

Trevor's Story

Ten days ago I received a call from the police to pick up a 6-year-old boy, Trevor, whose mom had been hospitalized for a drug overdose. Trevor is a quiet, shy child who has been temporarily placed in foster care. His foster parents report that he seems overly compliant.

Trevor's background is best unraveled by reviewing what I've found out about his mom, Tania.

Tania grew up living with various relatives before being placed in foster care herself, at age 15. She aged out at 18, and a few months later she gave birth to Trevor. Jobless, Tania began receiving services.

Eventually, Tania moved in with Trevor's father and his parents. Even though Trevor's grandparents were elderly, they were able to help care for Trevor while Tania worked part time. Over the course of the next three years, the home life was never smooth. Tania's struggle with depression worsened, and she began to self-medicate with illegal drugs. Tania's relationship with her boyfriend deteriorated, and after several domestic fights, he was arrested.

Tania moved into an apartment with her half-sister, who helped take care of 4-year-old Trevor. She cut all ties to his grandparents who then called CPS with concerns that Tania's sister may have been whipping Trevor and sometimes leaving him home alone. A CPS investigation, reported that Tania's drug tests were clean, and they found no physical injuries consistent with abuse. They suggested Tania voluntarily take a parenting class, which she did, and so the investigation was closed.

In these last two years, Tania has continued to struggle with addiction and depression. She and Trevor have lived with multiple relatives and twice have spent time in a homeless shelter. When we picked up Trevor, he and his mother were living with a boyfriend. She was working part time cleaning rooms at a nearby motel and often left Trevor alone to care for himself while she worked. Trevor is now living with foster parents while Tania is complying with the court's order so she can reunite with Trevor.