



**CASA** stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates, a nationwide nonprofit organization authorized by Kentucky Revised Statutes 620.500-550. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to serve in child abuse and neglect cases. Once appointed, the volunteer researches the child's case, reviews documents, interviews relevant people, and writes a report to the court as to what is in the best interest of the child, in terms of services, placement, visitation, reunification, and permanency.

**Mission:** CASA of Lexington's trained and supervised volunteers advocate through the family court system to ensure all victims of child abuse and neglect are safe and thrive in a permanent home.

**Statement of CASA Client Rights:**

1. You have the right to have the role of the CASA fully explained to you.
2. You have the right to receive CASA services regardless of age, race, religion, ethnicity, family background, sexual orientation, or disability.
3. You have the right to have the CASA treat you with dignity and respect.
4. You have the right to have the CASA listen to your opinions/wishes and report these to the Court.
5. You have the right to receive services in a language you understand.
6. You have the right to have your case information remain confidential except in those situations that are mandated by law.
7. You have the right to make a complaint or file a grievance about the service you receive.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Responsibilities:**

1. Provide advocacy services for the best interest of the child.
2. Act as the child's voice in court.
3. Assess the needs of the child and recommend to the court means of getting these needs met.
4. Monitor that the child's needs are being met.
5. Monitor compliance with court orders.
6. Visit the child at least monthly, most frequently in their current place of residence.
7. Consult with the child's caretaker concerning the child.
8. Explain their role as a CASA volunteer.
9. Treat the child and persons involved with the child's case with respect and dignity.
10. Maintain case confidentiality except in the situations as mandated by law.