

4. Over the past year and a half, Jane has had regular contact with her daughter Mary. In February, 2005, this Court ordered that Jane and Mary have two visits per week to ensure the continued closeness and health of their relationship. See Report of GAL, dated 2005.

5. Jane continues to address her psychological needs and challenges through participation in her clinical treatment program. Although immediate reunification with Mary has not been recommended at this time by the Department, Jane's relatives in ANOTHER STATE have come forward to serve as a resource for both Jane and Mary. Jane's maternal aunt is currently completing the licensing procedure to become a foster parent for Mary. Jane's mother, also a ANOTHER STATE resident, recently intervened in Mary's Juvenile Court case and is planning for Jane to eventually come and live with her. It is expected that during this year, Jane and Mary will both return to ANOTHER STATE to live with family.

6. A recent Parent/Child psychological evaluation, ordered by the Juvenile Court, indicated that Jane and Mary have a caring and positive relationship. The evaluator noted that "Mary often sought [Jane's] proximity and they remained close for the visit. [Mary] often touched [Jane] and seemed to respond favorably to the mother's touch and attention." See Psychological Evaluation dated 2006, pg. 8. The evaluator further noted that Jane was appropriate and nurturing towards Mary. The evaluator's report indicated that Jane utilized caretaking techniques that "seemed to have considerable influence on the child's calm and focus." Id. Jane's "play was creative and elaborate. Frequent caretaking was noted, ranging from nose care, to undressing and dressing the child ... she rehearsed common

child songs. She initiated frequent verbal and physical affection, and the latter was frequently reciprocated.” Id.

7. Psychologist also observed that Mary and Jane interacted “in a highly successful manner,” though she could not determine the degree of a mother/child bond. Id. pg. 9. Although PSYCHOLOGIST indicated that it is unclear, at this time, whether Mary has a “psychological parent,” she reported that “[Jane] is clearly a familiar figure, to whom the child is attracted.” Id.

8. In light of Jane and Mary’s continued bond and the likelihood that they will be living among family and in close proximity, frequent visitation should be facilitated. PSYCHOLOGIST’S evaluation recommended that “in consideration of [Mary’s] age, frequent visitation (*at least twice weekly* ...) is advocated. [Visitation] should be supervised and have an educative component.” Id. pg. 10.

9. Additionally, the undersigned Guardian ad Litem has had conversations with Jane’s treatment team at Riverview regarding the nature and frequency of visitation between Jane and Mary. It was the team’s recommendation that visitation occur as frequently as possible in a normalized environment. See letter from DOCTOR, attached hereto. Jane’s treating clinician, DOCTOR, reported to the undersigned Guardian ad Litem that it made “all the sense in the world” for visitation to occur at least twice weekly.

10. Moreover, Connecticut General Statute § 17a-10 provides that DCF facilitate visitation between a child and her parents “as frequently as reasonably possible, based upon consideration of the best interests of the child, including the age and developmental level of the child, and shall be sufficient in number and duration to ensure continuation of the relationship.” Section 17a-10 further provides that if DCF determines that such visits or the

frequency of visits are not in the best interests of the child, DCF “shall include the reasons for such determination in the child's plan of treatment.”

11. Finally, there is an existing order in this matter for twice-weekly visits and there is no indication in the parent/child psychological evaluation that such an order should be amended.

WHEREFORE, the Guardian Ad Litem for Jane Doe respectfully requests that this court order DCF to follow the recommendations of PSYCHOLOGIST and DOCTOR and arrange visitation between Jane and Mary Doe at least twice weekly.

Respectfully submitted,

BY: _____

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Guardian Ad Litem for Jane Doe

ORDER

The Motion For Increased Visitation, having come before this Court for consideration, it is hereby ordered: GRANTED/DENIED.

Judge, Superior Court

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a copy of the foregoing Motion for Increased Visitation has been delivered via facsimile on this day of, 2006 to:

Attorney General, (860) 808-5590