



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

2013

A Second Chance: Reuniting Local Families



With his big sister by his side, Joseph Stone is walking into a new chapter in his life. Through a DCFS program designed to safely reunite families, Los Angeles County Juvenile Court Judge Michael Nash determined that there was no longer a need for oversight of this family.

"I've read and considered the report. The report does recommend termination of jurisdiction in this matter," said Judge Michael Nash of L.A. County Juvenile Court.

Judge Nash continues, "There is no longer a need for oversight of this family and the jurisdiction of the court is hereby terminated. By order of the court this 20th day of September 2013 in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. Congratulations to you all and God Bless you."

Joseph's response to all of this: "Epic!"

Joseph's parents Lisa and Archie say losing him was the rock bottom in their drug addiction.

We would live at a house, then we would have to move," Joseph explained. "And after that house, we'd have to move again. So we were moving from house, to house, to house."

The Stones sobered up, and took the long process of getting him back.

When asked how long they had been sober, Archie replied, "A year." Lisa concurred, "I just celebrated my one year birthday. That day they took my son, you might as well have just pulled my heart out of me. But, that was a wake up call."

Now that the days of filling out endless paperwork, endless court appearances, and being tracked are over, the Stones will be able to focus on being a family.

"Now we can not survive, but like, Live," Joseph said.

Neil Zanville of the DCFS promotes the program. "They emerge an intact and stronger and healthier family."

Despite the daunting challenges of maintaining sobriety and navigating the program, the Stones say they are grateful to the County.

"I'm very happy that they did step in, that they helped to point us in the right direction," Archie said.

There's a lot for the Stones to be happy about.