



# WHAT IS A CASA?

*(COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE)*

## FOR CHILDREN

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. A CASA may be assigned to your case and their job is to look out for you and make sure you are getting everything you need to be safe and healthy. You can ask your CASA any questions you have. Your CASA is not being paid for their time with you. The judge in charge of your case wants information about you so that they can make the best decisions about what happens to you. Your CASA will gather the information and the facts for the judge. Your CASA can tell the judge anything you want them to know. Your CASA can also help you meet and talk to the judge if you would like to. Your CASA will stay on your case until you are in a safe, permanent home.



The CASA has four goals:

- Gather** information about you,
- Report** the information they gathered about you to the judge this includes anything you want them to know,
- Advocate** for your best interest, and
- Monitor** you to make sure that you are getting what you need to keep you safe and healthy.

The CASA Volunteer	The CASA Volunteer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Does</b> talk to people who might know how you are doing. These people can include your parents, foster parents, family members, teachers, therapists, doctors, social workers, lawyers, and more.</li> <li>● <b>Does</b> get to know you and your family.</li> <li>● <b>Does</b> take notes and gives these notes to the judge so they can know what is going on.</li> <li>● <b>Does</b> visit you where you are living or at school.</li> <li>● <b>Does</b> listen to your thoughts and feelings about how things are going.</li> <li>● <b>Does</b> do what is in your best interest, and helps be your voice in court.</li> <li>● <b>Is here for you!</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Does not</b> decide what happens with you or your case. That is the judge's choice.</li> <li>● <b>Does not</b> try to find out what happened in your family before - they are trying to find out what is happening now.</li> <li>● <b>Does not</b> take you away from your home or your parents.</li> <li>● <b>Does not</b> tell anyone who is not part of case anything about you.</li> <li>● <b>Is not</b> part of the Department of Human Services or the courts.</li> </ul>