



# What is CASA?

## COURT-APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

When a family is in crisis and becomes involved in the child welfare system, a judge may appoint a committed volunteer to advocate for the child. That volunteer is called a Court-Appointed Special Advocate®, or CASA. Advocates get to know the child and others involved in the child's life, including family members, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and social workers. Advocates provide valuable information to the judge and others involved in the case to help ensure a child's best interest is being met while they are in the custody of the state. Advocates are volunteers who give their time because they care about helping children. Advocates are not paid, and they do not work for the Department of Family and Protective Services.

### What does an Advocate do?

Advocates are appointed by a judge to:

- Visit with the child at least once a month.
- Talk to family members and other important people in the child's life (e.g., foster parents, teachers, counselors, etc.)
- Review appropriate records and reports.
- Collaborate with all professionals on the case.
- Be a stable and constant person in the child's life.
- Provide independent written reports to the court and all parties to the case for each hearing.
- Appear at court hearings, meetings, and staffings.

### How can you contact your child's Advocate?

To contact your child's Advocate, you may call the Child Advocates of Montgomery County office at any time and leave a message. Please be sure to leave your name, the name of the child, and the name of the Advocate. The office will get the message to the Advocate as soon as possible, and you will receive a callback.

**936.441.5437**

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ADVOCATE	EMAIL	PHONE
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ADVOCACY SPECIALIST	EMAIL	PHONE
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SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES	EMAIL	PHONE
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**Remember! It is important to communicate with the child's Advocate. They are helping to make very important decisions about the child's life.**

CHILD ADVOCATES OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY **WHERE HOPE PREVAILS**

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