

### Family Reunification: Two Families Tell Their Stories in “Tough Love” Documentary

ELEMENTS OF FAMILY REUNIFICATION	HANNAH AND PHILLY	PATRICK
Family members	Hasna “Hannah” – mother of of Ezno “A.J.,” Nia, and Maria “Mia”. Philly – Hannah’s husband and father of Mia, who was born after Hannah’s other two children were removed from her care. Sammy – Hannah’s former boyfriend and father of A.J. and Nia.	Patrick – father of Natalya.
Who reported to the child abuse/neglect hotline?	Hannah called the police because of Domestic Violence by Sammy; child welfare case opened; A.J. and Nia remained in care of Hannah who went to live at her mother’s house. Hannah’s mother called the hotline because Hannah left A.J. and Nia in her care for several days at a time while she went out partying with friends.	Patrick called the child abuse hotline when he was going to jail for 20 days and Natalya’s mother was not able to care for her due to her methamphetamine use. When Patrick got out of jail he started using methamphetamine again after two years of sobriety.
Why were children removed?	Neglect due to abandonment.	Neglect due to methamphetamine use and gambling as well as being incarcerated at the time of removal.
Where were the children placed?	With the paternal grandmother, Sammy’s mother.	With foster parents.
What was the service plan for reunification?	Housing, and scheduled visitation with children.	Drug Court/Substance abuse treatment program including UAs; maintain employment; scheduled visitation with child; forming positive support system.
What is the parents’ background?	Hannah born in Bangladesh, came to U.S. at age two with parents and siblings; her father was angry, violent person; mother left with children when Hannah was 13 and went to live in a shelter. Hannah began hanging out with friends and met Sammy; had an abortion at age 15; subsequently gave birth to A.J. and Nia. Hannah states she had no support from adults in helping her learn about family planning.	Patrick is the youngest of eight children; father was a police officer; father was an alcoholic; parents divorced when he was in fourth grade; mother worked three jobs to support her children; at age 14 Patrick quit school to work and help his mother; he states he began “self-medicating with drugs, never facing my problems.”
What were the struggles and successes in meeting the goals of the service plan?	Struggles: Poverty; logistical demands of the service plan; housing; transportation. Successes: Maintaining visitation schedule; positive, loving interactions with A.J. and Nia during visitation; pre-natal care for Mia; Philly’s employment; Hannah’s employment.	Struggles: Relapse again – drank wine; gambled away rent money. Successes: Maintaining visitation schedule; positive, loving interactions with Natalya during visitation; employment; completed treatment program.
How were the cases resolved?	Paternal grandmother given custody of A.J. and Nia, with visitation rights to Hannah and Philly. At birth, Mia was under the supervision of child welfare in Hannah and Philly’s home; case dismissed at same time the paternal grandmother was given custody of A.J. and Nia.	Patrick and Natalya reunified.