



CASA OF WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS Parent's Guide to CASA

What is a CASA?

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate. CASA's are trained volunteers appointed by the Judge to your child. The purpose of the CASA is to help determine what is in your child's best interest by finding out as much information as possible about your child.

How do CASAs determine my child's best interest?

CASA's talk with you, your child, other family members, your social worker, teachers, attorneys, and anyone else who is important to your child. If you have questions or concerns regarding interacting with your CASA, you should reach out to your attorney. CASA's make home visits to observe your child 1-2 times a month. However, if the CASA has additional time and your schedule allows, the CASA may visit a few additional times a month. CASA's may also meet with your child in school. CASA's review relevant records regarding your child such as attendance records or health records.

What do CASAs do with the information that they learn about my child?

CASAs submit a written report to the Court detailing what he/she has learned from interviews, observations, and record reviews. The report also contains recommendations for what the CASA believes is in the child's best interest.

Who gets to read the CASA report?

The Judge and all direct parties in the case including your attorney, caseworkers, your child's attorney, and the county attorney. You as the parent may ask your lawyer to see the report.

Is the CASA a Social Worker?

No, the CASA is a volunteer independently appointed by the Court and does not work for the Department of Children and Family Services.

How is a CASA different from the child's attorney?

The CASA is an unpaid volunteer and the child's attorney is representing the legal interests of your child.

How can I get in touch with my child's CASA?

You can contact your child's CASA _____ at _____.