



## **CASA of the Tennessee Heartland**

Anderson Co.-100 N. Main St. Rm 115 Clinton, TN 37716 P: 865.463.6850

Blount Co.-391 Court St. Rm. 212 Maryville, TN 37802 P: 865.273.5993

Scott Co.-2845 Baker Highway Huntsville, TN 37756 P: 423.663.8943

## **Explanation of CASA and their involvement**

Custodian and/or Parents of CASA Kid(s)

The child(ren) you have taken into your home have been assigned a CASA. The CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) is a staff member or a trained, certified volunteer (who accepts no fee for their services.) The CASA is responsible for providing information to the judge about the child's situation, needs, and wishes. The judge uses this information, along with information provided by GAL, DCS, CPS and the parents, to make decisions as to what is in the best interest of the child.

As a part of their duties, the CASA is required to visit with the children assigned to them every thirty days, and sometimes more often, depending upon the child's particular situation. These visits may be announced or unannounced. At these visits, the CASA will inquire as to the child's wellbeing, medical or dental appointments, and prescribed medications, if applicable. They will also ask about the child's academic performance and behaviors in the school or daycare setting. The CASA will inquire regarding visitation with parents and siblings, and behaviors before and after these visits. He/she will also ask to see the child's room and tour the home. And, of course, the CASA will speak with the child regarding his wishes and what he/she would like the CASA to tell the Court. All this information is used to prepare written reports to the judge, wherein recommendations are made regarding the best interests of the child (ren). CASA ensures that these children are heard and not forgotten.

By virtue of your opening your heart and home to these children, you are considered a valuable resource and advocate, and through our collaboration and cooperation, hopefully we can establish permanency for these children in a nurturing and healthy environment in a timely manner.

For more information about our services, contact your local CASA office.

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