

**FOR CHILDREN
WHAT IS CASA?**

Judges want information about you, so they can make good decisions about what happens to you. A judge can ask a volunteer to help. Your CASA can help you understand what is happening in your case. You can ask him or her any questions you have. Your CASA is not paid, and is there to help you. The CASA gathers facts and writes them in reports to the court. The CASA can also tell the judge what you would like him or her to know. The information in the reports helps the judge make better decisions.

Your CASA:

Does talk to people who might know about how you are doing. These people can be school personnel, doctors, therapists, probation personnel or others.

Does get to know your family.

Does get to know you and visit you where you are living.

Does get copies of all court papers and educational information on the case.

Does take notes. The CASA has to write reports to the court telling the judge or magistrate what's going on. This means, anything you say to the CASA can be reported to the judge or magistrate.

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

Your CASA:

Does not try to find out what happened in your family before CASA came in. The CASA just tries to find out what's happening now.

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

Does not choose sides.

Does not buy you things or take you to his or her home.

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

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