

- Some form of psychiatric/psychological assessment will need to be undertaken with respect to Samantha – this to be arranged by the Agency or the couple (with Agency approval).
- Both parents are to commence participation in an appropriate parenting program.
- Both parents to attend all weekly visits with Phoenix.

By mid May the couple had started a parenting support group at the Andrew Street Center, they attended every week for eight weeks and completed the program.

During May, June and July 2000 Samantha and Nikki Taylor made several attempts to have a psychological assessment completed. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful.

Through May to August the couple continued to visits with Phoenix on a weekly basis, Tuesdays from 10:30 am to 12:30 p.m. It was also learned from Nikki Taylor that they continued to attend the Boys and Girls Club's summer programming, they participated in a program focused on job training. Nikki also reported that the couple seems to be committed to parenting their child and wanted her returned to their care.

By mid July Samantha had still not been successful with having an assessment completed and the # month order was due to expire on August 5, 2000. Given the concern regarding Samantha's emotional stability was still not address the Agency decided to request the child remain in care under a VPA to allow the Samantha more time to have the assessment completed and to allow enough time to properly transition the baby to her parents home. As part of the new plan an Agency in home teaching support worker was assigned to assist with the baby's transition, to assess the parents parenting abilities, and to provide teaching when needed.

At the end of July 2000 Samantha and Steve consented to the plan and signed a VPA for one month, with the goal to return the child to their care once the final issue was addressed.

In early August Marie Belanger, teaching support worker began working with the parents. She was to meet with them twice a week for about two hours. Also access visits increased to twice a week for two hours. By mid August access visits were again increased to longer duration and began to take place at the parents. Observations made by the teaching support worker indicated that the parents were attentive to and appropriate with Phoenix. They had also begun to accumulate all of the necessary attire to care for the baby. During a meeting with the supervisor, Angie Balan, on August 29, 2000, it was agreed that the child be returned to the parents care on September 5, 2000. The Agency would require the parents sign a service agreement outlining what was expected of them while the baby was in their care. The agency support worker would continue to work with the parents and the baby at home.

Kematch, Samantha  
Supervision  
File # S007676

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