

Answers about CASA FOR FOSTER PARENTS:

What is a CASA?

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

What is the role of a CASA volunteer?

- > CASAs are responsible for taking the time to find out as much information as possible about the child and the child's circumstances through reviewing all relevant records and interviewing all relevant people, most importantly, the child.
- > CASAs then submit a written report to the Court to recommend to the Judge what they believe is best for the child's future. In all cases, CASA volunteers advocate for safe and permanent homes for children.

What does the CASA expect from me?

- > The CASA will visit at least once or twice a month to observe and get to know your foster child in his or her living environment.
- > The CASA will ask you for specific information about your foster child's daily life. Other topics may include his or her behavior related to certain things such as adjustments in school, behavior concerns and strengths, medical concerns, adjustment to separation/loss, contacts made by parents, etc.
- > By spending time with your foster child and by talking with you, the CASA volunteer will be more knowledgeable and prepared to make recommendations to the Judge that are in the foster child's best interest.

What information should I share with the CASA?

What information can the CASA share with me?

- > Through a Court Order, CASA volunteers have access to all documents and information that relates to your foster child.
- > Due to strict confidentiality laws, the CASA can share only information, including the CASA report, with the direct parties to the case (the social worker, city or county attorney, parents, parents' attorneys, and the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)).

Does the CASA work for DHS?

- > No, the CASA is a volunteer independently appointed by the Court and does not work for DHS.
- > The CASA cannot provide direct services to your foster child, such as babysit him or her, provide transportation, or supervise visitations.
- > You can reach the Social Worker _____ at _____.

How is a CASA different from the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)?

- > The CASA is an unpaid volunteer and the GAL is an attorney representing the legal interests of the child.
- > You can reach the GAL _____ at _____.

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

- > You can contact your child's CASA at (703) 820-9001 or at _____.



A program of SCAN of Northern Virginia

Answers about CASA FOR SOCIAL WORKERS:

What is a CASA?

- > CASAs are trained volunteers appointed by the Judge to help determine the child's best interest.
- > SCAN of Northern Virginia, a non-profit organization, oversees the CASA Program for the City of Alexandria and Arlington County, working closely with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

What kind of training do CASAs go through?

- > Each individual is subject to a thorough screening process, including background checks, interviews, and thirty-two hours of initial training where volunteers learn about the human service system, the juvenile court, and issues such as substance abuse and mental health as well as the special needs of children who are involved in abuse and neglect cases.
- > After being sworn-in by the Judge as official CASAs, volunteers must complete at least twelve hours of additional in-service training each year.

What does a CASA volunteer do?

- > CASAs are responsible for taking the time to find out as much information as possible about the child and the child's circumstances through reviewing relevant records and interviewing all relevant people involved in the case, most importantly, the child.
- > CASAs then submit a written report to the Court to recommend to the Judge what they believe is best for the child's future. In all cases, CASA volunteers advocate for safe and permanent homes for children.

Do CASA volunteers understand the importance of confidentiality?

- > CASAs must take an oath before the Court that requires them to fulfill the roles assigned to them and to do so while respecting the confidentiality of all information and/or reports revealed to them.
- > CASAs are trained to only share information with direct parties to the case and only the direct parties to the case will have access to review the CASA reports submitted to the Judge.

What information should I share with the CASA?

- > With a Court Order, CASAs have access to all documents that relate to the child in the case.

Can CASA volunteers provide direct services?

- > CASAs do not provide direct services to the child, such as supervising visitation or transporting the child.

How is a CASA different from the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)?

- > CASAs are unpaid volunteers and the GAL is an attorney representing the legal interests of the child.
- > CASAs are not a party to the case and cannot bring a child's case back before the Judge.
- > The CASA's role is one of a "Friend of the Court" and an impartial observer, seeking information as the Judge would if would if time permitted.

Where can I find out more information about CASA?

- > For more information, you can call the SCAN of Northern Virginia office at (703) 820-9001 or visit www.scanva.org



Answers about CASA FOR PARENTS:

What is a CASA?

- > CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocate.
- > CASAs 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?

- > CASAs talk with you, your child, other family members, your social worker, teachers, attorneys, and anyone else who is important to your child.
- > CASAs 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. CASAs may also meet with your child in school.
- > CASAs 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 you, your attorney, social workers, your child's Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), and the city or county attorney.

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 Human Services.
- > You can reach your Social Worker _____
at _____.

How is a CASA different from the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)?

- > The CASA is an unpaid volunteer and the GAL is an attorney representing the legal interests of your child.
- > You can reach your child's GAL _____
at _____.

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

- > You can contact your child's CASA at (703) 820-9001
or at _____.



Respuestas acerca de CASA PARA PADRES:

¿Qué es un CASA?

- > CASA son las siglas en inglés de Defensores Especiales Nombrados por la Corte.
- > Los voluntarios de CASA son designados por el juez para representar los intereses de su niño.
- > Al obtener la mayor información posible acerca de su niño, él/ella voluntario de CASA ayuda a determinar lo mejor para el.

¿Cómo determinan los voluntarios de CASA lo que es mejor para mi hijo?

- > Los voluntarios de CASA platican con usted, su hijo, otros miembros de la familia, su trabajadora social, maestros, abogados, y cualquier otra persona importante para su hijo.
- > Los voluntarios de CASA realizan visitas a su casa para observar a su hijo 1 o 2 veces al mes. Sin embargo, si el voluntario de CASA tiene tiempo disponible y el horario de usted lo permite, él/ella puede hacerle más visitas al mes. Los voluntarios de CASA pueden también visitar a su hijo en la escuela.
- > Los voluntarios de CASA revisan información importante acerca de su registro de asistencia de la escuela o registro de salud.

¿Qué hacen los voluntarios de CASA con la información que aprenden acerca de mi hijo?

- > Los voluntarios de CASA entregan un reporte escrito a la Corte detallando lo que han aprendido en las entrevistas, observaciones y chequeo de información. El reporte también contiene recomendaciones acerca de lo que el voluntario de CASA considera ser lo mejor para su hijo.

¿Quién puede leer el reporte CASA?

- > El juez y todas las personas legalmente involucradas en el caso incluyéndolo a usted, su abogado, su trabajadora social, el abogado del niño (GAL) y el abogado del condado o de la ciudad.

¿Es el voluntario de CASA un trabajador social?

- > No, el voluntario de CASA es independientemente nombrado por la Corte y no trabaja para el Departamento de Servicios Humanos.
- > Usted puede contactar a su Trabajador(a) Social _____ al _____.

¿Cuál es la diferencia entre el voluntario de CASA y el abogado del niño (GAL)?

- > EL voluntario de CASA no recibe renumeración económica mientras el GAL es un abogado que representa el interés legal de su hijo.
- > Puede contactar al GAL de su hijo _____ al _____.

¿Cómo puedo ponerme en contacto con el voluntario de CASA de mi hijo?

- > Usted puede contactar al voluntario de CASA de su hijo al (703) 820-9001 o al _____.



CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

ALEXANDRIA/ARLINGTON
CASA PROGRAM

A program of SCAN of Northern Virginia

Answers about CASA FOR THE COMMUNITY:

What is a CASA?

- > CASAs are trained volunteers appointed by the Judge for the child.
- > The purpose of the CASA is to help determine what is in the child's best interest by finding out as much information as possible about the child.
- > SCAN of Northern Virginia, a non-profit organization, oversees the CASA Program for the City of Alexandria and Arlington County, working closely with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

How do CASAs determine the child's best interest?

- > CASAs talk with the child, parents, foster parents, other family members, the social worker, teachers, attorneys, and anyone else who is important to the child.
- > CASAs make home visits to observe the child at least 1-2 times a month. CASAs may also meet with the child in school or at another designated location.
- > CASAs review relevant records regarding the child such as attendance records or health records.

What do CASAs do with the information that they learn about the 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. In all cases, CASAs advocate for safe and permanent homes for children.

Who gets to read the CASA report?

- > The Judge and all direct parties in the case including parents, the attorneys, the assigned social workers, and the child's Guardian Ad Litem (GAL).

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 Human Services.

How is a CASA different from the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)?

- > The CASA is an unpaid volunteer and the GAL is an attorney representing the legal interests of the child.

Where can I find out more information about the CASA program?

- > For more information, you can call the SCAN of Northern Virginia office at (703) 820-9001 or visit www.scanva.org



Respuestas acerca de CASA PARA LA COMUNIDAD:

¿Qué es un Voluntario CASA?

- > Los voluntarios de CASA son personas capacitadas y nombradas por el juez para comunicar los intereses del niño.
- > Al obtener la mayor información posible acerca del niño, él/ella voluntario de CASA ayuda a determinar lo mejor para el.
- > SCAN del Norte de Virginia es una organización sin fines de lucro que supervisa el Programa CASA para la Ciudad de Alexandria y el Condado de Arlington, trabajando de cerca con la Corte de Relaciones Juveniles y Domésticas del Distrito.

¿Cómo determinan los voluntarios de CASA lo que es lo mejor para el niño?

- > Los voluntarios de CASA platican con el niño, los padres de familia, los padres temporales, otros miembros de la familia, el trabajador social, maestros, abogados, y cualquier otra persona importante para el niño.
- > Los voluntarios de CASA realizan visitas a casa para observar al niño 1 o 2 veces al mes. Los voluntarios de CASA pueden también visitar al niño en la escuela o en otro lugar.
- > Los voluntarios de CASA revisan información importante acerca del niño tal como su asistencia en la escuela o su salud.

¿Qué hacen los voluntarios de CASA con la información que aprenden acerca del niño?

- > Los voluntarios de CASA entregan un reporte escrito a la Corte detallando lo que han aprendido en las entrevistas, observaciones y chequeo de información. El reporte también contiene recomendaciones acerca de lo que el voluntario de CASA considera lo mejor para el niño. En todos los casos, los voluntarios de CASA abogan por un hogar seguro y permanente para los niños.

¿Quién puede leer el reporte CASA?

- > El juez y todas las personas legalmente involucradas en el caso incluyendo los padres de familia, abogados, trabajadores sociales asignados, el abogado GAL y el abogado del condado o de la ciudad.

¿Es el voluntario de CASA un trabajador social?

- > No, el voluntario de CASA es un voluntario independientemente nombrado por la Corte y no trabaja para el Departamento de Servicios Humanos.

¿Cuál es la diferencia entre el voluntario de CASA y el abogado GAL?

- > El voluntario de CASA no recibe remuneración económica mientras el GAL es un abogado que representa el interés legal del niño.

¿Dónde puedo encontrar más información acerca del Programa CASA?

- > Para más información, puede llamar a la oficina de SCAN del Norte de Virginia al (703) 820-9001 o visitar la página web www.scanva.org

