

	CASA Court Appointed Special Advocate (Volunteer and/or Supervisor)	Attorney ad Litem for the Child	Caseworker
What does this person do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After legal intervention, independently investigate the child’s ongoing situation and case • Determine the child’s needs • Explore family and community resources to meet the child’s needs • Make recommendations to the court • Advocate for the child • Monitor the case • Be the voice of what is in the child’s best interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent the child’s wishes • Protect the child’s legal right in court • Advise the child on legal matters (if the child is old enough) • File legal documents relevant to the child’s case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Investigations initiates the case by completing a risk assessment, determining the need for court intervention • If the court intervenes, the Legal Caseworker or Permanency Specialist is responsible for managing the case and arranging for court-ordered services to be provided to the child and the child’s family
What does this person bring to the case?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interest in improving the life of the child through the court process • Time, energy, and focus • Longevity and consistency • An “outside the system” point of view and an independent perspective • The community’s standard for the care and protection of its children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal expertise, facilitation and negotiation skills, and courtroom experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training in analyzing risk, assessing service needs and providing guidance to the families • Direct services for families to provide them with the knowledge, skills, and resources necessary for change • Links to other service providers so that the family can access resources outside the child protective services system
When is this person involved in the case?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASA as an agency can be appointed as early as the first hearing. A volunteer then becomes involved as soon as one is available and assigned. This can be as early as a couple of weeks. CASA will remain on the case until the case closes or CASA is dismissed by the Court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the petition filing through the end of the court case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the initial contact with the family and/or child until the case closes (caseworkers will change throughout the case as it transfers to different departments)
How frequent is contact with the child?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least monthly face-to-face (FTF) contact, with at least 50% of visits in the child’s placement. • 61-120 miles bi-monthly FTF; 121-300 miles quarterly FTF; 301+ miles bi-annually FTF (all other months not seen in person will be virtual). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least once between hearings (if child is under 4, then will contact parent/caregiver). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly face-to-face contact with the child. Contact may be through a courtesy worker if the child is placed out of region.
What is the difference?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents the child’s best interests or what they need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents what the child wants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represents their agency’s permanency plan