

INVESTIGATION CASE INFORMATION

Agency Child and Family Services of Grand Erie	
CASE INFORMATION	
Case Details	
Case Name Melanie Grillo Investigation	Status Closed
Case Number 11788074	Primary Client Melanie Grillo
Investigator Brianna Boyd	Caregiver Type Family in Community
Start Date 26/08/2022	End Date 23/09/2022
Class Type Physical/Sexual Harm by Commission	
Intake Summary	
Reference 11787503	Respond Within 12 Hours
Created By Theresa Lillie, 2022-08-26	
Comments	

DISPOSITION	
Investigation Disposition	
Disposition Open for CP Ongoing - Transfer to New Worker	Closure Reasons Investigation Completed - Transfer to Ongoing Services
Has the Eligibility Spectrum Coding been reviewed? Yes	
Analysis	
Brianna Boyd On 22/09/2022 13:59 Family Constellation: Melanie Grillo and Adam Newton are the biological parents of Zaria Grillo-Newton (4). The parents have not been in a relationship prior to birth of Zaria and reside separately. Adam lives in Port Dover and Melanie lives in Hamilton. Prior to the Society's investigation, Melanie and Adam had a parenting agreement where Zaria resides with Melanie and sees Adam every other weekend and every Tuesday for a sleepover. There has always been conflict through court about Zaria's access with her parents. Case Summary/Assessment: Intake: The Society became involved on August 26th following a police report with concerns that Zaria has been returning from access with her father with a red anus and lesions around her anus and has been making concerning statements to her mother that her father has put something into her anus while she has been laying on her stomach. Melanie had asked Adam if he had given her a suppository and he said he did not. Investigation: Melanie provided police and the Society with a recording where Zaria reported to her that dad has her lay on her belly on his bed, puts green things in her bum as well as something that looks like a "tree stump", makes her taste things before he puts it in her bum that tastes lucky "yucky apple". Adam denies that this has ever occurred. During Zaria's police interviews she expressed that she did like dad's house, then said she didn't because she doesn't like her bum "getting red" at his house but she could not articulate why, and described nothing further to police or the Society in any further interviews. Melanie also reported that prior to parenting time with Adam, Zaria will regress and speak like a baby and will sometimes crawl to him when he gets her for parenting time. She also described that Zaria will wet herself following their time together and states that she only has wetting accidents around parenting time with him. She will also return home constipated and Melanie would report that it would take her 1-2 days to have a normal bowel movement again. The police completed interviews with Zaria and with Melanie. Zaria would not make any report to the police although she identified that she was at the station because her father hurt her bum and said that she did not like going to her father's because it made her	

bum hurt. She otherwise understandably seemed uncomfortable and would not answer any other questions about her father but would answer questions about her mother and her mother's home. In Melanie's interview with police, she reported that she and Adam were never in a serious relationship and that in fact she became pregnant following a date that she could not recall with him where she woke feeling as though she had been "hit by a truck" although she described that she had not drank to excess and likely only had two glasses of wine during their date. Detective Kara Fawbert found the interviews to be quite compelling, but police were unable to charge Adam on the basis on Zaria's information. Adam refused to attend for an interview without his lawyer or to answer any questions from police.

Adam denies having caused any sexual harm to Zaria and believes that Melanie created this allegation to keep her away from him and that the recording is coached. Melanie had shared the concern and recording initially with her lawyer and her lawyer suggested that she ask Adam if he ever gave the child a suppository. There is email correspondence of this and Adam maintains he has never given Zaria a suppository, following which Melanie contacted police out of concern that there may be sexual harm. Adam has been agreeable to supervised parenting time and the CPW as well as a Clinical Access Facilitator have overseen his parenting time. The CPW directly observed Zaria to regress and speak like a baby at the outset of time with Adam. Zaria also acted out during their parenting time, but nothing else of concern was noted. We have encouraged Adam to present further supervisors to the Society for approval so that his parenting time may move back to his home in a more natural setting with oversight to ensure Zaria's safety.

Summary of CAS Involvement:

This is Adam and Melanie's third opening with the Society as caregivers. Both have no prior history with other partners or as children themselves.

Adam and Melanie's previous two files were both verified: one for parental conflict in front of the child and another for custody and access disputes. Ongoing issues with custody and access is still prevalent in their current opening with the Society.

Clinical Analysis:

Worries/Concerns: The parents have been experiencing ongoing custody and access conflict since before the birth of Zaria.

Strengths/Supports: Zaria appears unaware that her parents are struggling with custody and access time. Zaria appears to have a good relationship with her mother. She is a smart and articulate child.

Mitigating Factors/Services Attending: Zaria is now working with "Thrive" services for sexual abuse and treatment. Zaria was assessed virtually by Dr. Baird at McMaster CAAP.

Risk Assessment/Risk at Closure:

Risk: Moderate - Due to one prior investigation with the family.

Safety: SAFE. Mom will not be sending the child for access with dad until we are able to provide supervised access visits for dad and Zaria.

Verification:

1.3.A – Verified. On a balance of probabilities, we believe that Zaria has experienced sexual harm while in her father's care. She returned home from parenting time with Adam with anal lesions and describes this occurring in the context of items being put in her bum by her father.

3.1.C – Verified. There are ongoing dynamics of post-separation conflict that we worry do pose a risk of emotional harm to Zaria although she is not directly exposed to any conflict at this time.

Closure Plan:

We are concerned about the impact of the parents' custody and access disputes on Zaria. We are also concerned that there is a looming allegation of Adam committing sexual abuse on Zaria and when Zaria is asked by CPW's or police about dad, she will not answer and shuts down.

Cheryl Crawford On 23/09/2022 08:56

Disposition is approved. Continue to provide ongoing services.

Determination

Child Zaria Grillo-Newton	Determination Child In Need Of Protection
------------------------------	--

ELIGIBILITY SPECTRUM CODING

Eligibility Spectrum Coding

Section 1. Physical/Sexual Harm by Commission	Scale 3. Abusive Sexual Activity
Descriptor A- Sexual Abuse - Primary Caregiver	Severity Extremely
Primary Yes	Version 2021