

Guidelines for Visiting CASA Children

Volunteer Advocate

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All CASA volunteers are required to visit their CASA children at least once per month, for the duration of the case assignment. *CASAs are encouraged to spend more time with their CASA children, but in a reasonable way. Volunteers are cautioned to be wary of keeping their relationship professional with both the child and the adults involved in the case. There is a danger in becoming overly-involved in the child or family's life.*

1. CASA volunteers are NOT permitted to provide transportation for CASA children or family members.
2. CASA volunteers should strive at all times for objectivity and fairness. To that end, volunteers should not engage in any activity that would call into question his/her ability to be objective on a case.
3. CASA volunteers should always be respectful of the foster families, families of origin, or any placement where they work with a child. Therefore, all visits shall be conducted in compliance with the placement's rules or wishes. For example, a CASA volunteer should not visit a family home late at night. Times and length of visits should take into account family needs, such as work schedules, meals, bedtimes of siblings, etc...
4. Most visits should be prearranged with the placement at their convenience; however, there are times when unannounced visits are a useful tool for the CASA volunteer in his/her evaluation of a case. At those times, the volunteers must still only visit at reasonable times of day, and for a reasonable length of time. A spot check should not take place at midnight on a Friday night, but may take place at 10am on a Saturday morning.
5. CASA visits should always take place at the placement, or in a suitable public location. A suitable location contains visible exits, and the visit is always visible by others.

Examples of inappropriate places for visits include: malls, shopping centers, movie theaters, hiking trails, etc...

Examples of appropriate places include: Foster home or placement, Fast food restaurants, open pavillion at a public park, school, therapist office, etc..

6. If the CASA child has a valid driver's license and permission to use a vehicle, the visit may take place at an appropriate location other than the home. However, all visits should still take place at reasonable hours of the day, and for a reasonable length of time. The CASA volunteer shall NOT be in a vehicle with the child at any time.