

What is a CASA?

Court Appointed Special Advocate

CASA Stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASAs are highly trained citizen volunteers assigned by a judge to represent and advocate for a child's best interest in the child protection system. CASAs attend staffings, treatment team meetings, educational meetings, etc., and are trained to work as a collaborative member of the professional team. The CASA will gather information and submit objective reports to the court. This information will help the judge to make better decisions about what is in the best interest of the child or children involved.

Your CASA Volunteer:

Does talk to people who might have information about the child or children on their case. These people can be parents, school personnel, doctors, attorneys, probation personnel, therapists, etc.

Does get to know the child and family.

Does maintain confidentiality at all times.

Does get copies of all court reports, documents, and educational information on the case and should be included in meetings and communicated with about the case.

Does take notes. The CASA submits written, objective reports to the judge at each court hearing.

Does try to represent the child's best interest.

Your CASA Volunteer:

Does not investigate allegations of abuse or neglect.

Does not make judgements regarding the opinions of other professionals on the case.

Does not choose sides in family disagreements.

Does not hold responsibility for transporting the child to/from school or appointments.

Does not act like a "big brother or big sister" to the child on his or her case.

Does not provide psychological, legal or medical advice.

Does not purchase things for the child.

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