

Introducing Yourself as a CASA Volunteer

To A Respondent Parent:

My name is _____ and I am the volunteer Court-Appointed Special Advocate for your child. The judge in this case has assigned me to learn about this case and make recommendations about what is in your child's best interest. As a CASA volunteer, I'll visit your child in the foster home, talk to everyone involved in the case and attend all the court hearings and meetings. I've read the CPS record but I'd like to hear your side of the story as well. Can we set up a time to meet?

To a Child:

My name is _____ and I am your CASA volunteer. The judge has asked me to get to know you and to talk to the people in your life, such as your parents, your foster parents and your caseworker. I'll go to all the court hearings and the meetings where they'll discuss your case, and I'll speak up for what's best for you. I know you must have ideas about what should happen in this case, so I'd like to talk to you about it.

To a Teacher:

My name is _____ and I am the Court-Appointed Special Advocate for _____. The court has asked me to get to know the important people in _____'s life and gather information so that I can help the court make the best decisions. As _____'s teacher, you spend a great deal of time with her/him, so I wanted to get your input about how s/he is doing in school and what else you've observed.

(Later) I understand that you have questions about _____'s history, but the court has ordered me to observe the laws about confidentiality. The person who can answer your questions is the CPS caseworker, _____.

To a Foster Parent:

My name is _____ and I am the Court-Appointed Special Advocate for _____. We're a non-profit organization appointed by the courts to represent the best interest of children in foster care. My job is to get to know the important people in _____'s life and gather information so that I can help the court make the best decisions. As a foster parent, you see her/him more than anyone, so I know you have a great deal of important information and perspective. I called today to ask how _____ is doing in your home.

(Later) I'd like to set up a time to meet you in person and to visit _____ at home. When is a good time for you?