



# Your Child Has a CASA Volunteer

**What is a CASA Volunteer?** A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained community member who advocates for the best interests of a child or children in foster care with an open Dependency/ Neglect case.

**When is a CASA Volunteer assigned?** When a child enters the child welfare system due to allegations of abuse or neglect, a CASA volunteer may be appointed by a judge to advocate for the child and family.

**How does the CASA Volunteer support a child and their family?** CASA Volunteers provide valuable information and recommendations through court reports to all involved in the case to help ensure the judge makes informed decisions that meet the child's best interest.

**What is the relationship between the CASA Volunteer and the child?** CASA Volunteers are trusted, objective advocates who listen, support, and encourage the child to express their wishes. The Volunteer also respects the roles of other professionals on the case and works together to support both the child and their family.

**How does a CASA volunteer gather information for a case?** To prepare a court report, the CASA volunteer visits with the child, parents, family members, case workers, school officials, health providers, and others who have knowledge about the child. The CASA volunteer also reviews all records pertaining to the child – school, medical, and other documents.

Your Child's CASA Volunteer is:

The CASA Advocate Supervisor is:

Phone:

Phone:

Email:

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# What Can a CASA Volunteer Do?

## **CASA Volunteers Can:**

- Visit your child in their placement or another setting regularly and speak privately with the child.
- Talk to your child on the telephone if age appropriate.
- Attend court hearings and family team meetings.
- Speak to all parties involved in your child's case, including parents, family members, therapists, teachers, and doctors.
- Gather information and write a court report to let the judge know how the case is going.

## **CASA Volunteers Cannot:**

- Transport children or their family members.
- Buy children expensive gifts.
- Give legal advice.
- Give out information about a child to a person who is not a party to the case, including relatives and foster parents.

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