



CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASAs are highly trained community volunteers who are appointed by the court to cases of child abuse and neglect. As officers of the court they act as the eyes and ears of the court. CASAs meet with the children on their cases and independently gather information from others who are involved in the child's life. The CASA then reports back to the court about the status of the case and the well-being of the child.

### **What a CASA volunteer DOES:**

- Meets with the child a minimum of once per month
- Helps identify and locate resources in the community to meet the child's needs
- Talks to people who might have information about the child including caseworkers, teachers, therapists, and doctors
- Takes notes about the health and welfare of the child and reports those findings to the court
- Listens to the thoughts and concerns of professionals working the case in order to best advocate for the child
- Remains objective and reports facts of the case
- Attends all court hearings and meetings about the case or the child, and represents the voice of the child
- Maintains a professional level of confidentiality

### **What a CASA Volunteer DOES NOT do:**

- Work under the direction of any professionals in the case
- Provide child care for the child or transportation to and from appointments
- Act as a mentor or big brother/big sister to the child
- Attempt to prove the guilt or innocence in abuse and neglect cases
- Provide foster parents or professionals not parties to the case with information about the parents or relatives of the child
- Decide what happens in the case; it is the judge who makes those decisions