

Address/Placement: With Cree Nation  
 Telephone: Unknown  
 First Nation: Pine Creek First Nation - 2820140002  
 Legal State: Temporary Ward with Cree Nation CFS

Child/ren Not In Care:

Name: Phoenix Sinclair resides with Father on 740B Magnus  
 Address: with parents  
 Birthdate: April 23, 2000

Name: [REDACTED]  
 Birth Date: April 29, 2001  
 Date of Death: Deceased - July 15, 2001

Extended Family/Significant Others/Other Agency:

Name: Nikki Taylor  
 Relationship: Counselor Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club  
 Support person to the family  
 Telephone: [REDACTED] (wk) [REDACTED] (hm)

Name: Marie Belanger  
 Relationship: Agency Teaching support worker  
 Telephone: [REDACTED]

Name: Heather McCheyne  
 Relationship: Couple's Income Assistance Worker  
 391 York  
 Telephone: [REDACTED] fax - [REDACTED]

Name: Germaine Brass  
 Relationship: [REDACTED]'s worker with Cree Nation CFS  
 Telephone: 989 - 4800

Name: Rose McKay  
 Relationship: Supervisor with Cree Nation CFS  
 telephone: 989 - 4800

Name: Jenny Sinclair  
 Relationship: Steve's sister  
 Telephone: [REDACTED]

Name: Kim Edwards  
 Relationship: Steve's friend  
 Telephone: 1331 Selkirk Avenue

Name: Constable Wouda or Hodges  
 Relationship: Abuse unit WPS #141385  
 Telephone: 986-6868

Name: Kim Edwards  
 Relationship: Steve's friend  
 Telephone: No Phone - 1331 Selkirk Avenue

Name: Crystal Kematch  
 Relationship: Samantha's Aunt  
 Telephone: [REDACTED]

Name: Mickey Kematch  
 Relationship: Samantha's Brother  
 Telephone: [REDACTED]

#### Previous Child Welfare Involvement

The file has been closed effective August 16, 2001 - for Kematch

For detailed child welfare history see October 2, 2000 under Samantha Kematch

On April 24, 2000 HSC social worker, [REDACTED] called the Agency to advise that Samantha gave birth to baby girl, Phoenix, after having no prenatal care. In discussions, it was discovered that Samantha had another child that was in the care of Cree Nation CFS. When asked why, Samantha thought that it was because they thought that she might hurt the baby, as her mother did her. In further questioning the couple, it was discovered that they had not made any purchases for the baby whatsoever and Samantha indicated not being emotionally ready to parent. N/Duty workers attended the hospital on this date to meet with the parents, and both indicated that they were not prepared to care for this baby, either financially or emotionally. Some of the options were discussed with the couple (around adoptions, VSG etc). Both parents indicated that they required some time to think about their options and required the baby be placed in Agency care in order to do so. The workers noted that Samantha presented as quite immature in her presentation and did not seem to understand the seriousness of the matter at hand. In the end, Phoenix Sinclair was placed under Apprehension with the Agency on April 24/2000.

#### Identified Problems

- Mr. Sinclair has recently separated from his estranged wife Samantha Kematch (actual date unknown - in June 2001).
- Mr. Sinclair has been charged with assault against Ms. Kematch
- Mr. Sinclair has non-molestation order against Ms. Kematch and has charged her with "Uttering Threats"
- [REDACTED] Deceased as of July 2001
- Both Parent are involved in a custody dispute for Phoenix

- Mr. Sinclair has a strained relationship with Ms. Kematch extended family
- Ms. Kematch appeared to have hidden her second pregnancy as she had her first one, with [REDACTED]
- Ms. Kematch has also hid her third pregnancy as she did the first two
- Ms. Kematch 's lack of motivation and/or interest in caring for her first child. It appeared she has not played a role in his life since he was a few months old, over 18 months ago.
- The couple's ambivalence regarding the long term plans for the child. They had not received any prenatal care and had not done anything in preparation for the birth of the baby. Also the parents initial reaction was they were unsure if they wanted to parent the child, there was an ambivalence regarding their commitment to the baby.
- Ms. Kematch 's reported flat affect and the reason for it. There was some concern that she may have been suffering from depression. Some form of psychiatric/psychological assessment with respect to Samantha was suggested.
- Due to the couple's young age and Ms. Kematch 's history, it was suspected they had limited parenting experience and skills.

### Interventions

The Kematch file was assigned to this worker on November 14, 2001. The Sinclair file was opened and assigned to this worker on July 9, 2001. Mr. Sinclair has his daughter Phoenix in his care and plans to go for full legal guardianship. He has support network which includes his sister, Jenny Sinclair and his friend - Kim Edwards. They provide childcare and assistance for Phoenix if Steve needs to away from the home or if he has to attend appointment. Mr. Sinclair appears to be a motivated individual and has agreed to participate in Parenting course offered by the Agency. He will be connecting with his previous psychologist to do some grief and loss therapy. At this time Mr. Sinclair has expressed no desire to reconciliation with his estranged partner - Samantha Kematch.

Prior history with Mr. Sinclair: There was minimal contact with the family until the Women's hospital notified the Agency that Ms. Kematch gave birth to her third child - [REDACTED]. Ms. Kematch did not inform the agency that she was pregnant. Field to her home to access the situation - the assigned worker attempted several times to connect with the family and left card asking the family to contact the agency.

November comprised of telephone contact and updates with Germaine Brass of Cree Nation Child & Family - 989-4800. she needed Psychological report for [REDACTED]

February 2, 2001 Field to 740 B Magnus - No one home - left card to call.

February 7, 2001 Field to 740 B Magnus about 1:15- (no scheduled visit) to meet with Samantha - both Samantha and Steve were leaving the apartment and Samantha stated they had no time to talk to this worker - I informed her that it was difficult to connect with them because they have no phone and when we attend the home no one is usually home - this is why we have to come out unannounced - Samantha stated "you could write me a letter" - since we are unable to meet today - this worker scheduled an appointment to meet on Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM.

Field to 740B Magnus on February 9, 2001 @ 2PM to meet with Samantha - her and Steve were at home with Phoenix - Samantha appeared angry and annoyed that I was visiting - during the home visit Steve sat in the back room and did not participate in the discussion. Although he did answer some general questions that the worker asked. The home was very clean although sparsely furnished.

Samantha sat the entire time in front of the TV - while this worker attempted to have a conversation with her - she would nodded or respond aggressively when asked a question. She did offer some information about the parenting program she did attend along with Steve and that Marion Belanger, FSW was in the home and she felt that she did help - they are connected to the Boys and Girls Club, Nikki Taylor, Andrew Street and Ma Ma WL. Samantha stated that her child Phoenix were doing really well and had no concerns at this time about her health, Samantha stated she doesn't know why CFS is stilling wanting to be involved and further stated she has done everything that was asked of her - this worker explained that they are young parents that WCFS is available to offer any support if needed. Samantha stated that her and Steve are doing well at this time. Samantha stated she did see Dr. Altman for the appointment and that she did have Marion Belanger in her home and felt she worked okay with her. Samantha will be getting a pediatrician to follow Phoenix. When this worker mentioned that Cree Nation was in contact with the Agency about her eldest child - Samantha sharply stated that she doesn't want or need to have her oldest child [REDACTED] situation involved in this matter because he is permanent ward of Cree Nation.

Overall; it is evident to this worker that Samantha is annoyed and dislikes the involvement of WCFS - the family appears to doing well although Samantha does appear angry and annoyed with the agency involvement - the home is clean and well maintained and the child Phoenix appear clean and content - Steve appears to be actively involved into the general care of the child.

Steve appeared very quiet and did offer very little input into today's conversation. Samantha appeared agitated and clearly stated her obvious annoyance of the Agency involvement and stated that if the Agency want to meet with her in the future that we need to send a letter for an appointment and not to just drop by. The worker informed her that we do drop by visit especially if a person has no phone and to date that it was very difficult to meet with them. Plan: Will do drop by visit to monitor situation or as needed

April 30, 2001 Received PC from Women's Hospital from [REDACTED] SW to inform me that Samantha Kematch gave birth to a baby girl on April 29<sup>th</sup>, they named her [REDACTED] and the baby and mother are doing fine. According to [REDACTED] the parents are quite attentive to the child and stated that they have all the necessary items for the child - their daughter Phoenix is about 1 year old and they have kept all her baby stuff. A friend of theirs is keeping Phoenix until she is released from the hospital. [REDACTED] has no concerns and stated that the father - Steve Sinclair has been actively visiting and participating in the care of the baby.

The parents returned home with the child and appeared to quite active in the care of the child - parents have been observed as responsible for caring for the child and access the appropriate care caregivers to care for Phoenix in their absence. This is Samantha's third child and this is the third time that she had not disclosed to the Agency that she was pregnant.

May 9, 2001 Field to 740B Magnus - no one home

July 4, 2001 Several concerns have been refereed re the care of the children and the parents use of alcohol and family violence. Cory Donald on call worker - field to the home during my absence from work - according to Cory Donald that he had met with Steve at this home at 740B Magnus - Steve appeared sincere, open and honest in his discussion with Cory - Samantha left the home and the two children are in care of their father. The house was clean and Steve did have assistance from extended family to care for the children if needed.

July 6, 2001 - Field to 740B Magnus to meet with Steve. Steve was at home with his youngest child [REDACTED] - Phoenix was not at home she was at his friend Kim Edwards's home for the afternoon. Steve stated he gets her to watch her if he needs to go some where.

The house was very clean although it was sparsely furnished / there is about six kittens including the mother - Steve stated that "he is looking for a home for them - they will be ready in about two weeks to leave their mother - this worker noticed no apparent smell of cat urine and that the cat where lying in the corner near the entrance of the apartment. The youngest child [REDACTED] was sleeping in a portable playpen in the living room near the kitchen. Steve invited this worker to the back of the apartment to what he considered his living room - he explained that he and Samantha are separated after she came home with a "hickey" on her neck - he stated she was with her ex-boyfriend [REDACTED] who is the father of her oldest child. Steve stated the child [REDACTED] is in care of CFS. Steve stated he did not want anything more to do with Samantha and that he was charged with assault against her - Steve stated that she claims that he shook her up - Steve stated that his sister Jenny was there and witnessed the argument. Another reason for Samantha trying to get back at him according to Steve - he stated his sister Sheila Sinclair had fought Samantha. He also stated that the WPS attended his home and arrested and charge him with assault - at that time the WPS took [REDACTED] and gave the child to Samantha. The child returned to his care about two days after this when Samantha brought [REDACTED] back on her own. Steve described [REDACTED] conditions as "being dirty and hunger and she smelt badly" Steve stated he knew very well that Samantha could not care for her. Steve appeared to up front and honest in his answers.

During the time this worker was in the home - [REDACTED] woke up about 15 minutes into the visit - Steve retrieved her from the playpen and prepared a bottle of formula for her - all the time he held her in his arms - when Steve sat on the couch - he played with [REDACTED] and the child appeared very alert and responded to the noises and faces her father was directing towards her.

While he fed her the formula he talked about his plans for the children - he stated that his main support for the children and him is his sister "Jenny" she works at the Ma Ma WI center and he attended to the center almost daily. Steve stated that he takes the children to 601 Atkins if there is a need for medical attention and that Dr. Lipnowski sees [REDACTED] - or he will call Envoy for assistance if they get sick and stated that [REDACTED] is on "similac" formula and that she eats well.

This worker asked if he has a Ma Ma Wichita worker assigned to him - Steve stated no - that he goes there and visits with all the workers - he did state that he will taking a parenting program for young fathers in August. Steve stated that he doing okay and if he needs any supports he would call the agency. Steve stated that he has changed all the welfare, child tax over to his name.

July 3, 2001 Received request from Kathy Epps - that [REDACTED] contacted her informing her that Samantha and Steve are separated and that Samantha was drinking. That Samantha charged Steve with assault. The children were in care of Steve with assistance from Genny.

Field was made to 740B Magnus on July 5, 2001 with the following results.

- Steve has completed a Parenting Program through the Andrew Family Street Center last year - he will a copy of all his certificate for this worker
- Steve has consulted with Ma Ma Wi on assisting him on retaining a lawyer to file for full custody of his children Phoenix and [REDACTED]
- Steve has been separated from Samantha for about three weeks

- According to Steve, Samantha has resumed her relationship with [REDACTED] father of her oldest son - [REDACTED] has just recently got out of jail
- Steve has been formally charged with "Assault" on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. - It is alleged by Samantha that Steve had shook her up - According to Steve his sister Jenny witnessed the argument and has noted that "Steve" did not shake up Samantha.
- Steve has approached Ma Ma Wi to attend a parenting group for young fathers "Young Fathers" contact person is Dennis Belanger @ [REDACTED] this will be starting in August 2001
- Steve had charged and applied for a restraining order against "Samantha" after she Uttered Threats of Violence against him on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Steve stated that he is not wanting any support services from the Agency i.e. Respite, homemaking at this time but will call the Agency if a need arises
- Steve stated he has not had a drink of "alcohol" for about 2 weeks and if he decides to go out - he will get his sister ( Jenny) to care for the children
- Steve stated he when and if he decides to have a few drinks - he usually only drinks for one evening - he does not go for days - and that alcohol is not a problem for him
- This worker cautioned him about drinking alcohol while the children are in the home - this can lead to the children being removed from his care - Steve nodded and stated he is well aware of this and stated that Jenny will care for them
- This worker informed him that on a weekly basis - I will stopping by to see how he is doing and if he is not home I will leave a note in the mailbox for him to contact
- This worker informed him that if he needs any supports to call me ASAP

7/10/01 1:10 PM

Field to 740B Magnus @ about 11:30 AM - there was no one home - left note in mailbox that I stopped by and asked Steve to call me at the office.

7/16/01 9:16 AM

This worker was informed by the Supervisor - Lorna Hanson at my home in Brokenhead that on Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> that [REDACTED] was taken to the hospital and was DOA - Received Night Duty report of the incident dated July 15, 2001 (sees file)

7/16/01 9:48 AM

PC to Jenny @ [REDACTED] - she stated that Steve was at her house and is presently sleeping - she stated that they have not heard anything from Samantha and did not know where she was - all she knew that a couple of her friends had seen her about two weeks ago and that she was prostituting on the corner of Langside and Broadway.

Jenny also stated that Samantha wouldn't call to her home either because Steve has a restraining order against her or she is probably drinking / Jenny stated she doesn't care about the children and in the past Samantha has said things about the children and has treated them badly (Jenny did not offer any more information.

According to Jenny - Steve doesn't want Samantha anywhere nears him or the children and stated that Samantha at this time is probably hiding due to recent charges and the restraining order Steve filed against her.

The last contact Jenny had with Samantha is when Samantha called to see whether her GST cheque was there and that was on July 6, 2001.

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Jenny stated she is working on the plans for the funeral and has approached the welfare to get some money to buy clothing for [REDACTED] burial. They will be meeting with the Funeral Home- an appointment is set with the Aboriginal Funeral Home.

Jenny stated that she has some people/workers coming over from Ma Ma Wichita to assist Steve and her with the death. This worker offered assistance for childcare - Jenny stated that Phoenix is doing well and that she doesn't need any assistance at this time and will call the Agency if there is a need. This worker stated that the Agency would be available if there is any support needed.

7/16/01 10:15 AM

Incident #141385 - Constable Wouda or Hodges at WPS - Abuse Unit  
PC to 986-6868 - the Constable was not available and left message to call.

7/16/01 12:07 PM

Samantha has not been contacted by police and is not aware of her daughter [REDACTED] passing away - Supervisor directed that the worker assist with any address that is known to the agency of where Samantha may have frequented.

Records @ 945-1286 - for address on [REDACTED] - EAI Worker is William Grindell - [REDACTED] - left message to call.

7/16/01 12:12 PM

PC to Heather McCheyne (Samantha's EIA Worker) @ [REDACTED] - she is holiday until July 17<sup>th</sup> Shannon is covering for her until she returns - left message for to call ASAP.

7/16/01 12:22 PM

PC from Crystal Kematch - Aunt to Samantha Kematch - Crystal is married to Samantha's Uncle [REDACTED] and resides on [REDACTED] - she has no phone but can be reached at her neighbor [REDACTED] home number - [REDACTED] - according to Crystal - the WPS brought both Samantha and her brother Mickey to her home last night - WPS informed Samantha about what happened to her daughter [REDACTED] Samantha is not at her home at the moment - she left to go to [REDACTED]'s home on [REDACTED] to get some of personal belongings. Samantha will be returning to the home today about 4 PM - according to Crystal - Samantha wants her other child Phoenix returned to her care. I informed Crystal that this needs to be discussed with the mom (Samantha) and the agency.

- Samantha is requesting that Phoenix be returned to her care
- Samantha will reside at her Aunt Crystal's home until the funeral and can be contacted there if needed

7/16/01 1:56 PM

Received PC from Samantha @ 586-5605 - she wanted to know where Phoenix was and to call her.

7/16/01 1:57 PM

CB to Samantha @ 586-5605 - she abruptly stated she is not able to speak to me at this moment and she will call me back.

7/16/01 2:13 PM

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