

CASA of Middlesex County

Success Stories



CASA ADVOCATE ALEC

CASA advocate Alec's story involved two small children; one just three years old and the other almost two years old. The children were removed from the home because of drug use by both parents. During the time Alec started working for the case, the children were living with the maternal grandparents, the mother was living with friends and the father was incarcerated.

The older child Reya was substantially behind in her development. Alec noticed the child was not receiving sufficient therapy to overcome her speech and motor delays. Additionally, her teeth showed significant damage as a result of excessive iron she received to correct a prior condition. Alec recommended to the court that the child should receive additional weekly therapy and dental services.

The judge agreed with the recommendations. Over the approximately fourteen months that the case was active Reya showed significant improvement and is well on her way to being developmentally back on target.

When Alec first started visiting the children they wanted to have nothing to do with him. Over time, the children began to enjoy their time with Alec, running and reaching out to be picked up each time they saw him. Alec knew he had a positive effect on their lives and that's a great feeling for him.

DANIELA FINDS PERMANENCY

Daniela was removed from her home three days after her birth and placed in foster care. When the CASA Volunteer, Sasha, was appointed to Daniela's case, she had already been in her foster home for five years, much longer than the typical stay. She was becoming angry and depressed due to the uncertainty of her living arrangement. Unfortunately, the case was at a standstill with no end in sight—Daniela's mother loved her dearly, but had cognitive impairments that made it impossible for her to care for Daniela full time.

Sasha was determined to help the case close so that Daniela would not spend her entire childhood in foster care. After considering every possibility, Sasha recommended an unusual option that would allow Daniela to live permanently with her foster mom, and to visit with her biological mother. The court agreed, as did the foster and biological parents. Daniela had spent the first 5 years of her life in foster care, but after only 6 months with a CASA Volunteer, she was living permanently in a loving home where she was able to maintain connections with her biological family.