



What a CASA Volunteer DOES and DOES NOT

The CASA gathers information, advocates for the child, and helps the child understand what is going on. Judges depend on CASA volunteers to help them make the best decisions. To help you better understand your role, here is what a CASA DOES and DOES NOT do.

DOES	DOES NOT
Become an advocate for a child who already has an open Dependency & Neglect Case	Remove children from their homes
Get to know the child and the child's family	Become the child's foster parent
Visit the child where he or she is living	Take the child to the advocate's home or introduce the child to the advocate's family
Speak to people the child lives with	Supervise visits between a child and his or her family
Focus on the present by talking with teachers, doctors, foster parents, therapists, social workers and others that might know how the child is doing.	Try to find out what happened in the family before CASA became involved
Take the child out for a special treat or meal every now and then if comfortable doing so	Have the requirement to drive the child or family, or to buy gifts for the child
Listen to the thoughts and feelings of the child	Act like a parent to the child or try to tell others what to do
Remain neutral and objective throughout the case	Choose sides between people involved in the case
Take notes , write reports to tell the judge what is going on, and attend hearings and meetings regarding the case	Tell anyone outside of the case about the child's life or circumstances
Obtain copies of all court papers on the case, and make recommendations in court regarding the child's best interest	Make any final decisions regarding the case