at Parkside Elementary. The callers stated that one of their students, Marky Greene, often comes to school with poor hygiene, that much of his clothing is not his size, and that he’s just come in with his third case of head lice in three months.

This CPS social worker (SW) interviewed the child’s parents, Judy and Roy Greene. The family is Caucasian; the parents are in their late twenties. Per medical records, mother was diagnosed with bipolar disorder as a senior in high school. The Greene family moved here from a few states away. They have no extended family living nearby.

SW found conditions in the home disorganized and unclean but not dangerous. CPS decided to file a petition for neglect but to allow the child to remain at home for the time being.

Adjudication and disposition hearings were held the same day. Both parents attended. It was determined that the child’s placement will continue in their home until the 3-month review hearing. Parents were ordered to cooperate with CPS treatment plan. Judge admonished them to work hard and pointed out that Marky was still under court’s jurisdiction. He ordered CPS to not hesitate to take physical custody, should conditions in the home or family deteriorate.

CASA/GAL Volunteer

Previous CASA/GAL Volunteer:	Corey Williams	Date Assigned:	Today
		Date Terminated:	N/A
Current CASA/GAL Volunteer:	Chase Washburn	Date Assigned:	Today’s Date
Initial CPS Worker:	Ryan Headon	Date Assigned:	
Current CPS Worker:	Ryan Headon	Date Assigned:	

Court Ordered Services

For the Child:

- Educational needs met as appropriate

For the Father:

- Psychological evaluation and counseling (if recommended)

For the Mother:

- Psychological evaluation and treatment/counseling (if recommended)

Greene Family Genogram

Father: Roy Greene | Mother: Judy Greene | Marky: Son | Jane: Daughter

GREENE CASE INTERVIEWS

Marky Greene (First Contact)

CASA/GAL Volunteer's Interview Notes

Name of Person: Marky Greene	Date and Time: 4/17/2018, 9 a.m.
Place of Interview: Parkside Elementary School	CASA/GAL Volunteer Name: Martha Stone
Type of Interview: In Person	Case No.: 8971234

Relationship to this case: Child

This was my first interaction with Marky at his school. He appeared clean and appropriately dressed. Marky said he liked going to school; however, he dislikes being bullied by his school mates. He disclosed to me that he's called a "weirdo" and often pushed in the hallway.

Mark Greene (Second Contact)

Note: You decide to see Marky again before writing your court report. Some things just aren't adding up and you want to see what he'll say about them.

CASA/GAL Volunteer's Interview Notes

Name of Person: Marky Greene	Date and Time: 6/20/2018, 2 p.m.
Place of Interview: Parkside Elementary School	CASA/GAL Volunteer Name: Martha Stone
Type of Interview: In Person	Case No.: 8971234

Relationship to this case: Child

GREENE CASE INTERVIEWS

This is my second interaction with Marky. Marky is extremely observant and mature for his age.

When I asked him about school, he stated it was going fine. He said that he really likes his mentor. “Coach is—that’s what I call him—I mean, Mr. Smith’s a great soccer coach! And he’s really fun too. He’s so smart!”

Marky’s worried about his new puppy because he’s not sure his parents really know how to take care of a dog. “We had a gerbil once and it died.”

When I asked about his sister, he said he doesn’t remember having a sister.

His dad goes to work every day—always has. His family has always moved houses a lot.

His dad likes to go to the corner bar and play the poker machine. “I tell him not to do it, but he doesn’t listen to me. Sometimes he loses all the money we have.”

When I ask about his mother, he said.

Yes, my mom can have a temper, “But she doesn’t mean anything by it.” “She doesn’t hit me, --well, not very hard.”

He is also worried that telling me these things will get his parents in trouble.

Intensive In-Home Family Therapist: Monica Morales

GREENE CASE INTERVIEWS

You are able to meet with Monica Morales in person. She is casually dressed and explains that she has an appointment that afternoon. In most cases, she schedules three- to four-hour sessions three times a week, “spent with the family on their home turf. These families are in danger of losing their children. They have multiple problems to address and need very concrete support. It’s not armchair therapy, that’s for sure.” She responds to your questions about the Greene family and tells you that:

One of her first projects was to take Marky and his mom to the thrift store to get some clothes for Marky that fit him. Judy seemed uninterested in finding clothes for Marky. “I had to redirect her and keep her focused on the task we went there to accomplish. Marky helped with the shopping and he is proud of his new clothes.”

Marky told her he enjoys taking baths and showers. He loves going to school looking “like a regular person.” They dealt with the head lice and will treat him again after 10 days. “Before I came into the house, the shower had become a clothes storage closet for clothing no one was even wearing. I’m not sure how they were bathing, but I think Roy used the hose out back.”

“I will be with the family for six weeks max. If a family doesn’t respond in that amount of time, it’s not considered appropriate to keep providing my wrap-around services. If they don’t turn this around, they could lose Marky.”

Judy’s violent temper is concerning. “She has little impulse control and reacts with anger when she feels threatened, which is often. I am working with her on ways to stay cool. We’re also learning to discipline effectively without hitting. It’s actually good that the puppy is there because he gives us plenty of opportunities to practice.”

Marky almost never needs discipline. He’s more likely to be scolding his parents. He’s a classic “parentified” child, one who is more responsible than the adults in the home. “He takes on more responsibility than a child should. He will need to learn how to be a kid.”

“I know they have financial problems but I’m not sure why. Roy makes a good paycheck and the trailer rent is low. We’ll be working on a budget soon.”

Parents: Judy and Roy Greene

GREENE CASE INTERVIEWS

You go out to the trailer at Falk’s Family Park on Saturday. Marky is out with his new mentor, Ben Smith, but both parents are home. The trailer smells a little like pee, especially near the bathroom door. The place isn’t a total mess but you see roaches, both dead and alive. You explain who you are, but you can see that they don’t really get it.

They got Marky a puppy and named it Butch. The puppy is wiggly, and Judy smacks it frequently in an ineffective attempt to control the animal. Roy tells you that he builds roads and works for Charles Carp Construction. He’s been with them for a year. Judy’s not working right now. They have lived at Falk’s for about six months.

You ask them why CPS came into their lives. Judy says, “It’s not right! They can’t take him from us! I won’t let them!” She is suddenly very upset. “Calm down now, Honey,” Roy tells her. Then, “Hush! Nobody is taking anybody.” He turns to you. “We love Marky—he’s our boy. I just don’t know if Judy can take it. We’ve been married almost 10 years, you know.”

You ask what happened with CPS and Roy takes a matter-of-fact tone, like he’s reciting: “They come over to the house and it was dirty. It was really bad, not like today. I told Judy to clean up, but she wasn’t feeling great and couldn’t do it. They said we didn’t have any food. Well, of course we didn’t—it was Friday. We always shop on Friday when I get home from work with my paycheck. I don’t know why they have to butt in! So we had to clean the house all weekend and show them we had food on Monday. Now they want that lady, Miss Monica, to be over here all the time. More butting in.”

You ask how they came to move here from their previous state of residence. Roy looks guarded and he keeps his answer short. All he tells you is that they wanted a change and they heard that it was nice here, with plenty of work.

You remind him about the court date and he says, “Why do we have to go to court? We didn’t do anything wrong.” You decide to leave any explanation to the CPS worker and other professionals working with the Greene’s.

Marky’s School Nurse

GREENE CASE INTERVIEWS

Telephone Interview:

The school nurse repeats what the CPS worker told you, that Marky had ill-fitting clothes, head lice, and sometimes circles under his eyes like he wasn't sleeping.

Also:

He's looking much better recently. "He has clothes . . . and they're clean! We were so tired of him looking like an orphan." She has checked him a couple times and the head lice seems to be gone.

She heard his mother is erratic, but she's never met her. "Marky's a real sweet kid, maybe a little slow. He's always polite." She feels bad for him. School records show that when it was time for Marky to enter kindergarten, he hadn't had his inoculations and they had to call CPS in to make the family comply.

Marky's Teacher

Telephone Interview:

The nurse transfers you to Marky's room so you can speak with his third-grade special-education teacher.

She tells you that "Marky is a real nice kid but kind of serious for an 8-year-old. He does okay in arithmetic but is struggling to learn how to read. He almost never gets his homework turned in. It seems to disappear if he takes it home."

"Yes, he has an IEP, but it might need to be updated. We're a little behind on doing those. I think Marky may have a specific learning disability instead of a low IQ. If it was low IQ, he shouldn't be doing so well with his figures."

"The kids used to tease him a lot for looking funny." She says she tried to monitor that, but it's hard—kids can be so cruel, and after all he did look funny.

"He's looking much better these days"

"Yes, sometimes he has circles under his eyes—not lately—and he's come in with bruises too, but he always has a good explanation for those and they aren't that bad."

She says his parents have not been to the school.

She asked what happened. Did his mother do something? Is he in foster care now?

CPS Caseworker Ryan Headon: First Contact

GREENE CASE INTERVIEWS

You speak with Ryan Headon on the phone. Ryan got the case from the CPS investigator last month. Ryan tells you what the school nurse said when she called in the report. He also tells you that:

Their son Marky doesn't seem developmentally disabled, but he is enrolled in special-ed at school. "I've asked for intensive in-home family services, and I think we might get lucky on that. Monica Morales just closed a case so she's available."

Judy has worked in the past but is currently unemployed. The family lives in that funky trailer park out on the edge of town called Falk's Family Park. The investigator found their trailer very unkempt, with clothes all over the place, empty food cartons with fruit flies circling, etc. He said the place was dirty as well as messy and there was no food in the fridge or anywhere else. He interviewed Marky on the spot and felt that the child was under a great deal of stress. Marky actually said, "I'm so tired! I need a break."

"Apparently, the parents did not react well to CPS being there. I heard that Judy yelled a lot and only quieted down when they threatened to take Marky into foster care. It's a borderline case, you know. We may still have to remove him from the home."

Ryan tells you that he did a combined records search and found the Greens had a CPS case three years ago. When it was time for Marky to go to kindergarten, they had no proof of inoculations for him and they refused to cooperate with the school system. The Greens said he'd had his shots but would not give the name of the doctor or clinic. CPS was called. Marky had to have his shots again; problem solved, case closed.

He also found reference to the fact that the Greens had been on food stamps for six months about a year ago. CPS has processed an emergency pharmacy voucher so the family could get Marky treated for head lice.

CPS Caseworker Ryan Headon: Second Contact

Ryan says he has been out to see the Greenes. He asked them about drug use and drinking, and they denied both. So far, he has no reason to think they're not being truthful about this.

Ryan asked the family about extended family support. Roy told him his only family is a brother, "living far away from here. We don't stay in touch." Ryan asked Judy where her mother lived and Judy said, "She's dead!" But he's been in touch with CPS where the Greenes used to live and Judy's mother is not dead—she still lives in their hometown and has a long history with CPS. She also has mental health issues and had five children, all grown now. Some of them were in out-of-home placements some of the time, including Judy, who reported that her foster father tried to have sex with her when she was 12.

She married Roy right after she turned 16, with her mother's permission. Roy was 26 at the time, and although he was also a high school dropout, he was a steady worker, always employed doing labor of some kind.

Judy and Roy also have history with that state's CPS. They had a child five years ago, who came into care for neglect when she was 8 months old. The Greenes were facing possible eviction for non-payment of rent. They were not cooperative with CPS. When the CPS worker explained to them that CPS might end up having to terminate rights for this baby—and explained what that meant—Judy got mad, swung, and punched her on the arm. The CPS worker wasn't badly hurt and CPS decided not to press charges, but the next time the Greenes were supposed to visit with their baby they didn't show up. CPS never heard from them again. They terminated their parental rights and the baby's been adopted long since.

Ryan asked why they took the baby and left Marky in the home and CPS said that Marky wasn't being neglected at the time. He looked perfectly healthy.

Ryan asked if drugs or alcohol were an issue in this family, and they said not so far as they knew.