

FOUR PRIMARY FUNCTIONS

INVESTIGATION: An objective examination of the situation, including history, environment, relationships, strengths and needs of the child – discovery, interviews, observations.

FACILITATION: Identify resources and services for the child and facilitate a collaborative relationship between all parties involved, helping to create a situation in which the child's needs can be met.

ADVOCACY: Speak up for the child by making recommendations regarding the child's best interests in a written courtreport and in other milieus.

MONITORING: Keep track of whether the orders of the court and the plans of DHS/Child Welfare agency are carried out.

ROLE OF A CASA

The court appoints a CASA to objectively gather information, report on circumstances affecting the child's best interest, visit the child, access child-related records, recommend services for the child, speak to the best temporary placement and permanent home for a child.

CASA STATUTE 419B.112

(7) Upon presentation of the order of appointment by the court appointed special advocate, any agency, hospital, school organization, division, office or department of the state, doctor, nurse or other health care provider, psychologist, psychiatrist, police department or mental health clinic shall permit the court appointed special advocate to inspect and copy, and may consult with the court appointed special advocate regarding, any records relating to the child or ward involved in the case, without the consent of the child, ward or parents.

THE IMPACT OF A CASA

Court Advocacy for the Child's Best Interests



Call us with your questions!
(541) 575-5574, Grant
(541) 620-8824, Harney



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

GRANT-HARNEY COUNTY CASA

**GRANT/HARNEY COUNTY
CASA**

A voice for children in foster care

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM CASA AS A FOSTER PARENT

VISITS: A CASA is required to visit the child at least once a month and visits should regularly occur in the home. Most CASAs visit the child more than that. CASAs may also visit at school or daycare, attend appointments, watch sports games, etc. This is all per the court order and permission is not needed from anyone as the statute provides the CASA direct access to the child. The CASA has the legal right to speak to the child with no one else present. CASAs are trained to not be in closed off, isolated situations with children.

GATHERING INFORMATION: CASAs will be asking questions about medical/dental/psychological appointments and services and other information about the child that impacts development, education, health, placement, visits, etc.

TRANSPORTATION: CASAs cannot transport CASA kids or parents.

COMMUNICATION: The CASA should respond to the foster parent within a reasonable timeframe. The mode of communication (email, text, phone) will be determined by foster parent/CASA.

CONFIDENTIALITY: The CASA cannot legally share a great deal of information with the foster parent due to the CASA roles and responsibilities guidelines per the court. However, always check with the CASA if you have a question as they may be able to help. Additionally, the CASA may be able to facilitate contact/communication between other parties.

RESPECT: CASAs should demonstrate the utmost respect for foster parents (and others) with regard to scheduling visits, communication, and gathering information.

RESOURCES: The CASA office receives generous donations of books, jackets, and school supplies for kids in care. If you have a need that is not being filled, it doesn't hurt to ask the CASA. The CASA can contact the CASA office and ask if we have specific things that your foster child might need.

ADVOCACY: The main role of the CASA is to advocate and be the voice for the child in the court. The CASA is guided by the Best Interest Principle – finding a safe, permanent home as soon as possible. This may or may not involve the CASA advocating for continued placement in their current foster home for various reasons.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The CASA will make recommendations in a court report they write for the Judge and the CRB. This is a legal document that is heavily weighted by the court. The CASA does not make direct referrals for services, they identify gaps in services and recommend to the court what the child needs.

SUPERVISED VISITATION: CASAs are highly encouraged to observe supervised visits with children and their parents at DHS. They are there in an observational role only and are not responsible for supervising visits. CASAs cannot be placed in the role of supervising visits or acting as a safety service provider (SSP) in the parents' home.