CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

CARETAKER INFORMATION SHEET

CASA wants to thank you for being a foster care placement for the child(ren) in your home. We understand the commitment and importance of your role. CASA looks forward to partnering with you in order to best advocate and serve the child(ren).

CASA is an acronym, which stands for **C**ourt **A**ppointed **S**pecial **A**dvocate. **CASA** is a local non-profit program in San Luis Obispo County, which began in 1992, to help abused children. **CASA** is a national organization, which began in 1977 in Seattle, Washington, when Judge David Soukup asked for assistance in making informed decisions about the future of children in dependency court. It is the collective goal of these programs to provide advocacy to every abused child who may otherwise be overlooked or "lost in the system".

The **C**ourt **A**ppointed **S**pecial **A**dvocate has gone through extensive training prior to being assigned to a child, and continues training as long as he/she is an active CASA. Each person is sworn in by the court and assigned a designated child in need of advocacy. CASAs make a commitment according to the circumstances of each specific child.

It is the CASAs responsibility to provide independent information to the Juvenile Court, monitor the child's case plan, advocate for the child's needs, and offer the child consistent adult friendship. The way in which these responsibilities are carried out varies with the personality of each CASA volunteer, and the specifics of each case. In order to understand the child's needs, the court appreciates the advocate to be able to take the child into the community and have private conversations.

The CASA will gather information from as many relevant sources was available in order to understand the needs of the child and accurately relay that information to the court along with specific recommendations. The CASA works independently from the Department of Social Services, and must answer directly to the court.

The amount of time the CASA spends with the child depends on the age of the child and the amount of other resources or social support in the child's life. The court expects the CASA to see the children on a regular basis in your home or the CASA may take the child into the community.

We hope to have a positive working relationship with you as the caretaker, as our common goal is concern for the children. If you would like more information or have questions, please do not hesitate to phone us.

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Advocate Supervisor	Phone Number	Email