

# Case 4 – Alex James

Current Date: September 17, 20\_\_

**Youth:** Alex James

**Gender:** Male

**School:** Benjamin Holt  
High School

**Age** 15

**SSN:** 123-00-  
4567

**Ethnicity:** African American

**Language:** English

## Family Information

**Mother:** Jaynie James (adoptive)      **Age:** 42

**Address:** 129 March Lane  
Stockton, CA

**Ethnicity:** Caucasian

**Employment:** Furniture  
Sales

**Father:** Michael James (adoptive)      **Age:** 43

**Address:** 129 March Lane  
Stockton, CA

**Ethnicity:** African American

**Employment:** Truck Driver

## Sibling Information:

**Sibling Name:** Allison James      **Age** 12  
(birth)

**Sibling Name:** Jacob James      **Age** 10

## Current Referral/Circumstances:

Stockton Police officers were called to the main police department lobby in response to a report of child molestation. Minor Alex James' adoptive mother, Jaynie, advised the officer that she had adopted Alex, 15 years, the victim and Alex's sister Allison, 12 years, and their youngest sibling Jacob, 10 years three years ago. Alex had been victim of multiple counts of sexual battery himself as a child.

Jaynie stated that she was directed to report disclosures by Allison to her therapist that she had been inappropriately touched by her older brother Alex during a therapy session. Police conducted interviews and Allison repeated her disclosure.

During interviews with Alex, he admitted engaging in sexual activities with the victim, including “playing doctor” and zipping her pants back and forth. Then Alex began approaching Allison while she was fully clothed, lifting her up by her hips and engaging in thrusting behaviors as if pretending to have intercourse from behind. In another incident, Alex and Allison took their pants off and Alex attempted to penetrate Allison anally, but was not successful in his efforts. This incident was reported to have occurred one year previously. Alex also disclosed that he had engaged in oral sex with Allison four or five times. Stockton Police booked Alex into the Juvenile Detention Center on five counts of Lewd and Lascivious Acts Upon A Child Under 14, a felony.

### **Prior Juvenile Probation History:**

Prior to this arrest, Alex was cited for petty theft and trespassing at the age of 10. The Probation Department closed its case when Child Welfare Services filed its petition removing Alex and his siblings from their biological parents due to neglect and sexual abuse.

### **Child Welfare/Juvenile Dependency Information:**

Child Welfare Services has received 18 referrals regarding Alex and his siblings that date back to 2010. Referral allegations include general neglect as a result of unsafe and unsanitary home conditions, methamphetamine use by the parents and sexual abuse of the children by the birth father.

The family was found to be living in poor conditions with no water, food or shelter and supportive services were provided on an emergency response basis for several years.

Of the 18 reports, six were substantiated, with the most recent referral for sexual abuse resulting in removal of all three children and filing of a dependency petition. The children were initially placed with a maternal aunt Sally Grace, but all three were moved to the home of Michael and Jaynie James when sexualized behaviors became too much for Ms. Grace to handle, especially when she was diagnosed with cancer. Mr. and Mrs. James are experienced foster parents who have successfully handled many challenging behaviors in traumatized children.

The minors' parents failed to participate and complete a case plan of Family Reunification services and their parental rights were terminated. The James' adopted all three children. Alex's birth parents, who were legally married, have since moved to Maryland and none of the children have had any contact with them since the adoption. Alex and his younger siblings also have two adult siblings who reside in Orange County and Siskiyou County.

## **Interviews with Minor:**

During interviews with Alex, he admitted engaging in sexual activities with the victim, including "playing doctor" and zipping her pants back and forth. Then Alex began approaching Allison while she was fully clothed, lifting her up by her hips and engaging in thrusting behaviors as if pretending to have intercourse from behind. In another incident, Alex and Allison took their pants off and Alex attempted to penetrate Allison anally, but was not successful in his efforts. This incident was reported to have occurred one year previously. Alex also disclosed that he had engaged in oral sex with Allison four or five times.

Alex stated he is not sure why he engaged in these behaviors with his sister but stated he felt urges to do so. He stated that he was mostly fooling around and Allison appeared not to object to these sessions. He stated that he has "learned his lesson" and won't engage in these behaviors in the future.

Alex denied being a victim of sexual abuse during his childhood, stating that his birth parents were "low lifes" who had trouble with drugs and never took care of them. His older siblings were gone from the home and he had to take over making sure his brother and sister got taken care of until CPS took them away and placed them with their aunt.

Alex stated that he feels terrible that he has disappointed his adoptive parents and wonders whether they will want him back after all of this. He stated that if he can participate in counseling or other services that will help him to be able to return to his adoptive family, he is willing to make the effort.

## **Interviews with the Adoptive Parents:**

Alex's adoptive father Michael James, 43, is employed as a truck driver and has been employed as a port driver for the past 18 years. He has no criminal record and no history of drug or alcohol abuse. His wife, Jayne, 42, is employed part-time in a furniture store and the family also receives assistance from an Adoptions Assistance

Program contract. Mrs. James has no criminal record or a history of drug or alcohol abuse.

As experienced foster and adoptive parents, the James have stated their commitment to helping Alex to address his problems and supporting and caring for Alex and his siblings.

Jaynie stated that Alex has always been cooperative, bright, pleasant and a good big brother. He follows their rules regarding curfew and family responsibilities. Allison, who was the primary focus of her father's sexual abuse, has been in counseling for several years to help her deal with her sexual abuse trauma. Alex has been more resistant to attending counseling and has never disclosed sexual abuse.

Jaynie stated that Child Welfare Services worker informed them that while in the custody of their birth parents, the children were allowed to watch adult pornography and frequently watched their parents having intercourse. Both Allison and Jacob disclosed a pattern of sexual abuse by their father, who was never criminally charged due to lack of physical evidence. She feels that Alex's actions are in large part a result of his exposure to these conditions.

Jaynie and Michael stated that they continue to support Alex, but feel he must get appropriate treatment before they can allow him to return to their home.

Alex and his siblings grew up in a home where both parents suffered from serious problems with methamphetamine use and poor household conditions. Despite long years of chronic neglect as a result of their parents' substance abuse, all three siblings have adjusted well to their adoptive family with a minimum of behavioral problems. Their health and developmental delays have been addressed in the three years they have been in the care of Jaynie and Michael James. Alex is now nearly 5 feet 7 inches tall and is 115 pounds. He is now in good health after the James dealt with extensive tooth decay and the effects of poor nutrition

Michael stated that Alex is a bright and successful student, maintaining a 3.5 GPA and honor roll designation. He is an avid reader and has tutored other students. Michael stated that Alex sometimes struggles in his relationship with teachers, who become frustrated with him when he is bored with classroom tasks and begins to disturb other students.

The James family is active in horseback riding and showing. Alex enjoys video and board games and is an active participant in street hockey and baseball leagues. He has planned to attend college and works odd jobs in the neighborhood, mowing lawns and engaging in other landscaping jobs.