Your Child HAS A VOICE IN COURT



CASA VOLUNTEER

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates. A CASA volunteer is a specially trained volunteer who is appointed by the judge to advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile dependency cases. NRS 432B.500 states that every child found to be in need of protection shall be appointed a GAL/CASA.

WHAT DOES A CASA VOLUNTEER DO?

1) **Conducts an independent assessment of the case by:**

- Reviewing all relevant records.
- Interviewing all parties involved in the case, including parents, relatives, caregivers, teachers, caseworkers, doctors, therapists, attorneys, and anyone else important to the child.

2) **Monitors the case to ensure that:**

- The terms of the court's order are carried out.
- The child's needs are being addressed and met.
- The child's voice is being heard in and out of court.

3) **Focuses on the child achieving permanency in a timely manner:**

- Reunification
- Adoption
- Guardianship
- Independent Living

4) **Reports findings and recommendations to the Court by:**

- Submitting a detailed report.
- Attending court and speaking up about what's in the child's best interest.

WHAT CAN A CAREGIVER EXPECT FROM A CASA VOLUNTEER?

CASA volunteers and caregivers form an important team to help the child. Together, you can be sure the child's needs are met and the child's voice will be heard.

- The CASA volunteer schedules appointments to visit with the child, both in and out of your home.
- The CASA volunteer visits with the child initially, at least every 7-10 days, to help build rapport with the child.
- The CASA volunteer speaks with you about how the child is doing and about any needs that you feel are not being met for the child.

WHO CAN REQUEST A CASA VOLUNTEER?

A CASA volunteer can be requested by anyone involved in the case. However, the Dependency Court Judge issues the CASA order. A CASA volunteer may be appointed at any time during the case.

SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR BIOLOGICAL PARENTS:

You know more about the child than anyone else. The CASA volunteer may want to hear your perspective about your child(ren). If you have an attorney, the CASA volunteer will check with them first to find out the best way to communicate with you.

- CASA volunteers do not work for CCFS.
- CASA volunteers do not have a caseload. They are assigned one child or sibling group.
- CASA volunteers gather information. They cannot share confidential information about the child.
- CASA volunteers do not supervise visits, but they may observe parental and sibling visitations.

Should you have any questions about the role of the CASA volunteer or wish to share information, please feel free to call the CASA office.

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

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