
Guiding CASA Program Principles:

As a CASA Volunteer it is important to share with you CASA's guiding principles for you to keep at the forefront of your mind while working your case.

- Recognize the importance of family preservation and/or reunification: It is in a child's best interest to remain with their family of origin when safely possible.
- The program acknowledges that children experience trauma when separated from their family of origin.
- If a child is removed from their family of origin, it is in the child's best interest to be reunified with their family of origin as soon as safely possible.
- If a child is removed from their family of origin, the child should be placed with a relative whenever safely possible and in the child's best interest.
- Strengthening families, through recommendations for services, supports, visitation and communications, is in the child's best interest to achieve stability and/or reunification.
- The program requires and demonstrates respect for the parents and all parties associated with the case.
- The program ensures that information regarding the family's strengths is incorporated into reports to the court.
- The program ensures that information regarding the child's wishes is incorporated into reports to the court.
- When a court determines a child cannot be safely reunified with their family of origin consistent with legal mandates, another permanent placement is in a child's best interest.

Recognize the importance of collaboration:

The program's governing board and the executive director, along with program staff and volunteers, cooperate and coordinate with other volunteer and public service agencies, the courts, community groups, families and individuals to:

- Improve services for individual children and their families.
- Advocate for needed change in the conditions which adversely affect the children served.

Recognize the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion:

All children regardless of age, race, ethnicity, national origin (ancestry), color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, disability, or physical challenge should be safe, have a permanent home and an opportunity to thrive.

The program understands implicit bias and disproportionality impacting children who have experienced abuse or neglect and will provide for specialized trainings throughout the year. One standing training will be "History of Race in the Child Welfare System"

CASA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The EEO policy is shared on the program's website.