



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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JERRY E. POWERS
Chief Probation Officer

Unlikely Love Story: Los Angeles County Probation, Incarcerated Mother Work Together for Son's New Family

Date: Tuesday June 4, 2013

Time: Media Should Arrive No Later Than 8:30am to set up in court

Location: Pasadena Juvenile Court

300 East Walnut Street

Pasadena, CA 91101

Courtroom Department L (4th Floor)

Contact: Lisa Cambell-Motten 323-240-2435 mobile

Carol Lin

Special Projects/Media Carol.Lin@probation.lacounty.gov

Los Angeles County Probation Supervisor Kendra Hamilton sees qualities in children that many others do not, "Far too many times, our society has labeled probation youth as being 'criminals' and 'lost causes' due to their past arrests," Supervisor Hamilton says, "Society, usually views these youth as predators rather than victims. Our probation youth are deserving of the same love that non-probation youth receive."

Tuesday, June 4, 2013, at 9:00am, Kendra Hamilton will see that unlikely love story come true for one probation youth who has been in and out of the juvenile system since he was 11 years old. 17-year old Fred Jingles will be adopted by LaVetta and Rondia White in Pasadena Juvenile Court while Fred's biological mother who is serving jail time looks on from the audience. Probation worked with the birth mother to exercise her right to be part of the adoption decision which she opted to do after she asked Probation to reunite her one last time with her son whom she had not seen in *8 years*. After speaking with him, she realized this adoption was in his best interests.

"The reason that adoption of Probation foster youth in delinquency court is so groundbreaking is that adoption has traditionally been seen as something that cute little babies and children who have never done anything wrong deserve, which is why we at Probation are completing only the 8th or 9th Probation related adoption in the entire nation," says Lisa Campbell-Motten, Los Angeles County Probation Director, "Once a youth crosses over to delinquency, many see them as a lost cause and too dangerous and impulsive to ever be wanted by anyone. We are dispelling myths about these youth, not only in communities all over the nation, but even among our child welfare partners within and outside of Probation."

Media Availability at Court:

Fred Jingles, 17 year old youth

LaVetta and Rondia White, Adoptive Parents

Kimberly Freeman, Biological Mother

Kendra Hamilton, Probation Supervisor

Lisa Campbell-Motton, Probation Director