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GEORGIA  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Legislators to Meet with Child Advocates at JUSTGeorgia/CASA Day at the Capitol on Tue., Feb. 7**

*Atlanta, Jan. 31, 2012* – JUSTGeorgia/CASA Day at the Capitol, an annual event hosted by JUSTGeorgia and Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Inc., will take place on Tue., Feb. 7, at the State Capitol. CASA volunteers, board members and staff and JUSTGeorgia coalition members from across the state will meet with members of the Georgia Legislature to share their concerns and ask for support for the abused and neglected children in the care of the state, numbering around 7,000 at any one time. They will also ask legislators to support the passage of the children's code rewrite

Sadly, 77 children in Georgia died from abuse or neglect in 2010. 207 incidents of child abuse and neglect are reported daily in the state and every day, over 36 children are victims of confirmed abuse or neglect in Georgia.

CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight for and protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect and to learn and grow in the safe embrace of a loving family.

### **Details**

The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Floyd Room of the Floyd Building, across from the Capitol, with a legislative briefing. At approximately 10:30 a.m., the group is scheduled to have a group photo with Governor Deal. After meeting with their legislators, the day will conclude with a drop-in luncheon from 11:45 to 1:00 at in the Floyd Room to thank the legislators for their support of CASA, foster children/youth and child welfare issues.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Everyday citizens can make a big difference to the CASA program in their community by becoming a CASA volunteer or giving a charitable donation. CASA volunteers currently serve 140 of Georgia's 159 counties and CASA is working to expand its program statewide.

Georgia CASA, Inc., located in Atlanta, is a nonprofit organization that develops and supports court-sanctioned, community-based affiliate programs that provide trained and supervised volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children involved in juvenile court proceedings. The vision of Georgia CASA is for each abused and neglected child to have a safe and permanent home. Last year, over 2,100 CASA volunteers served over 8,600 children in Georgia.

JUSTGeorgia is a statewide juvenile justice coalition of community organizations and individuals whose purpose is to advocate for change to Georgia's juvenile code and the underlying social service systems to better serve Georgia's children and promote safer communities.

To find out more about JUSTGeorgia/CASA Day at the Capitol, visit [www.gacasa.org](http://www.gacasa.org) or [www.justga.org](http://www.justga.org) or call 404.874.2888.

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