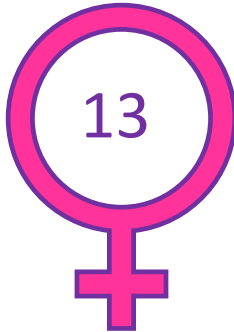


Cafcass Child Impact Analysis
Rosie Abassi-Wilson ECMS: 567812 Court Ref: NE18PO1234

Rosie's Story:



Rosie's number one wish is for her parents to get along

Rosie's special talent is dance and drama, she attends a local Stagecoach class on Saturday mornings.



Rosie has limited memories of living together with both of her parents, she told me they split up when she was six.

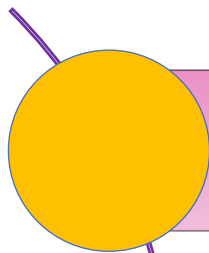
Rosie said she spent time with her Dad throughout her primary school years, but he would often "dump" her with her paternal grandmother. Whilst Rosie didn't mind this ("cos I got to have fun with my cousins!"), she did feel rejected by her Dad who would instead go out to the pub.

Rosie told me that her relationship got worse with her Dad as she got older. If Rosie was to describe her Dad in three words they would be "annoying", "selfish", "but sometimes funny!"

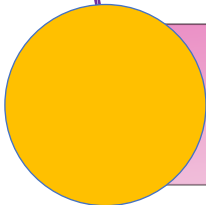
I asked Rosie what would need to change before she would feel happy spending time with her Dad again? She told me that he would need to be more "flexible over the days" and that she would want to know he hasn't been drinking that day (Rosie told me she doesn't "begrudge" her Dad a drink as she understands he is entitled to a social life, but she just doesn't want to see him "slurring words and acting like an idiot" like he has done in the past).



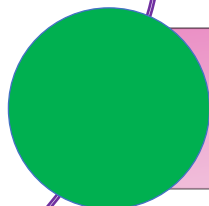
Risk analysis and professional judgement:



Ms Abassi's allegation that Mr Wilson drank to excess is corroborated by Rosie's vivid account of her father leaving her to go to the pub, and by Mr Wilson's caution in 2014 for driving with excess alcohol. The risk of future harm is mitigated to some degree by the recent hair strand test showing alcohol use within normal range and Mr Wilson's willingness to give undertakings (a promise to the court) that he will not use alcohol during his time with Rosie or for 24 hours beforehand. Rosie told me she is "reassured" by these suggestions and joked that she would "kick his ass" if he breaks the undertaking.



Having met with both parents it is clear there are unresolved tensions dating back to August 2015 when Mr Wilson missed several child maintenance payments. This deepened Ms Abassi's distrust of Mr Wilson who, on his own account, has a history of drinking irresponsibly and not always putting his daughter first. From my enquiries I am satisfied that Mr Wilson has matured in the intervening years and that his application is motivated by a genuine desire to repair his relationship with Rosie. Whilst this history of harmful conflict is concerning, Rosie has proven to be a resilient child who is open to spending time with her father if the right conditions are in place, it is important that Ms Abassi respects and supports Rosie's decision.



Non-party checks were carried out on Rosie's stepfather Mr Abassi, due to Mr Wilson's complaint that he "knows nothing about the man living with my daughter". PNC checks returned no trace, LA checks advise that Mr Abassi was known as a minor due to his mother's successful application to become a foster carer. Mr Abassi's mother continues to be well known in the fostering community. Rosie reports a close relationship with her step family and says she can confide in them with any worries or concerns. This close, trusting relationship forms an important strand of Rosie's resilience. Petty and unfounded criticism of Mr Abassi by Mr Wilson is likely to frustrate Rosie, Mr Wilson should work towards a cordial and polite relationship with Mr Abassi as per Rosie's wishes.



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Recommendations:



Rosie should spend time with her father every other weekend. She would initially like this to be visiting contact during the day and when she feels ready she would like to stay overnight meaning father will need to drop her to school on the Monday morning. This recommendation is agreed by Mr Wilson and Ms Abassi.

Rosie is open to sometimes staying over on the Saturday night too but she doesn't want this written into a court order as sometimes she would prefer to have sleepovers with her friends. This degree of flexibility is in line with Rosie's maturing age and social needs and should be respected.

There are no safeguarding issues preventing Rosie from having free and unrestricted contact with her father by phone (she told me her preferred way of staying in touch during the week would be via WhatsApp). Mr Wilson and Ms Abassi should also exchange telephone numbers so they can keep in touch about important matters concerning Rosie, such as parent's evening. Mr Wilson and Ms Abassi should be directed to attend the Separated Parents Information Programme.



Mr Wilson agrees to give a formal undertaking to not use alcohol during his time with Rosie or for 24 hours beforehand. Mr Wilson understands that if Rosie sees or suspects her father has been drinking, she is permitted to call her mother and be collected immediately.