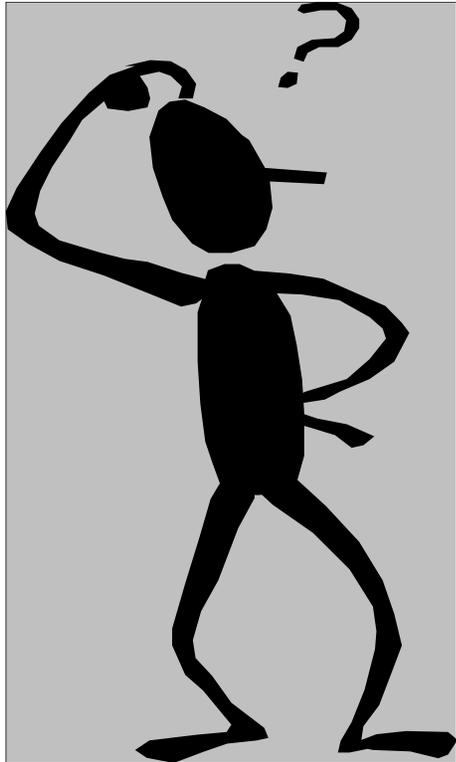


# What is CASA?



Is CASA something I can carry around in my pocket? Is CASA the Spanish word for house? Well yes, casa does mean house in Spanish, but that's not the kind of CASA we are talking about. CASA stands for:

**Court Appointed Special Advocate.**

A CASA is someone who tells the judge in court what he or she feels is best for a child. CASAs do not get paid for doing this. They volunteer their time to help children who have been abused and neglected.

## What's a judge got to do with me?

Sometimes families need help to make sure their home is a safe place for children. A social worker's job is to help these families, and sometimes a judge has to decide things like where the children should live and what kind of help the family needs. CASAs help judges decide what is best for these children.



## How does a CASA know what is best for me?

CASAs learn all about what is happening in a child's life by talking to people who know the child - teachers, doctors, family members, foster parents and counselors, for example. But most important of all, CASAs talk to and visit the child. Then the CASA tells the judge what he or she has learned and what the CASA thinks should happen.

My CASA's name is

\_\_\_\_\_

I can contact my CASA at

\_\_\_\_\_

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## A child speaks out about her CASA...

"My CASA would visit and phone me often to make sure I was okay. She made sure all my needs were being met, like the times I struggled emotionally she made sure I got counseling. Like the time I hated being placed in a group home, she went to bat for me and helped me get into a foster home. I had many social workers and was placed in many homes but my CASA never changed."



### Anchorage CASA

Office of Public Advocacy  
900 West 5th Ave. Suite 525  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
269-3500

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## A Kid's Guide to CASA

