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# National CASA/GAL Core Model



*National CASA/GAL Board of Trustees Approved Oct. 11, 2016*

The National CASA/GAL Association core model identifies the foundational elements of CASA/GAL best interest advocacy. This includes our guiding principle, the types of cases served, the primary activities performed by CASA/GAL volunteers, parameters for staff serving cases and the screening, training and supervision requirements. National CASA/GAL assistance and support is limited to core model activities.

## **THE NATIONAL CASA/GAL 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<sup>1</sup>, living at home or in out-of-home care. State statute takes precedence if it provides for the CASA/GAL volunteer to take other types of cases.

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.

### ***CASA/GAL volunteers advocate for children's best-interest 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

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<sup>1</sup> State statute takes precedence if it provides for the CASA/GAL volunteer to take other types of cases. National CASA/GAL assistance and support is limited to work with dependent children who have experienced abuse or neglect. CASA/GAL staff serving children is kept to a minimum and only occurs under extraordinary circumstances or when mandated. Anyone serving children must adhere to the service provisions and standards outlined in the core model.



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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** May 10, 2019 (last updated)

**APPROVED BY:** Tara Perry

**TITLE:** Chief Executive Officer