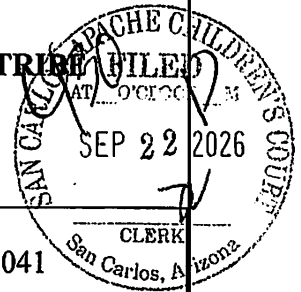


IN THE CHILDREN'S COURT OF THE SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE
SAN CARLOS APACHE RESERVATION
SAN CARLOS, ARIZONA



In Re:

GABRIELLA SNELL
03/23/2016

Case No. CW-2025-0041

ADJUDICATION ORDER

This matter came before the Court on September 8, 2026 for an Adjudication Hearing.

Ms. Justine Jimmie, Deputy Attorney General appeared on behalf of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. Lori Goode, CPS Case Manager/Investigator, and Sarah Goode, CPS Case Manager appeared on behalf of Tribal Social Services. Allred Pike, Jr., Counsel for Respondent appeared. Respondent Mother, Christy Hudson appeared. Respondent Father was not served notice, as his whereabouts have not been disclosed.

The case proceeded to adjudication. The Tribe introduced two witnesses, Lori Goode and Sarah Goode. Ms. Lori Goode was the Tribe's first witness. Her testimony outlined her duties as a CPS Investigator and her response to the call for assistance in this case. Lori testified that the report in this case was in reference to a phone call from the San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation Emergency Department in reference to Gabriella. Ms. Goode detailed her response to the call, her observations at the Emergency Department and her actions after. Her testimony reflects that the child was brought to the hospital by ambulance; and when she arrived there were medical staff cleaning the child, and she observed her crying and screaming. She also observed redness and breakage on the skin, and that the child was not clean. Lori also testified that there were concerns for an earlier injury which may not have been treated properly.

Lori testified that she made contact with Sharon Hudson and Christy Hudson at the hospital at separate times. She further testified that the child was discharged from the San Carlos Apache Healthcare Corporation, and required the assistance of 5 adults to get into the vehicle as she was still in pain. Lori indicated that she transported her off reservation, as she secured placement at the group home. She indicated that she met a representative from the home, but that the level of discomfort of the minor, they believed further medical care was needed. They again called for medical care; the child was transported to and later admitted to Banner Desert hospital. Lori testified that the child remained in the hospital for three days. Lastly, Lori testified that she followed up with a review of the home, and found it to be unsuitable and not appropriate for children at the time.

1 Sarah Goode testified about her role as the child's case manager and contacts with the
2 child and parent. Sarah's testimony was that the child's leg has still not healed completely, that
3 she is doing ok in the current relative placement, but that the child is bonded to the parent and
4 inquires about returning to Mom's care. Sarah further testified that she believes continued out of
home care to be appropriate as the child's current medical and education needs are being met,
and were not met before.

5 The Defense introduced Respondent Hudson and Joyce Stevens as witnesses.

6 Respondent Hudson testified that her mother Sharon Hudson had guardianship of
7 Gabriella, and obtained the guardianship while she was in jail. Respondent testified that it
8 hindered her ability to care for Gabriella. Ms. Hudson testified that she resided in the home with
her mother and the child. She further indicated that she had to clean up the child a day or so prior
9 to the hospital visit and that she noticed redness on the child's skin. She also testified to the
condition of the home; indicating that the home had a sewage issue which resulted in them
10 moving things out into the hallway and on top of things to prevent further damage. Her
testimony was that the entire street had a sewage issue and she was working to remedy it.

12 She further testified that the home was experiencing a mice problem, but that it had been
cleaned up. Ms. Hudson testified that the home belonged to her mother, and that her mother liked
13 things a certain way. Lastly, Respondent Hudson testified that the incident resulting in the
14 second removal of the child was based on a report from her Uncle, who she described as blind
and not being in a good state of mind. During cross-examination, she admitted to being in the
15 home with her mother and the child, and providing care for the child as well.

16 Witness Joyce Stevens testified that Sharon Hudson is her sister and Christy Hudson is
her niece, and that she assists in caring for Sharon Hudson. She further testified that her brother
17 Vernon initiated the second report, however he is not "in his right mind."
18

19 Defense relied heavily on no notice or discussion on the subsequent removal of the child,
and the fact that at the time, the child was under the care of Sharon Hudson. Their testimony
20 reflected this information. The Court finds that the testimony from each party is clear that at the
time of the reported incident Ms. Sharon Hudson was the child's legal guardian. Defense did not
21 address the stipulation from a prior hearing allowing for removal of the guardian. At the January
22 27, 2026 hearing, Defense indicated they believed it to be in the best interest of the child/parent
relationship to remove Sharon Hudson from being the child's guardian, and allow Ms. Christy
23 Hudson to be named as the responsible party. The Tribe and Defense stipulated to her removal as
guardian. Defense further indicated that his client was willing to stipulate to the facts bringing
24 the child into care, and allow her to work toward reunification.
25

1 The Tribe bears the Burden of Proof. Pursuant to Section 19, (F) of the Child and Family
2 Protection Code, "... the Tribe must prove that the allegations raised in the Child in Need of care
3 Petition are more likely true than not, that is by the preponderance of the evidence, and that the
best interests of the child will be served by continued court intervention."

4 The Tribe was limited in its evidentiary submission. There were no photographs of the
5 injuries, or copies of medical records in support of the Tribe's position. Although these things
6 would have made it clearer for the court to decide, the Tribe did introduce testimony. The
7 testimony reflected that there were concerns with the suitability of the home due to the sewage
8 issue; that the child did not receive proper medical care for the prior injury, and that the child
9 was not provided with the appropriate level of medical care resulting in hospitalization. The
10 testimony outlined that the child appeared unclean, her skin had redness and breakage, and she
was experiencing pain and discomfort. Given this testimony, the Court finds that the allegations
have been substantiated, and that it was more likely true than not that the child may suffer
additional physical harm if without further court intervention.

11 Pursuant to Section 19G of the Child and Family Protection Code, the Court finds
12 that the Tribe has met its burden of proof and that continuing out of home placement is in the
13 best interest of the child at this time. Pursuant to Section 19H(4) of the Child and Family
14 Protection Code, the grounds for continuing removal from the home are that the child has not
been provided appropriate medical care to meet her needs. There is the potential for further harm
if the child does not remain in protective custody.

15
16 **THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED:** The Child, Gabriella Snell is deemed a Ward of the
17 Tribal Court under the care and supervision of Tribal Social Services. She will remain in her
18 current relative placement with her maternal grandmother Margarita Stevens. Any party
changing placement without the prior approval of the Court; with the exception of an emergency
situation may be subject to sanction by the Court.

19
20 **IT IS ORDERED:** Parent is entitled to reasonable visitation with the child, but must do
21 so within Tribal Social Services parameters; including the submission of a negative urine screen
for safety.

22
23 **IT IS ORDERED:** A Disposition Hearing is set for October 6, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

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25 THIS 22nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026



Sherrie Harris, Children's Court Judge
San Carlos Tribal Court

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ORIGINAL/COPY of the foregoing to:
Office of the Prosecutor/San Carlos Apache Tribe
Christy Hudson, Respondent Mother
Allred Pike, Jr., Counsel for Respondent
SCAT Tribal Social Services/CPS