



CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Parent Information Sheet

What is a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)?

A Court Appointed Special Advocate is a specially trained volunteer who has been appointed by the Judge to gather information on cases in Juvenile or District Court that involve the possible abuse or neglect of children. In order to collect this information, the CASA volunteer is given a court order from the Judge which allows him/her to interview anyone who has been involved with the family - parents, children, social workers, foster parents, teachers, day care workers, doctors, counselors, neighbors, etc. After conducting these interviews, the CASA volunteer prepares written reports for the court, attends hearings and advocates for the best interest of the child.

What can I expect from a CASA Volunteer?

The CASA volunteer will need to meet with you and your children individually. The volunteer will:

- Monitor your progress with your service plan
- Observe visits between you and your child
- Make scheduled and unannounced visits to your home
- Continue to meet with your social worker and other professionals who are providing services to your family

The Role of the CASA Volunteer

The role of the CASA volunteer is to gather information for the Court and advocate for the best interest of the child. The CASA volunteer does **NOT** serve as an attorney, social worker or counselor. The CASA volunteer does not transport children or case participants, supervise visits or take custody of children at any time.

The Lamb Warning

The CASA volunteer will explain the role and purpose of the CASA investigation and explain that any information gathered will be part of the CASA oral or written report to the Court. The volunteer will provide a “Lamb Warning” that explains there are no “off the record” discussions and that any information collected by the CASA volunteer could appear in the CASA report, be disclosed and discussed in court and may be read by parties to the proceedings; i.e. parents, guardians, attorneys.

Your CASA Volunteer

The CASA volunteer who has been appointed to your child’s case is

To contact this volunteer or to further discuss the role of CASA, please call **(508) 757-9877**.