



## 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 **Court Appointed Special Advocate**. **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 **Court Appointed Special Advocate** 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

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Phone Number

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Email