



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SAFETY  
**SAMUEL'S STORY**

Samuel is a 15 year old male of Hispanic and Caucasian descent. Samuel's mother passed away when he was 4 years old from a heroin overdose. When his mother passed away, his father took over the parenting. Samuel's father also struggled with substance abuse and unfortunately overdosed when Samuel was 11 years old. When Samuel's father passed away, his paternal grandmother (Irene) received guardianship over him. Around 13 years old, Irene's health began to deteriorate and Samuel's behavior started to escalate. Irene had difficulties controlling Samuel's behavior. Samuel was disrespectful, he talked back, didn't clean his room and wasn't motivated in school. Irene felt like she could no longer parent Samuel so she gave Power of Attorney over Samuel to Samuel's paternal aunt, Mary.

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Samuel came into care at age 14 after his aunt Mary was no longer willing and able to care for him. Samuel was arrested for stealing a neighbor's bike and was sent to juvenile detention. His aunt was not willing to pick him up from detention once he was ready for discharge so DCS took custody of Samuel as there was no legal caregiver able and willing to care for Samuel.

Samuel was initially placed in Loving Hands Group Home in Phoenix for 3 months while his team (DCS Specialist, high needs case manager and therapist) tried to come up with a permanency plan for him. During this period, Samuel was also put on probation for stealing his previous neighbor's bike. Samuel starts school and his biology teacher, Mr. Gold, has gone above and beyond to ensure Samuel understands the material. He holds extra office hours for Samuel to come in and get extra help.

Samuel shares that he has wanted to contact his half-sister, Danielle (same mother, different father) but didn't know where to find her. He shared with his team that once his mother passed away, she went to go live with her dad and he went to go live with his dad, and he hadn't seen her since he was 4. Samuel was

struggling at the group home as he was far from his aunt's house in Prescott. He missed his best friends-Seth and Jacob. Samuel shared that he wanted to see them again and sleep over at their houses like he used to every weekend before having to leave his aunt's house.

Samuel is struggling a great deal with loneliness and feels like he needs to just "get away". Samuel goes AWOL for 19 days. He is found in a park by Phoenix PD and brought to detention for violating his probation. His team meets in detention to come up with a plan moving forward and packets are submitted for Samuel to be accepted into a therapeutic foster home.

Samuel is accepted to the therapeutic foster home of Mr. and Mrs. Romero - a couple in their 60's. Mr. and Mrs. Romero have been foster parents many years and their biological children are all grown and married. The Romero family is not an adoptive placement as they feel they are too old and because they only provide therapeutic foster care. Samuel has now been in the Romero's home for 11 months.

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is "Miss T". He plays club soccer after school, and his friend Isaiah's dad is his soccer coach. Samuel attends church with the Romero family each week and also participates in a youth group through the church. The Romero family also has family dinners every Sunday night where their children and grandchildren come over for dinner and play games

outside. Samuel feels much more accepted by the Romero family than he did at his group home. Although he feels more accepted, he is still wondering about his half-sister.

Please help find a family for Samuel!