

# What is CASA?

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASAs are not paid for their time. They are trained volunteer advocates. Judges decide which children get a CASA advocate on their case. The CASA will gather information and write reports to the court. This information helps the judge make better decisions about what is best for the children.

## **The CASA advocate:**

**does** talk to people who might have information about the children on their case. This can include parents, teachers, doctors, foster parents, therapists, and social workers.

**does** get to know the children, and may visit with them independently.

**does** have a court order entitling them to all the child's records and visitations with the child.

**does** take notes. The CASA is ordered by the judge to write reports to the court telling what they have learned.

**does** listen to your thoughts and feelings about how things are going, and can include these things in their reports.

**does** represent the child's best interest.

**is** required to maintain confidentiality.

**does** make recommendations to the court.

**does** observe supervised visitation between parties and children.

## **The CASA advocate:**

**does not** investigate what led the Department of Human Services to open a case.

**does not** decide what happens with the children's case. That is up to the judge.

**does not** choose sides in family disagreements.

**does not** supervise visitation between parents and children.

**does not** provide transportation for children or family members.

**does not** act like a parent or a "big brother or big sister" to the children on the case.

**does not** represent you in court, or give legal advice.



CASA OF ADAMS & BROOMFIELD COUNTIES

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