



What is CASA?

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. CASAs are not paid to be in their role, rather, they are trained volunteers. Judges and magistrates appoint CASA volunteers to cases to be an additional resource for families. CASA Volunteers gather information and write reports for the Court. This information helps judicial officers make the best decisions about what is best for children and families.

A CASA Volunteer...

does talk to people who might have information about the child(ren) they are working with. This can include teachers, doctors, therapists, and social workers

does get to know the child(ren) and may visit with them independently

does get to know the child(ren)'s parent or guardian and can help identify family resources in the community

does have access to the child(ren)'s records and gets copies of all court documents related to the dependency and neglect case

does take notes about their interactions and observations with the child(ren) and family. the CASA is required to write reports and provide information to the Court

does listen to your thoughts and feeling about how things are going and can include these things in reports

does represent the child(ren)'s best interest

does not investigate what led to the involvement of Human Services or the allegations of the cases

does not decide what happens in the dependency and neglect case. This is ultimately up to the judicial officer.

does not choose sides in family disagreements

does not provide supervision for family time

does not provide transportation services for children and family members

does not act like a parent or older sibling to the child(ren)

does not represent you in court or give legal advice



What is CASA?

FOR CHILDREN

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. They are appointed by a Judge to be a support for you. Judges want information about you to help them make the best decisions about you. Your CASA can help you understand what is happening in the court case your family is involved in, and you can ask them any questions you have. CASAs are not paid for their time, but they are trained volunteers who are there to advocate for you. They gather information about you to report to the Court, and they can speak on your behalf in court.

A CASA Volunteer...

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

does get to know you and your family and will visit you where you are living

does get copies of all court documents and has access to your records

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 listen to your thoughts and feeling about how things are going and can include these things in reports

does try to do what is in your best interest

does not try to find out what happened in your family before CASA became involved. They just see what is happening now.

does not decide what happens in the dependency and neglect case. This is ultimately up to the judicial officer.

does not choose sides in family disagreements

does not buy you things or take you to their home

does not provide transportation services for you or your family members

does not share anything about your life with anyone outside of the case