



Four-year-old Anthony was born with a congenital brain abnormality, and he required a ventilator for breathing and a tube for feeding. Anthony had been living in a pediatric nursing home because his family hadn't been able to meet his significant medical needs. When Anthony's mother passed away, and his father could not be located, the facility contacted the Department of Human Services (DHS) because there was no caregiver to provide consent for a recommended surgery.

Child Advocates was appointed to represent Anthony, and our Staff Attorney immediately gathered records and advocated for an Educational Decision-Maker to be appointed to track all of Anthony's educational needs. With an eye toward getting Anthony placed with a family, our *Child Advocates* team urged the Community Umbrella Agency (CUA) to search for family members or a foster home. We collaborated with the DHS lawyers to move quickly towards a termination of the father's parental rights so that the Department would be able to consent to any further medical procedures for Anthony. *Child Advocates* partnered with DHS, CUA, and Anthony's medical team, with a goal of moving him out of the nursing home. In time, a staff member at the facility came forward and expressed interest in adopting Anthony. We continued meeting with the planning team to assist with the move, and to ensure that Anthony's caregiver had the training, medical equipment, and nursing support to care for him.

Child Advocates continues to assist Anthony and his prospective adoptive mother to navigate the challenges of his transition from the nursing facility to her home and the community. Anthony is now flourishing – picking up more words, learning other ways to communicate, enjoying school, and even playing the drums! Our team continues to support Anthony and his soon-to-be Mom, with hope that he'll be adopted and officially become part of the family this year!

**Name changed to protect client confidentiality*