

Cherrie Reynolds  
1013 Parallel  
Atchison, Kansas 66002

My son Jacob's involvement with the juvenile justice system started in elementary school, before he was too young to charge. Jacob had panic attacks at school. Jacob has the following diagnoses: ADHD, bipolar, and Aspergers. Wolf Parkinson White-syndrome—he has had a pacemaker since he was six. Jacob also has a non-functioning thyroid. Jacob was born addicted to cocaine and crystal meth. He had to have all of his teeth pulled about the time he started high school. They were destroyed in utero from the meth. I had a very difficult time getting my son, the freshman to go to school without teeth. I was Jacob's nurse in the Emergency Room where he was born in Chicago. I adopted him.

Jacob would tell his teachers he had to come home. The school called the Atchison police to tell them he would not stay in school. He could not function very well in school. He did not do well at school until, I found Keys. When I moved to Kansas, I called the Governor's office to ask for help and they referred me to Keys. With the training and support of the Keys staff, I learned my rights, learned that my son deserved services to support his academic and social learning. Keys helped me find services from Wyandot Mental Health Center where Jake saw Dr. Cooley, a psychiatrist who also had Aspergers. Dr. Cooley helped Jake with therapy and medications. Marillac also helped Jacob and myself. Keys worked with the Marillac staff to come to Atchison to train the teachers how to work with Jacob. The Atchison Community Supervision Officers (there were 2) supported us when we went to court. In Jacob's case, community services were available, they were connected, and they communicated. Jacob is is twenty.