



## For Children: What is a CASA

Judges want information about you, so they can make good decisions about what happens in your life. A judge or Guardian ad Litem can ask for a volunteer to help get to know you and spend time with you during this time. Your CASA can also help you understand what is happening in your case. You can ask him or her any questions you have. Your CASA is not paid, and is there to help you and only you. The CASA gathers facts and writes them in a report to your attorney. The CASA can also tell the judge what you would like him or her to know. The information in the reports helps your attorney and the judge make better decisions.

### Your CASA:

- Talks to people who might know how you are doing.
- These people can be foster parents, grandparents, school teachers, doctors, therapists, probation personnel or others.
- Does get to know your family.
- Does get to know you and visit you where you are living.
- Does get copies of all court papers and educational information on the case.
- Does take notes. The CASA has to write reports to your attorney so they know what is going on. This means, anything you say to the CASA can be reported to your attorney. But the CASA will only tell your attorney, not anyone else.
- Does try to do what's in your best interest.
- Does share what you want to have happen, your thoughts and feelings.

### Your CASA Does Not:

- Does not try to find out what happened in your family before the case opened. Your advocate tries to find out what's happening now.
- Does not decide what happens with your case, that is up to the judge.
- Does not choose sides.
- Does not routinely buy you things.
- Does not tell anyone else outside the court case anything about your life.
- Cannot take you to their home.

