

# 2020: Building a Strong Future Together

## National CASA Association Core Model

The CASA/GAL program provides screened, trained, and qualified community volunteers to advocate for the best interests of children and youth who are before the court as a result of abuse or neglect as defined by the state child welfare laws; living at home or in out-of-home care.

CASA/GAL best interest advocacy is driven by the guiding principle that children grow and develop best with their family of origin if that can be safely achieved.

CASA/GAL volunteers serve children from birth through the age defined by state statute as the limit to youth remaining in care.

**The role of the CASA/GAL volunteer is best-interest advocacy through the following activities:**

- Information gathering
- Visit the child at least monthly
- Collaborate and coordinate with legal, child welfare and other partners to assure service provision that is in the child's best interests
- Report to the court with recommendations regarding the child's placement and needed services
- Monitor the case until released by the court

**CASA/GAL volunteers are:**

- Screened per National CASA/GAL Association Standards
- Trained according to National CASA/GAL Training and Facilitation Standards
- Supported by staff or peer in accordance with National CASA/GAL Standards

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### MISSION

The National Court Appointed Special Advocate Association, together with its state and local member programs, supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy so every abused or neglected child in the United States can be safe, have a permanent home and the opportunity to thrive.

### VISION

A world where every abused or neglected child is given the opportunity to thrive in a safe and loving home.

### PURPOSE

Every abused or neglected child needs a caring, consistent adult to advocate for his or her well-being.

