



WHAT IS A CASA?

(COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE)

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASAs are not paid for their time. They are highly trained volunteers. CASAs are appointed to Dependency and Neglect cases by the judge. The CASA will gather information and submit objective reports to the court and all parties involved. The information gathered and presented by the CASA will help the judge to make decisions about what is in the best interest of the child(ren) involved. The CASA serves as the “eyes and ears of the court” and will stay involved until the child or children are in a safe, permanent home.

The CASA has four primary roles/goals:

- Gather** information about the child or children,
- Report** to the court by submitting a written report detailing the information gathered including concerns and recommendations,
- Advocate** for the child or children’s best interest, and
- Monitor** the child or children in the case to ensure they are receiving the serviced and advocacy needed.

The CASA Volunteer	The CASA Volunteer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does talk to people who may have information about your child or children on their case. These people can include foster parents, relatives, school personnel, therapists, doctors, social workers, attorneys, etc. ● Does get to know the child or children and their family. ● Does take notes and submit a written, objective report to the court, which may include concerns or recommendations. ● Does get copies of all the court documents and educational information on the case. ● Does maintain confidentiality at all times. ● Does represent the child or children’s best interest, and is a voice for the child or children in court. ● Can and does listen to your thoughts and feelings about how things in the case are going. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Does not decide what happens with your child or children in the case. That is the judge’s decision. ● Does not give legal, psychological, or medical advice to you or your child or children. ● Does not investigate the allegations of abuse and/or neglect ● Does not choose sides in family disagreements - they are here for your child or children’s best interest. ● Does not supervise visitation between the child(ren) and parents. ● Does not hold any responsibility for the transportation of family members or the child or children. ● Is not associated with the Department of Human Services or the courts - they are independent of both.