

**From:** Angela Tyner  
**Sent:** Monday, February 10, 2020 2:09 PM  
**Subject:** Preparing for CASA Day at the Capitol

CASA Directors and Staff:

CASA Day at the Capitol is only a few days away, so please continue reading for important updates, reminders, and suggestions to help maximize its potential and make this a great CASA Day! Remember that details can also be found at <https://www.gacasa.org/casa-day-capitol-2020/>, including a link to the webinar if you missed it.

You may be wondering how the General Assembly's plans will impact our scheduled activities. The General Assembly will be in recess (not coming together in their respective chambers); however, members of both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will be working on the budget and other committees will be continuing to meet as well. As such, we anticipate that several of the legislators will remain at the Capitol and may still attend the luncheon or be available to meet with their constituents. Because of the scheduling changes, we suggest checking in with your legislators to see about their availability during our time at the Capitol. In lieu of paging legislators off the chamber floor, you can easily drop by their offices to let them know you were there. You can always leave a note or small leave behind.

Throughout the day, we have state and federal funders, community partners, and other agency officials scheduled to join us. We hope that a more relaxed atmosphere at the Capitol will offer us more time to connect. Since we've been hosting our day at the Capitol, we have weathered many different circumstances and look forward to a great CASA Day on Thursday!

**Registration:**

- Attached is the list of all registrations received to date from the affiliates as well as our invited guests. If you notice any discrepancies with your registration, please contact Regina as soon as possible to get them rectified.

**Know Your Legislators:**

- Every individual attending CASA Day at the Capitol should know their respective Representative and Senator, who can be found by entering in a residence addresses in at [https://openstates.org/find\\_your\\_legislator/](https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/).
- Directors and staff attending the event should have an idea of who the Representatives and Senators are that cover the affiliate's entire service area (I know this can be quite a few for our metro programs and programs with a large geographic territory!), but this knowledge can be

extremely helpful when you can recognize them on sight. This year, note their office numbers and figure out a plan to visit each one.

### **Preparing Attendees and Talking Points:**

- If you have individuals attending CASA Day for the first time, consider hosting a quick call to outline the schedule of events and expectations.
- Some affiliates have found it helpful for their volunteers and staff to learn their legislators in advance by creating packets of information about them (for example, include legislators' photos, bio, pertinent committees, and relevant sponsored legislation, if applicable). Others have arranged for carpools and provided snacks for the ride.
- It might also help everyone feel more comfortable if they have the chance to review the talking points in advance. This year, our main goal is to express our appreciation for their ongoing support and to share more about CASA advocacy efforts locally. Legislators are often interested in how government services and supports are impacting children and families, as well as how they can help. Because specific foster care legislation is just getting started, we can expect more questions later in the session. We do not have any budgetary ask this year, but again, appreciate their investment in CASA advocacy in all parts of the state. The Talking Points are attached to this email and posted to the website. These points will also be emphasized during the Legislative Briefing. Specific bill summaries will be available at the registration table.

### **Driving and Parking:**

- Allow plenty of time to get to Atlanta!
- If you're carpooling, you can drop off your passengers at the Steve Polk Plaza, one driveway past the parking lot that is in front of the Depot (33 MLK Jr. Dr. SW), and then go park your car. (If you get to Central Ave, you just missed the Steve Polk Plaza. This driveway/cul du sac is located at the former World of Coca Cola building).
- Below are several parking options:
  - If you're an early arriver, you may be able to park right in front of the Depot in the open air lot. Enter 33 MLK Jr Dr SW into Google Maps, and it will take you to the entrance for this parking lot.
  - If this lot is full, continue heading west on MLK to the first Underground Atlanta garage. (There are two Underground Atlanta parking garages.)
    - As you're heading west on MLK Drive, immediately after passing Central Avenue, there is an Underground Deck A, use the address 75 MLK Jr. Dr. SW for this deck.
    - If that deck has a FULL sign, keep heading west, and after you cross Pryor Street, there will be another Underground Atlanta Garage located at 111 MLK Jr Dr. SW.
  - You can always park at the Pete Hackney Parking Deck at 162 Jesse Hill Junior Dr SE (this was our parking location when we used to meet at the Floyd Building) if all of these other options are full. (Flat rate of \$10).

### **Schedule of Events:**

- Upon glancing at the schedule of events (attached), you'll see that we will begin at 9:30, and we'll have coffee and pastries available if you arrive early.
- The morning's legislative briefing will be extended to allow more time for our speakers and special guests. After we hear from Miss Georgia, Judge Walker, and have our Legislative Briefing, we'll proceed to the Capitol. *Don't forget that each person in your party will be required to show a photo ID to get into the Capitol.*
- We suggest using the Capitol Visit time to tour the capitol or to connect with legislators by visiting their offices, leaving notes, or scheduling a time to connect at a later date. Because they're not in session, there will not be the opportunity to page legislators off the floor or observe morning orders from the galleries. (Note that because of the recess and in cognizance of the budgetary times, we elected not to provide s'mores this year).
- We are still finalizing the details for a group picture on the steps. Originally, the Governor planned to join us for the luncheon; however, he is no longer available for lunch or a group photo.
  - **UPDATE: Our group photo is scheduled with the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Senator Butch Miller, at 10:45 on the North Wing Steps.**
- If interested, after the luncheon, spend some time touring the capitol or attending a committee hearing.

#### **Luncheon:**

- To ensure that all groups can sit near each other and have the same opportunity to meet with legislators whose districts cover multiple programs' jurisdictions, we'll have set seating. Your table number will be available at registration.
- Once again, we're asking everyone to be back at the Depot by 11:35 for a quick Luncheon Kick-Off.
- Lunch will be hot, buffet-style. *(Attendees with dietary restrictions will need to show their ticket and ask Depot staff for their specially prepared meal).*
- Each affiliate should plan to have someone from their area present at their assigned tables the entire luncheon. Legislators only have a very brief time and are specifically coming to see the folks from their district. The ushers may not be able to find anyone from your affiliate if no one is in your assigned area.
- In addition to the legislators, our child advocacy partners and funders will be joining the CASA network for lunch as well. Please take some time to say hello to these special guests, including CJCC and DFCS leadership, Care Solutions, Georgia EmpowerMENT, National CASA representatives, and others.

#### **Don't forget:**

- Personally follow up with your legislators telling them you'll still be at the Capitol and hope they'll attend the luncheon on Thursday at the Depot.
- Remind everyone in your group to wear a splash of [blue](#)!
- Be sure to take your own photos and use the hashtag #GACASADayatCap when posting to social media accounts.
- Bring your photo IDs.
- HAVE FUN!

Please let us know if you have any questions, and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Angela & Regina

---

**Angela Tyner, J.D.**

*Certified Child Welfare Law Specialist*

Advocacy Director

[atyner@gacasa.org](mailto:atyner@gacasa.org)



Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc. | [www.gacasa.org](http://www.gacasa.org)

75 Marietta St. NW | Suite 404 | Atlanta, GA 30303

ph 404.874.2888 x6 | cell 478.714.0604 | fax 404.874.2889

