

## What is a CASA?

### Court Appointed Special Advocate

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CASA Stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. A CASA may be assigned to your case to look out for you and make sure you are getting anything you need to be safe and healthy. You can ask them any questions you have. Your CASA is not paid, and is there for you. Judges want information about you, so they can make good decisions about what happens to you. The CASA gathers facts and writes them in reports to the court. The information in the reports helps the judge make better decisions. They can also tell the judge what you would like them to know.

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#### Your CASA Volunteer:

**Does** talk to people who might know about how you are doing. These people can be parents/guardians, teachers/staff at your school, doctors, lawyers, etc.

**Does** get to know you and your family.

**Does** visit you where you are living.

**Does** get copies of all information on the case.

**Does** take notes. The CASA writes reports that can be submitted to the court telling the judge what's going on.

**Does** try to do what's in your best interest.

#### Your CASA Volunteer:

**Does not** decide what happens with your case. That is up to the judge.

**Does not** choose sides.

**Does not** take you to their house take you to school or other appointments.

**Does not** tell anyone else outside the court case anything about your life.

**Does not** buy you things.

**Does not** give you legal advise or counseling.

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