

What can you do to help your case along?

- Follow your case plan.
- Make your monthly contributions.
- Complete assigned programs as soon as possible.
- Seek independent resources.
- Communicate with your case worker.



Our Mission...

The mission of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Terrebonne is to be an independent and objective presence in the courts to speak for the best interest of abused and neglected children of Terrebonne Parish. We promote and support trained community volunteers to represent our children and help secure for each child a nurturing and safe home environment.



A PARENT'S GUIDE TO CASA

**P.O. Box 824
Houma, LA 70361
(985)876-0250**

www.casafterrebonne.org

**A POWERFUL VOICE
IN A CHILD'S LIFE.**

What is CASA?

CASA is a national volunteer movement that began in 1977 when Judge David Soukup of Seattle, WA decided he needed to know more about the children whose lives were in his hands. To ensure he was getting all the facts and long-term welfare of each child was being represented, the Seattle judge came up with an idea that would change America's judicial procedure and the lives of over a million children. He obtained funding to recruit and train community volunteers to step into courtrooms on behalf of the children: Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). CASA volunteers were able to provide him with the detailed information he needed to safeguard the children's best interests and ensure that they were placed in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. The program was so successful that it was copied around the nation.

CASAs are another set of ears and eyes for the court.

Who is a CASA?

Court Appointed Special Advocates are volunteers who come from all walks of life, with a variety of professional, educational and ethnic backgrounds. They are carefully screened for objectivity, competence and commitment prior to being sworn-in and assigned a case.

CASAs main concern is the welfare of your child(ren) while he/she/they remain in the state's custody.



What will the CASA do or be involved in?

Court Appointed Special Advocates will:

- Review records.
- Visit with your child(ren) monthly.
- Maintain contact with the parents.
- Obtain information from the school/ daycare when applicable.
- Attend court hearings and meetings.
- Determine if appropriate services, including reasonable efforts, are being provided to the child and family.
- Maintain a thorough record of the case, including appointments, interviews, and facts.
- Provide written fact-based reports to the court with recommendations.