

DEPENDENCY COMPLAINT

L.J. came to the attention of the Division based on concerns about his mother's mental health and ongoing instability. L.J.'s mother, Stella Gaines, has shown up several times to Grady Hospital with the child and acting erratic. She was aggressive with hospital social workers and on at least one occasion grabbed the child forcefully out of the arms of a treating nurse. The mother has an extensive history with the Division and L.J. has two siblings who are with their aunt under a permanent guardianship because the mother failed to complete a case plan in Coweta County. On March 15, 2022 the mother again showed up at the hospital and claimed she and the child had nowhere to stay for the night and just "couldn't do it anymore." The mother admitted being non-compliant with her mental health treatment. The child also has ongoing asthma appointments and according to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), the child has missed at least three previous appointments. CHOA staff are very concerned for this child's wellbeing. The child cannot continue to reside with the mother because she is non-compliant with her mental health medication, acts erratic in his presence, does not have stable housing, and does not take the child to his necessary medical appointments. The mother identified the child's father as "A.I." and provided a telephone number for him.

STATEMENT OF REASONABLE EFFORTS

The Division called the aunt who has custody of L.J.'s two siblings and the aunt stated that she is willing to be a placement resource for L.J.

**IN THE JUVENILE COURT OF CALLAWAY COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA**

IN THE INTEREST OF:)	
)	
L.J.)	CASE NO. 01-22DP-4479
DOB: 01-27-2019)	FAMILY FILE NO. 241786
SEX: M)	
)	
A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18)	

PETITION FOR DEPENDENCY

The mother of the child is Stella Gains, whose address is unknown. The putative father is Al Jones, who resides at 151 Green Belt Way, Atlanta, Georgia. The child has been abused and neglected and in need of protection of the court for the following reasons:

- 1a. The mother has untreated mental health issues.
- 1b. The mother was previously diagnosed with bi-polar and schizophrenia and is not currently receiving any treatment.
- 1c. The mother is non-compliant with her mental health treatment.
- 1c. The mother has on a number of occasions acted erratically and aggressively in the presence of the child and hospital staff at Grady Hospital and Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta.
- 1d. On one occasion the mother forcefully grabbed the child from the arms of a treating nurse. The child was shaken and upset.
- 1e. On or around March 14, 2022 the mother presented at the hospital with the child and claimed she had nowhere to sleep and that she just “couldn’t do it anymore.”
- 1f. The child has special medical needs in that the child suffers from asthma and has missed multiple necessary appointments to treat his asthma.
- 1g. The mother has extensive history with the Division of Family and Children Services and has two other children who are in the care of a relative because the mother failed to complete a case plan in Coweta County.
- 1h. The mother also has a history of domestic violence from 2019 when a protective order was taken out against her.
- 1i. The mother is without stable housing and moves from place to place.
- 1j. The child is three years old and unable to self-protect.
- 1k. The mother is unable or unwilling to provide adequate support for the child.
- 1l. The mother is unable or unwilling to provide adequate care, control, and supervision of the child.
- 2a. The father has failed to legitimate the child.
- 2b. The father has failed to provide adequate care, control, and supervision of the child.
- 3. The Division made reasonable efforts to prevent the removal of the child in that it attempted to place the child with a maternal aunt and offered the mother a psychological and parental fitness evaluation.

DILIGENT SEARCH

1.

Name: Al Jones

Phone Number: 404-525-8976

Address: 151 Green Belt Way, Atlanta, Georgia

Relationship: putative father

Contacted: Y

Interested in placement: Y

2.

Name: Gloria Gains

Phone Number: 678-334-6748

Address: 90 Lemon Street East Point Ga

Relationship: maternal Aunt

Contacted: Y

Interested in Placement: Y

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DEPENDENCY ORDER

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The mother was previously diagnosed with bi-polar disorder and schizophrenia and is not addressing these diagnoses. The mother's instability affects her ability to provide everyday care for the child including participating in the child's asthma appointments.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Child is dependent based on the mother's untreated mental health issues, lack of stable housing, and inability to adequately address the child's special medical needs.

ADDITIONAL FACTS

Between the adjudication and disposition hearing, Ms. Stella Gains attended a visit with L.J. The transporter/visit supervisor claims that Ms. Gaines was late to the visit, seemed “out of it,” and smelled like marijuana. During the visit, Ms. Gaines went outside to smoke several times and came back smelling of cigarette smoke which tends to aggravate the child’s asthma.

CASE PLAN FOR REUNIFICATION

GOAL	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
1. Complete a parental fitness evaluation and follow all recommendations	Stella Gaines
2. Complete a psychological evaluation and follow all Recommendations	Stella Gaines
3. Complete a substance abuse/domestic violence/anger management evaluation(s) and follow all recommendations	Stella Gaines
4. Maintain stable housing for at least 6 months prior to reunification	Stella Gaines
5. Submit to random drug screens and a hair follicle test	Stella Gaines
6. Work with a parent aide	Stella Gaines
7. Participate in parenting classes	Stella Gaines
8. Participate in visitation.	Stella Gaines