

Fact Sheet



What is the condition of child abuse & neglect in Georgia.

- ◆ 60 children died from abuse and neglect in 2007.
- ◆ 207 incidents of child abuse and neglect are reported daily.
- ◆ Every day, over 36 children are the victims of confirmed abuse or neglect.
- ◆ On any given day, about 7,065 children are in the foster care system in the state.
- ◆ 13,795 children came through the foster care system during state fiscal year 2010.

What is federal and state law concerning CASA?

- ◆ Federal law requires that a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) or a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) or both be appointed in all cases of child abuse or neglect.
- ◆ Georgia law includes “court appointed special advocates” and/or attorneys as Guardians ad Litem for children in juvenile court deprivation proceedings.

Why is CASA so important?

- ◆ Many workers in the child welfare system, including lawyers, social workers and judges, are often too overburdened to give urgent attention to each child who enters the massive system. A CASA volunteer is an independent advocate and provides individualized attention for each child.

What is the CASA volunteer’s role?

- ◆ A CASA volunteer gathers information about the child’s situation, attends court proceedings and makes a recommendation to the judge so that the judge has the information to make a decision about the child’s future.
- ◆ The CASA volunteer advocates for the safety, permanency and well-being of the child.

How many CASA programs exist?

- ◆ 47 CASA programs exist in Georgia, serving 46 of 49 judicial circuits.
- ◆ Over 1,000 CASA programs exist throughout the United States.

How successful is CASA?

- ◆ In Georgia last year, over 2,100 CASA volunteers served over 8,700 children; CASA volunteers served over 7,300 of the children that came through the foster care system.
- ◆ Nationwide, there are over 75,000 CASA volunteers.
- ◆ Since CASA was founded in 1977, over 2 million children have been served.

How effective is CASA?

- ◆ Research findings indicate that judges often accept the recommendations of CASA volunteers.
- ◆ Research suggests that children with CASA volunteers, and their parents, receive the most services.

How does CASA help society?

- ◆ Research demonstrates that abused and neglected children can overcome their trauma if they rapidly find a safe, permanent home in which to heal. Those who do not often experience school failure, joblessness, welfare dependency, criminality, mental illness, and often become abusers themselves.

Updated 5/24/2011