

Role Comparison of the CASA Advocate According to Program Model

CASA/GAL Team Model

1. Appointed by the Court
2. Given access to all pertinent court files, reports and other information pertaining to the child
3. Must maintain regular contact with the child
4. May establish contact with all persons having contact with and impact upon the child (teachers, counselors, etc)
5. *Must* be assigned at the beginning of the case
6. *Must* be present at all court hearings
7. *May* submit reports. *May* be called as a witness
8. *Is* a party to the case
9. *Must* be represented by an attorney
10. May file motions
11. May cross examine witnesses
12. May call witnesses of his/her own
13. May present other evidence
14. May present oral argument to the court directly addressing the positions and recommendations of other parties

CASA as Friend of the Court Model

1. Appointed by the Court
2. Given access to all pertinent court files, reports and other information pertaining to the child
3. Must maintain regular contact with the child
4. Establishes contact with all persons having contact with and impact upon the child (teachers, counselors, etc) and gathers information from them
5. *May* be assigned at the beginning of a case (usually is)
6. *May* be present at all court hearings (usually is and often gives verbal report)
7. Submits reports to the court providing information and tendering recommendations as to the best interests of the child
8. *Is not* a party to the case
9. *Is not* represented by an attorney