

January 2017 - Vol 6, Issue 1

Court Appointed **Special Advocates** Mendocino &



Member of the National CASA Association

After 20 Years, Young Man Leaves Foster **Care On His Own Terms**

When Noel Anaya was just a year old, he and his five brothers and sisters were placed in the California foster care system. He has spent nearly all of his life in that system and has just turned 21. In California, that's the age when people in foster care "age out" of the system and lose the benefits the system provides. That process becomes official at a final court hearing. Anaya, along with Youth Radio, got rare permission to record the proceeding, where he read a letter he wrote about his experience in the foster care system.

Listen to Noel's Letter



Standing next to his lawyer, 21-year-old Noel Anaya, on his final day as a foster youth, reads a statement in Santa Clara County court explaining how he feels the foster care system failed him and his siblings.





telephone hotline offering legal advokids information to anyone concerned about a child in foster care in about a child in foster care in **Hotline:**

Advokids provides the only free

877.ADV4KID (877.238.4543) Monday - Friday, 9am - 4:30pm We are unable to provide legal information to people who

are represented by a lawyer.

Children's Attorney Consultation Line: 415.924.0587

A Look Back at 2016: The Year in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare by John Kelly

December 30, 2016 **The sun will soon set** on a year of great upheaval in the American cultural fabric. The Chicago Cubs are World Series champions. It seemed like a differ-

ent famous musician or thespian died every day. And of course, a business-man without any political background or ground game trumped an establish-ment candidate with the backing of a president boasting high approval ratings. For the fields of juvenile justice and child welfare, 2016's biggest end product was angst about what comes next. Youth Services Insider will address that

In the meantime, a few of our thoughts on this year's biggest storylines...

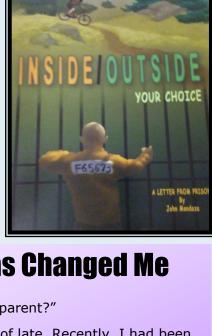
next week as we look at the big questions for the field heading into 2017.

Inside/Outside: Your Choice is the newest project of Heroes for Youth which is directed

Biggest Storylines

book, sponsored by donations from local Heroes, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission, and CASA, takes you inside the prison home of a former Ukiah resident, Johnny Mendoza, who made bad choices as a youth and is paying the consequence. The message is simple in this comic book formatted story...."John doesn't want other youth to go through what he lives every day." One bad decision can change your life forever. A copy of Inside/Outside can be obtained free at the CASA office at 327 N. State St., S-204 in Ukiah. **How Foster Parenting Has Changed Me** By Dr. John DeGarmo "How has your life changed while being a foster parent?"

by former CASA volunteer John Azzaro. This



It was a question I had been asked a great deal of late. Recently, I had been doing the rounds of radio and tv interviews while promoting my newest book, Faith and Foster Care. Like most people, many of the radio and tv hosts had

very little knowledge of what being a foster parent is really about. I would imagine many of

ally understand what you do, either. Additionally, they likely do not understand how your life has changed. Foster Parenting

your own friends and family members don't re-

