

Planning for Tomorrow Today



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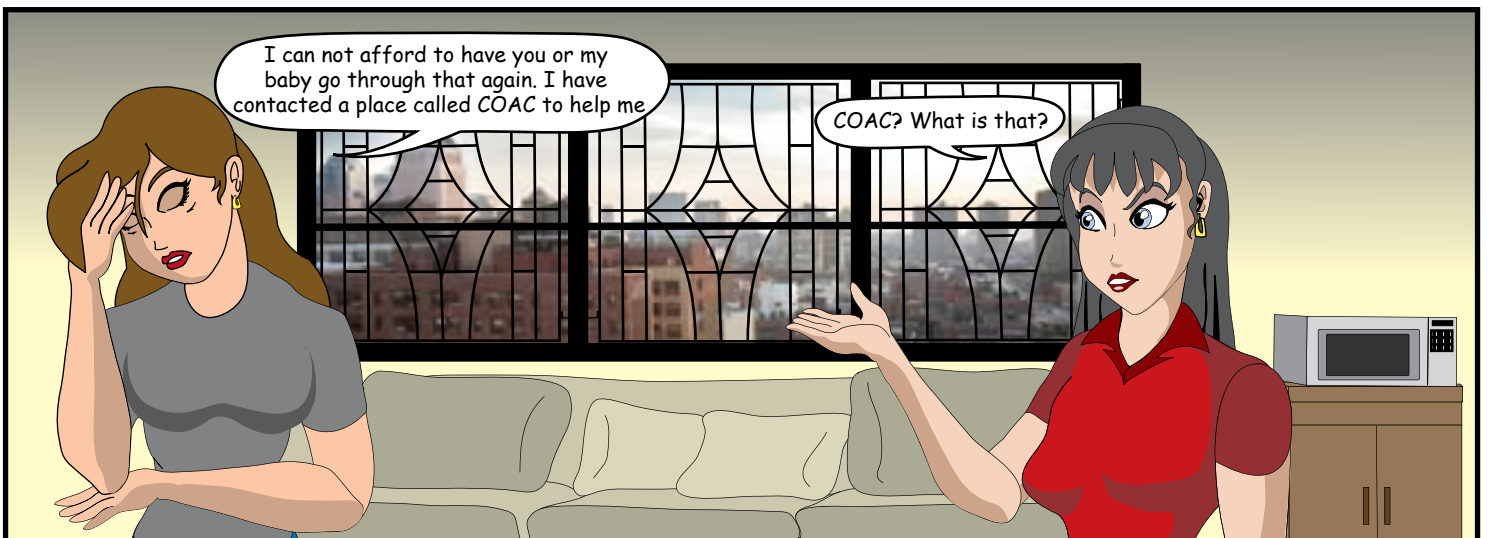
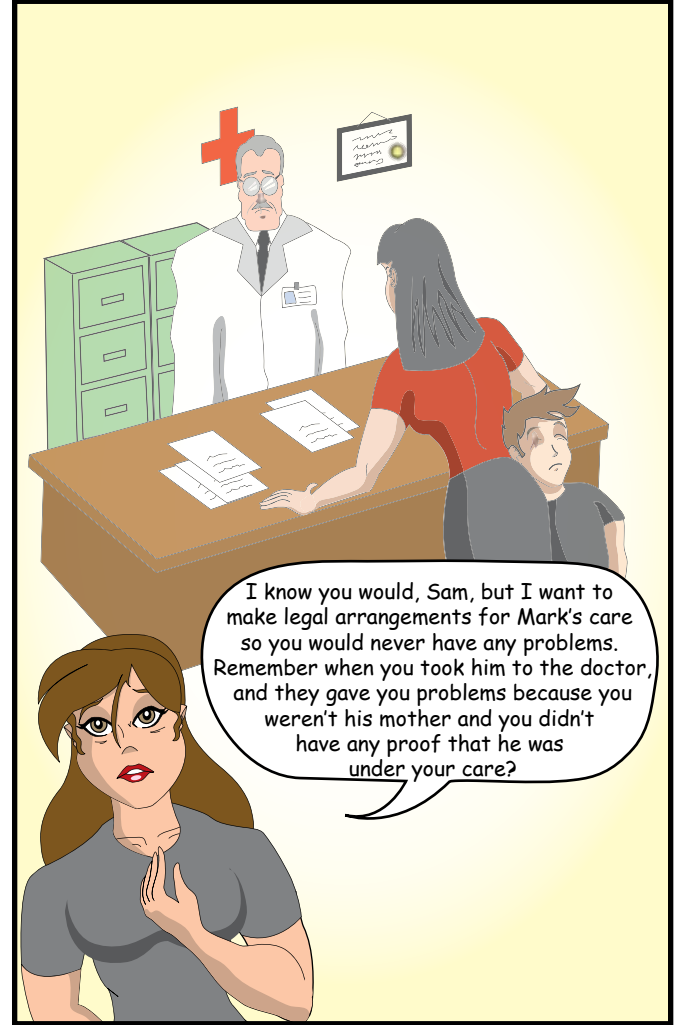
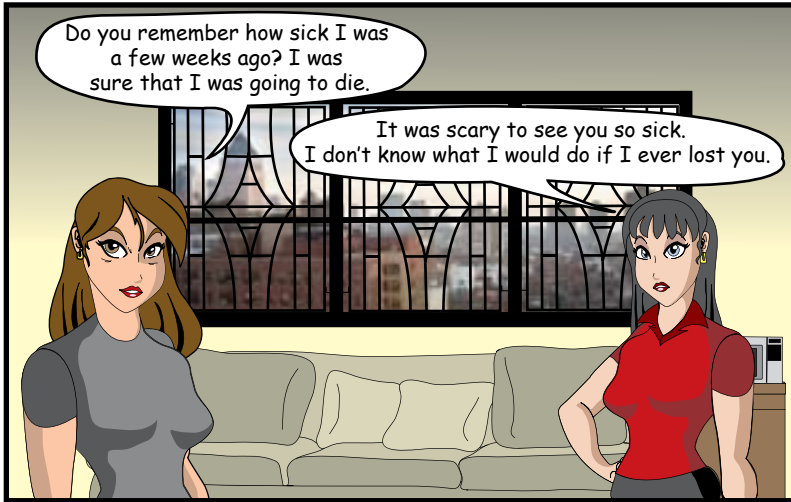
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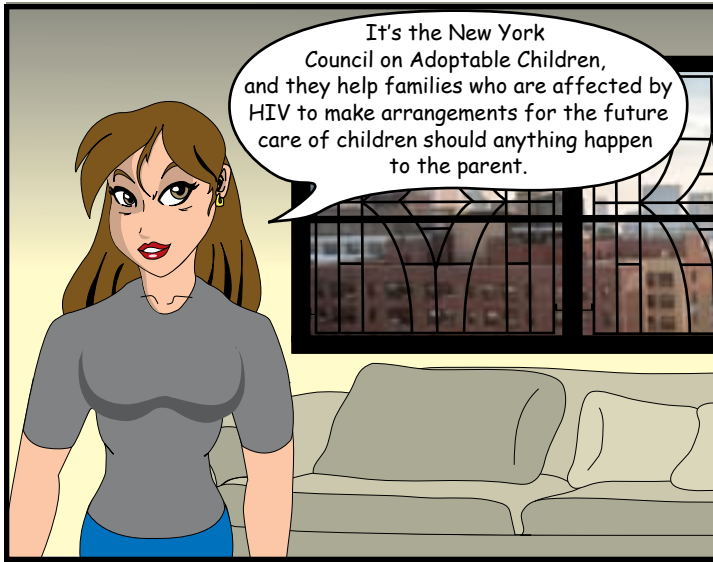
www.coac.org

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contributions

Laura learned that she was HIV-positive two years ago but had not thought about making a future custody plan for her 14 year-old son, Mark, until she recently became very ill and had to be hospitalized for an extended period of time. Laura's sister, Samantha, took care of Mark during Laura's hospitalization, but this experience has made Laura worried about what would happen to Mark if something more serious were to happen to her. Laura discussed her fears with her hospital social worker, who helped to empower Laura to make a permanent future plan for her son and referred Laura to COAC to help her with permanency planning for Mark.

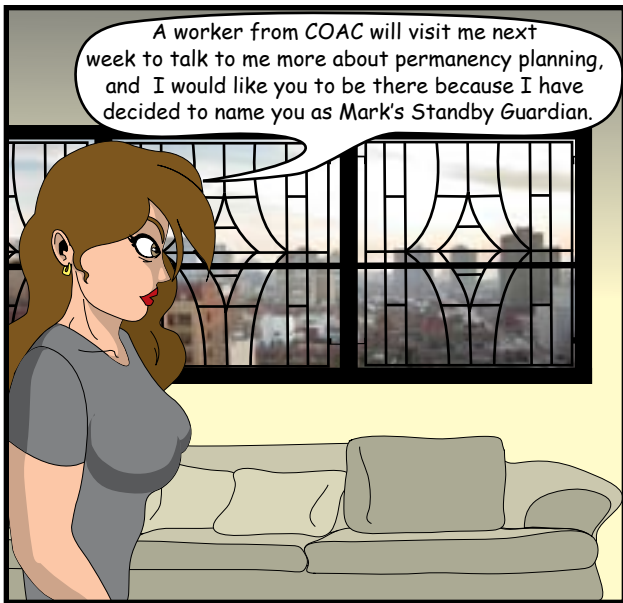




It's the New York Council on Adoptable Children, and they help families who are affected by HIV to make arrangements for the future care of children should anything happen to the parent.



Wow, Laura. I can't believe that we are talking about this. It is scary, but I admire you for having the courage to make plans for Mark's future in case you aren't there to take care of him.

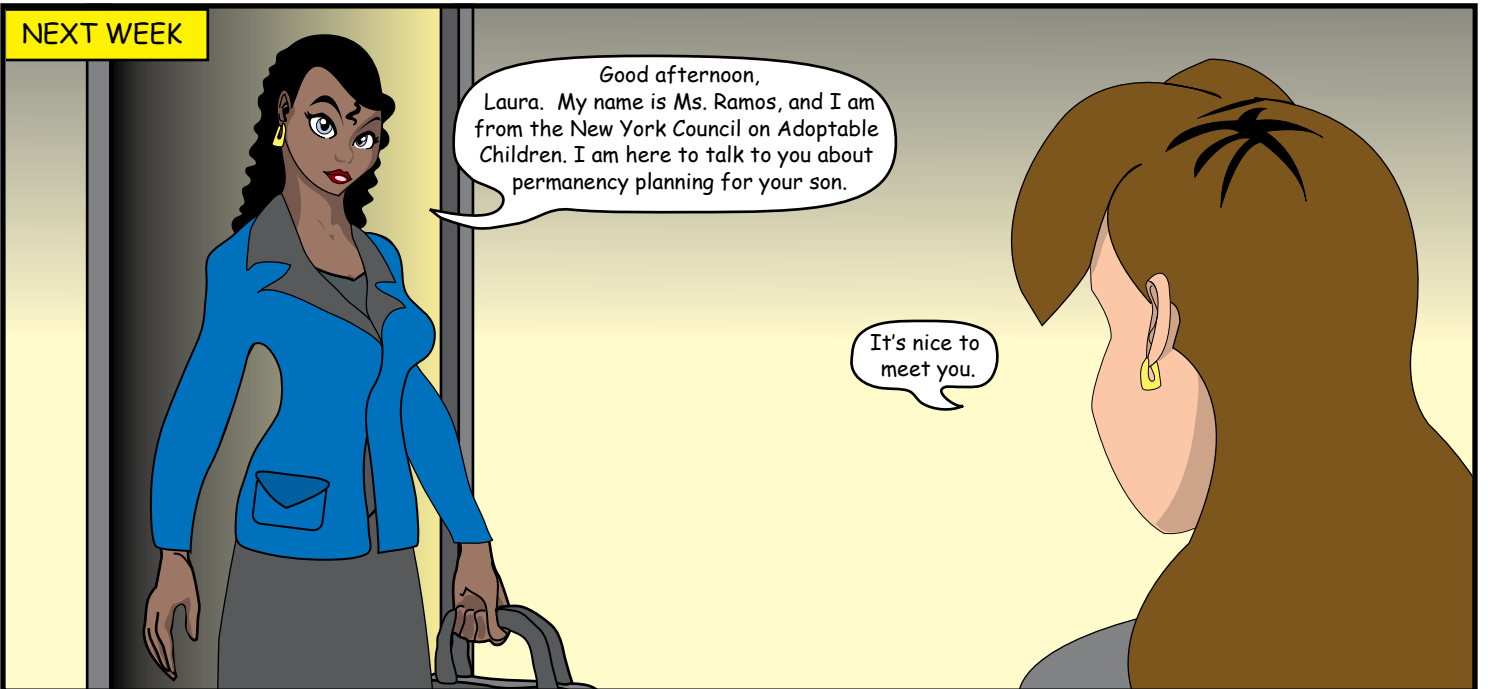


A worker from COAC will visit me next week to talk to me more about permanency planning, and I would like you to be there because I have decided to name you as Mark's Standby Guardian.



Of course I will be there. I love you, Laura, and I would be honored to be Mark's Standby Guardian.

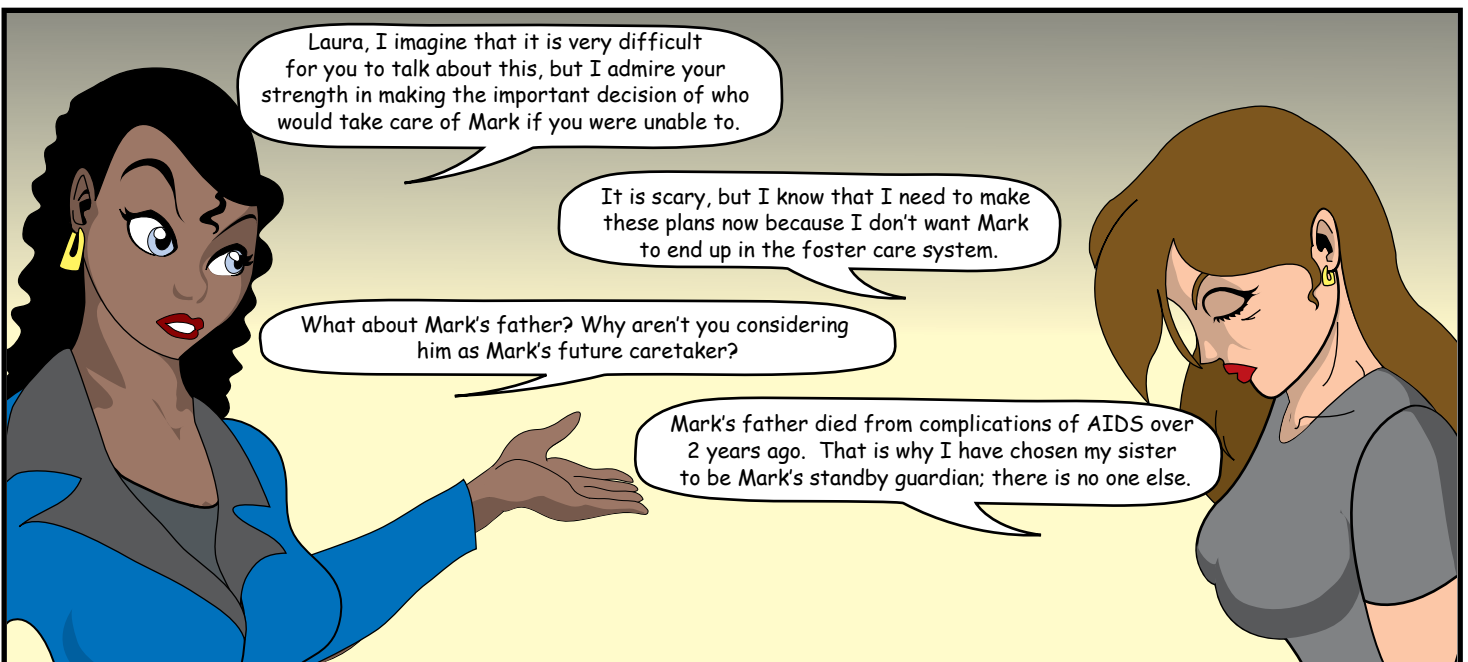
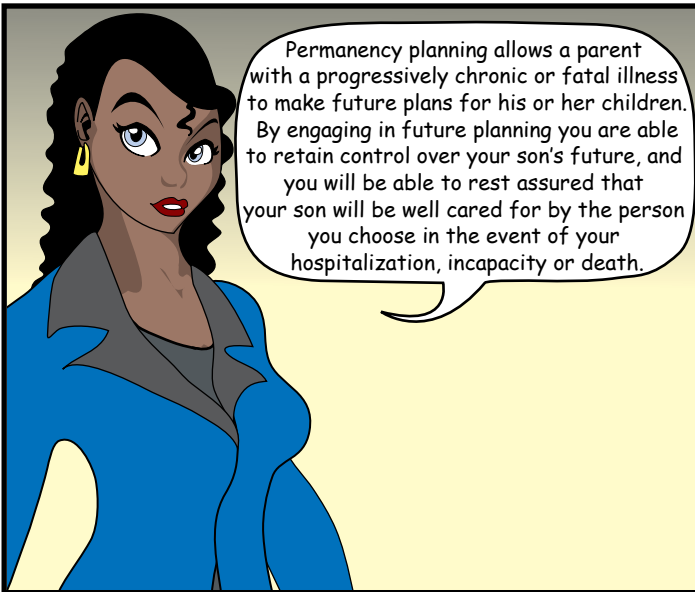
I love you too Samantha.

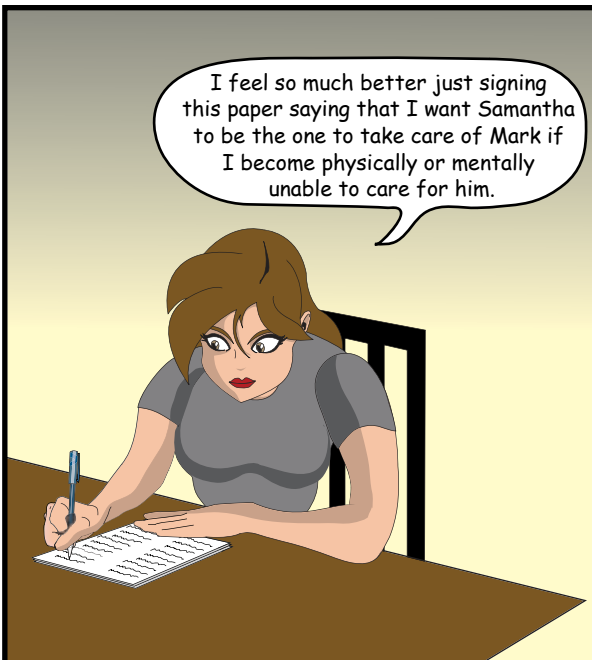
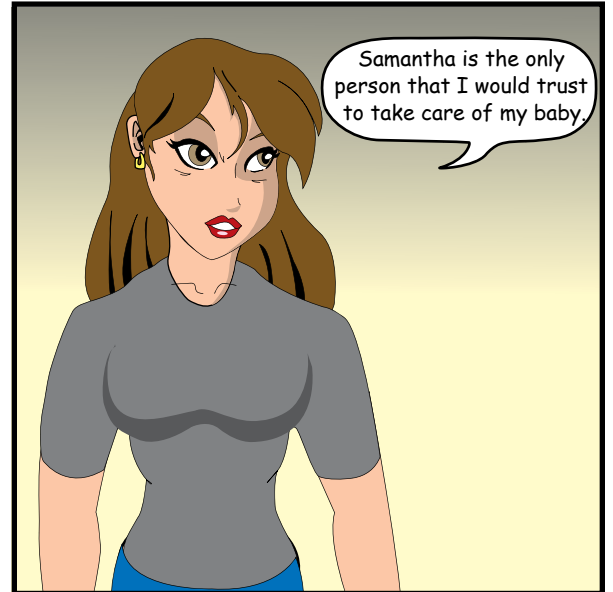
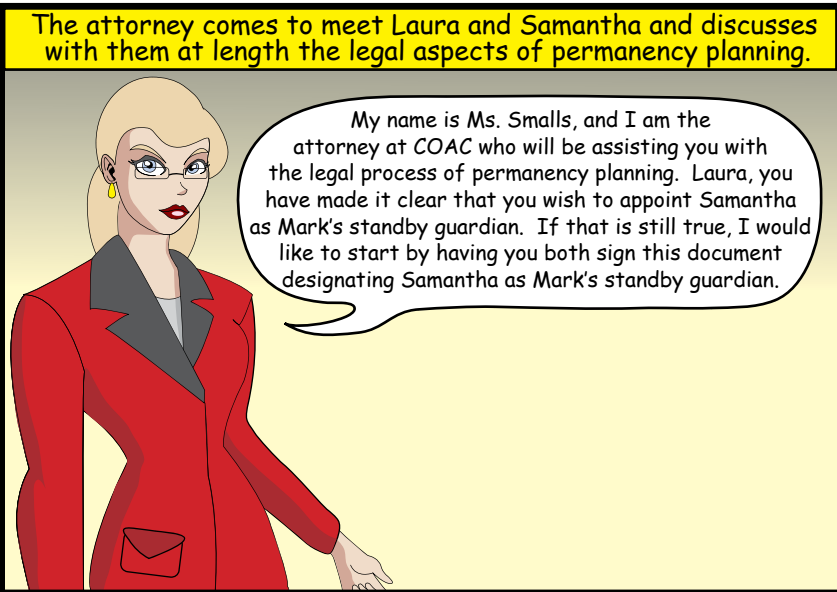
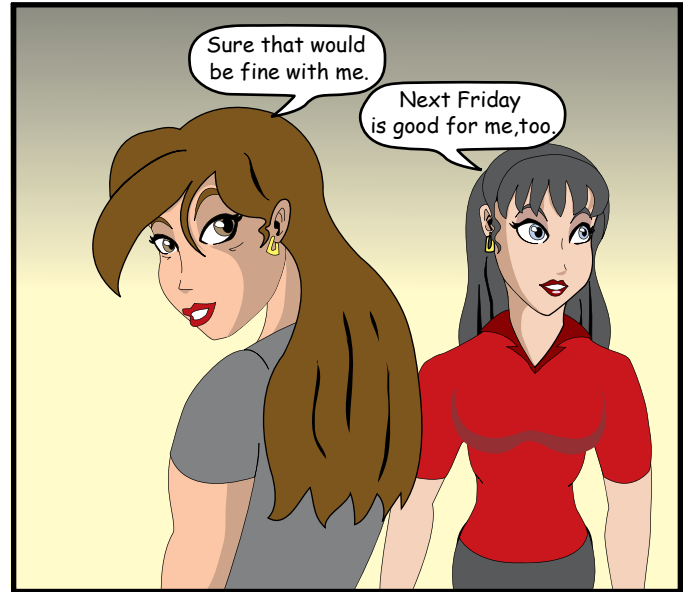


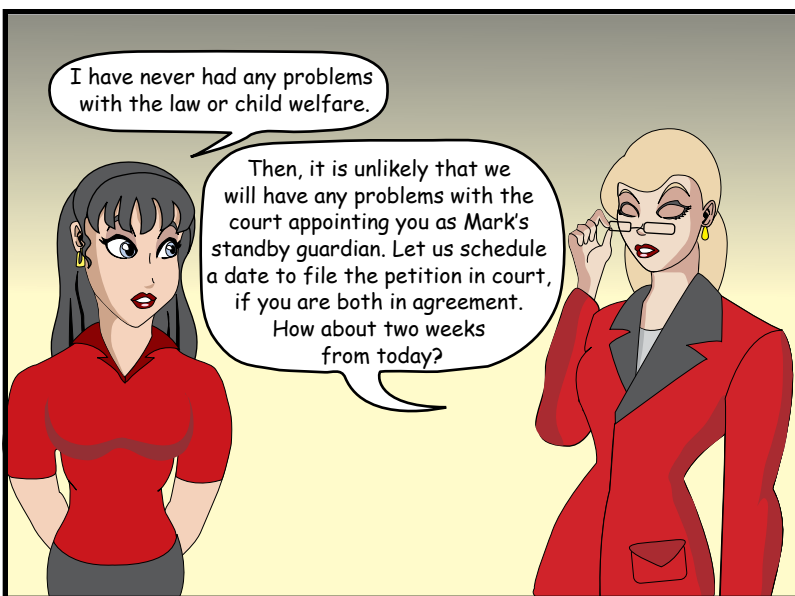
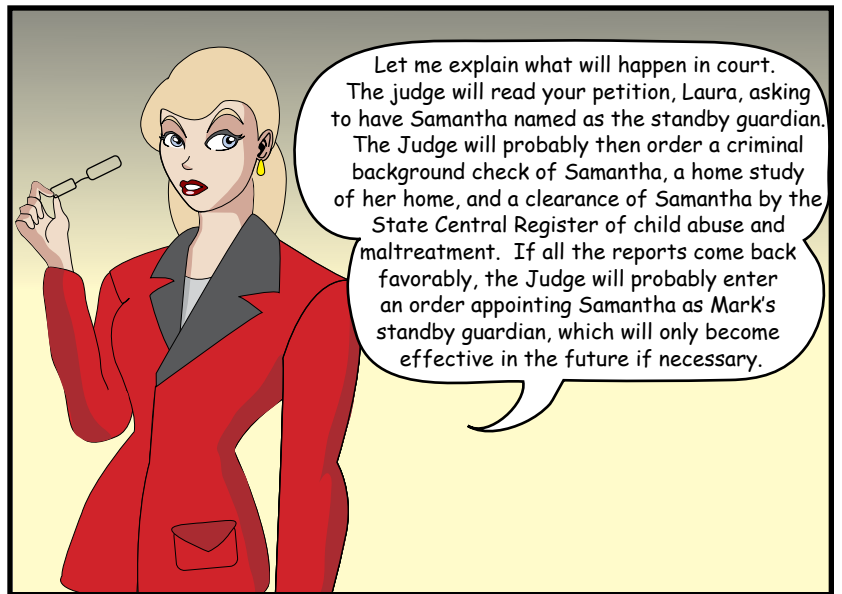
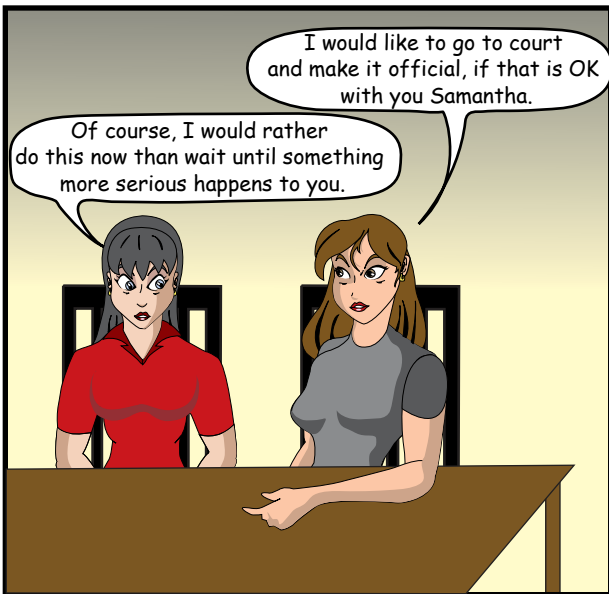
NEXT WEEK

Good afternoon, Laura. My name is Ms. Ramos, and I am from the New York Council on Adoptable Children. I am here to talk to you about permanency planning for your son.

It's nice to meet you.







Two weeks later every one is present in Court. The Judge orders the background check, home study, and clearance of Samantha. Two months later, they return to Court to find that the results came back favorably. Laura's petition is granted and Samantha becomes Mark's standby guardian. Ms. Smalls explains that Samantha's authority as standby guardian will only become effective in the event of Laura's consent, incapacity or death. If one of those events occurs, Laura and Samantha are instructed to contact Ms. Smalls, because proof of the event must be filed in Court in order to make Samantha's authority as Mark's legal guardian permanent.

COAC would like to thank the following supporters of it's programs for children and families affected by HIV/AIDS:

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