



**COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE REPORT**

**Name:** JONATHAN JUSTIN SANTIAGO

**DOB:** 11/28/2001

**Age:** 17 years, 11 months

**Date:** 10/30/2019

**Hearing:** Permanency Planning

**PO#:** 21390101

**JCM:** 238768

**CASA Sarah Martin's Appointment to This Case:** January 5, 2011

**Persons Contacted:**

Jonathan Justin Santiago

Minor

Arnold Sanchez

Maternal Grandfather/Caregiver

Eloy Rosas

Counselor, East Mesa Soar Academy

Deanna Nelson

Probation Officer

Steven Torreledo

Former Probation Officer

Cecilia Martinez

Former Probation Officer

Cathy Prodor

Education Specialist, Juvenile Court

and Community Schools, ECB School

Emilio Nunez

Teacher, Juvenile Court and Community

Schools, 37ECB School

Alberto Hernandez

Second Chance Counselor

Sonya Moreno

Work Readiness Assistant/Career

Technical Education, 37ECB School

**Date of Original Petition:** December 10, 2004

**Date of Current Placement:** December 18, 2018

**Probation History:**

On December 10, 2004, Jonathan and his siblings Sabrina, Antonio, Edward, and Angelica were detained after Angelica tested positive for methamphetamine at birth. A petition for the children was filed under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 300 (b). On January 4, 2005, the children were declared dependents of the Court under WIC 300 (b). On March 14, 2007, parental rights were terminated. On April 16,

2009, another planned permanent living arrangement (APPLA) was identified as Jonathan's permanent plan after a planned adoption by the maternal grandfather, Arnold Sanchez, did not occur due to Mr. Sanchez's inadequate care and supervision of the children.

On October 19, 2016, Jonathan was designated a dual status youth with HHSA as the lead agency and dependency as the lead court. On April 26, 2017, probation became the lead agency and delinquency the lead court. On August 30, 2017, HHSA was identified as the lead agency, with dependency becoming the lead court following Jonathan's release from Juvenile Hall on September 19, 2017. On June 13, 2018, probation and delinquency were once again identified as lead agency and lead court. On September 26, 2018, dependency jurisdiction was terminated.

On December 10, 2004, Jonathan, Antonio, and Edward were initially placed together in a foster home. Around September 2005, they were placed together with the grandfather. In May 2008, they were detained at Polinsky Children's Center (PCC) due to allegations of abuse by the grandfather. In summer 2008, the three boys were again placed with the grandfather and their sisters. In 2009, the boys were again removed from and subsequently placed in a few foster homes followed by a foster family agency (FFA) foster home. In March 2011, the boys were moved to a short-term facility due to inappropriate discipline techniques used by the previous foster parents. In June 2011, Jonathan was placed apart from his brothers for the first time in another FFA foster home. After threatening suicide, Jonathan was hospitalized for five days at UCSD's Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Services (CAPS) unit. In September 2011, Jonathan was placed in a short-term facility because he threatened to burn the foster home and harm the foster parents' biological son. In October 2011, Jonathan was placed at a residential facility. In April 2013, Jonathan was placed in an FFA foster home. In June 2014, Jonathan chose to live with a foster family who had adopted Edward. On January 13, 2016, he was detained at PCC after running away from the foster home the previous day. On January 22, 2016, Jonathan was placed in a previous FFA foster home with a foster mother he had lived with two years earlier. On April 20, 2016, Jonathan was again detained at PCC after the foster mother gave notice due to Jonathan's behavior. On April 29, 2016, Jonathan was placed in a foster home near Edward.

On June 2, 2016, Jonathan was arrested and detained at Juvenile Hall. On July 8, 2016, he was placed at the New Alternatives #18 (NA18) group home. On August 5, 2016, he was placed at the Casa de Amparo group home in San Marcos due to reports of marijuana and alcohol use at NA18. On October 2, 2016, Jonathan was again detained at Juvenile Hall after he was arrested for his alleged involvement in a liquor store robbery. On November 22, 2016, he was placed at Varsity group home in Mira Mesa until he went AWOL on December 7, 2016. Jonathan reported that he

was in Mexico with relatives for nearly a month. On January 15, 2017, police picked up Jonathan and took him to PCC but he fled after he realized that he was going back to Juvenile Hall. On January 18, 2017, Jonathan was again detained at Juvenile Hall after the grandfather reported to the police that Jonathan was at his home. On March 21, 2017, Jonathan was placed at the Center for Positive Changes group home in Spring Valley. On April 4, 2017, following a weekend of family outings, Jonathan was hospitalized for threatening to harm himself and others after he was arrested for plotting to fight one of his peers in the group home and then attacking him. On April 5, 2017, he was again detained at Juvenile Hall because the group home was unwilling to take him back due to the altercation and allegations of use of a controlled substance. On or about June 8, 2017, Jonathan was transferred to the East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (EMJDF). On June 22, 2017, he was detained at Camp Barrett to complete the Breaking Cycles program. However, on August 13, 2017, Jonathan was transferred back to EMJDF due to allegedly being loud and disruptive and refusing to follow orders.

On September 19, 2017, Jonathan was placed at Clarinda Academy, a residential and educational facility for at-risk and delinquent youth, in Clarinda, Iowa. In early April 2018, Clarinda Academy gave notice on Jonathan due to his behavior, including truancy and an alleged assault of staff members on March 20, 2018, according to the probation report dated June 6, 2018. On April 18, 2018, Jonathan returned to California and was detained at Juvenile Hall. On June 14, 2018, Jonathan was transferred to the Youthful Offender Unit (YOU) program at EMJDF. On December 14, 2018, Jonathan was placed with his maternal grandfather in San Diego, where he currently resides.

**Current Situation:**

Jonathan, who goes by Jon, is a tall, sturdy 17-year-old. He has a good sense of humor and a concise way of communicating his opinions and needs. His appearance is consistently impeccable. Jon has matured over the past 10 months since he was placed with his grandfather again and graduated from 37ECB. He has thrived in the independence that he had not experienced in years. Jon is sorting out plans for his future. He is loyal to his family, guiding two younger siblings with lessons he has learned the hard way. He likes anything that moves fast such as cars, bikes, and scooters. He is now an avid reader, reading popular novels about his indigenous roots. He spends his free time playing video games and enjoying sports. He has demonstrated talent in the arts such as playing the guitar and painting murals when he was at EMJDF and 37ECB school.

I have had about 20 visits with Jon this reporting period. Most of these were at EMJDF where Jon had been detained for nearly a year. Since his enrollment in

YOU, I have taken him to meetings with his probation officer, a job interview, shopping for clothes, collecting his belongings at a former foster placement, and registering him at a local gym for the 2019 summer. He is wonderful during our visits. He enjoys talking about his video games and I enjoy listening to his stories.

On November 13, 2018, Jon transferred from EMJDF and was placed with his grandfather. On December 14, 2018, Jon returned to EMJDF, as his grandfather chose not to complete the resource family approval (RFA) process, for personal reasons. On December 18, 2018, Jon returned to his grandfather's home as the grandfather agreed to undergo the RFA process for the second time. On May 5, 2019, the probation officer reported that the grandfather's home had been approved for RFA on April 11, 2019. Jon is comfortable at his grandfather's apartment, which is located in a diverse community of housing, churches, and shopping centers. Family members, such as Jon's mother, Anna Sanchez; aunts; uncles; cousins; and his brother come and go from the apartment. Jon offers after school homework support to two younger siblings. Jon enjoys family gatherings. He was eager to live with his family and is appreciating his time with them. Jon is close to his grandfather, Ms. Sanchez, and his aunts.

Jon has tried to establish a support system outside of his family. Jon used to talk with a former foster mother about a career in the medical field. To my knowledge, they speak every so often on the phone. While he was in EMJDF, Jon established a positive relationship with a staff member, who helped him embrace his heritage and taught him how to play the guitar. They no longer keep in contact, but Jon did enjoy his company.

On May 7, 2019, Jon reported that the ophthalmologist told him that his eye sight would be greatly affected if he did not wear glasses on a daily basis. On September 25, 2019, Jon told me that he does not wear his new glasses, because he does not read very much now. However, on October 15, 2019, the probation officer ordered Jon to start wearing his glasses as instructed by the ophthalmologist, in order to prevent further eye vision issues. Jon is due for a dental appointment. On October 1, 2019, I connected with the probation officer to see if she can assist in making a dental appointment, and she said that since Jon's grandfather is his legal guardian, he would need to set that up for him. I plan on reminding Jon's grandfather about the dental appointment and providing additional support. Jon told me that he continues to take Trileptal for mood stabilization, Rameron for depression and insomnia, and Vistaril. Jon has no other health concerns that I am aware of.

On May 7, 2019, the education specialist at 37ECB reported that Jon received 300 hours of counseling until he graduated on June 13, 2019. Jon demonstrated that he was receptive to the elements of the YOU program. He continues to stay drug free,

free from violations of the law, becoming self-sufficient, earning a high school diploma, and vocational training and preparation for employment. In May 2019, Jon's former probation officer commended him for his positive attitude.

Jon was enrolled at 37ECB, Juvenile Court and Community Schools (JCCS) in San Diego on December 4, 2018. Under AB 167/216, Jon was eligible to graduate from high school without meeting the local graduation requirements that exceed the state minimum. Jon participated in an independent study (IS) program. He graduated from 37ECB with a diploma on June 13, 2019. Ms. Sanchez, the grandfather, aunts, cousins, a former social worker and I were proud to attend Jon's graduation ceremony. Jon had an individualized education program (IEP) with a qualifying disability of other health impairment (OHI). His IEP was last reviewed on May 5, 2018, at 37ECB. The teacher reported that Jon has strong opinions and will share them verbally, but he would not put his words into writing. Accommodations were made for his reluctance to respond to writing prompts, such as providing small individualized instruction to him. I hold Jon's educational rights. I maintained weekly contact with his teacher and education specialist. On May 9, 2019, staff reported that Jon's behavior in school was appropriate. He attended regularly, arrived on time, was cooperative, and was friendly and polite with staff. I observed a positive rapport between Jon and the 37ECB staff whenever I visited.

Jon has a California identification card, birth certificate, and a Social Security card. Jon began a full-time job with Bemus Landscape on April 15, 2019, through Second Chance. He enjoyed his job and told me that he learned a lot from his experienced peers. When his grandfather was no longer able to provide transportation, Jon lost his job on May 29, 2019. He has not worked since, as transportation continues to be a problem. On October 3, 2019, Jon's Second Chance counselor picked him up for a paid internship interview. Jon says that he is interested in opening a checking and savings account when he gets a job. When Jon was at EMJDF, he participated in independent living skills (ILS) training. Jon has reported to me that he knows how to cook, clean, and do laundry.

Jon receives support from a Second Chance manager in the YOU program. On May 7, 2019, the educational specialist reported that Jon had not followed up with the career education assistant on participating in the JCCS Pathways to Justice Careers (PJC) program once he got a job. It was not court-mandated in his case. Jon is drug-tested at the probation officer's office, at work, and randomly at his grandfather's apartment. According to his probation officer, all of Jon's tests come out negative, as he is committed to living a drug free life. On October 15, 2019, the probation officer communicated with Jon that he has to meet certain goals in order to get off of probation. Jon has to show proof that he is actively looking for employment and

participate in a physical activity on his free time. The probation officer, Jon, and I have a scheduled meeting on October 28, 2019, to discuss Jon's progress.

Jon often reflects on his situation and past experiences. He speaks up for himself and his values, such as defending his friendship with someone of a different ethnic background than his. He demonstrated his maturity by following through with the IS program at 37ECB, remaining drug-free and humbly taking pride in his accomplishments. Jon is capable of taking care of himself. He has had to grow up fast in the eight years that I have known him. Once, he mused about growing up, and he told me that he did not have a childhood. A consequence of many placements is that Jon discovered his strengths. He comments that he is capable of physical labor, knows how to care for horses, is skillful at repairing just about anything, is a good reader, and is even artistic. Jon appreciates that the Court finally placed him with family. At this time, the probation officer will be recommending that probation be extended.

**Needs of the Youth:**

I fear that Jon may not take advantage of opportunities to get a job and to further his artistic talents without encouragement, support, and direction.

I feel that Jon should visit a dentist as soon as an appointment can be arranged. I have addressed this situation with the probation officer.

Jon has had to bounce back from many disappointments in his short life. I feel that Jon may have lost momentum about getting a job after he lost the landscape job. I believe that, with support and encouragement, Jon will make his way and achieve his goals in any job. As transportation was an impediment to employment, I am hopeful Jon can receive a bus pass and training on public transportation.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Martin/GA  
Sarah Martin  
Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

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Giselle Acosta  
Advocacy Supervisor, Juvenile Justice