



**I**

**am for the child**

A child's voice.

A child's life.

Lifted up.

By you.

**I** am for the child.

# Enotah CASA

Presented to:

Lumpkin County Commissioners

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Presented by:

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# Child Abuse & Neglect in Georgia

- Every day, 33 children are victims of confirmed abuse or neglect
- 200 incidents of child abuse and neglect are reported daily
- 65 children died from abuse and neglect in 2011
- Neglect has the highest substantiated incidence – 83%
- Abuse (physical/sexual/emotional/ other) – 17%
- Younger children more likely abused
- Substance abuse is often a contributing factor
- Less than 25% of children are removed from their homes

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## Our Goal

A safe and permanent  
home for abused and neglected children  
as quickly as possible

A safe passage out of foster care, to the benefit of their children,  
and generations to come

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# What is CASA?

A **Court Appointed Special Advocate** is a trained community volunteer appointed by the court to advocate for abused and neglected children in juvenile court dependency proceedings.

State law requires the appointment of both an attorney and a Guardian ad Litem (GAL). Both federal and state law allows the GAL to be a CASA.

OCGA §§ 15-11-103, 15-11-104



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## Why CASA?

- Gives individualized attention
- Advocates for child's best interests
- Brings urgency to a particular child's situation
- Promotes safety, permanency and well-being
- Provides independent information and recommendations to the Court
- Engages the community in the child welfare system

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# Without Safety/Permanency

Children are more likely to experience:

- School Failure
- Homelessness
- Unemployment
- Incarceration
- Illness
- Social services dependency
- Further victimization

...And are more likely to become abusers later in life

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# Lumpkin County/Enotah Circuit CASA's Value

FY 2014	Children	Cases	Advocates	Volunteer Hours	Volunteer mileage	Program Value
Lumpkin County	74	54	21	1.428	28,829	\$94,684
Enotah Circuit	211	130	44	5.035	62,919	\$312,160

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# LUMPKIN COUNTY/ ENOTAH CIRCUIT PROFILE

Type of Case	Lumpkin	Enotah Circuit
Substance Abuse	39%	34%
Child Neglect	38%	35%
Medical Neglect	10%	5%
Physical Abuse	7%	11%
Sexual Abuse	6%	12%

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# LUMPKIN COUNTY/ ENOTAH CIRCUIT PROFILE

Gender	Lumpkin County	Enotah Circuit
Female	56%	49%
Male	44%	51%
Age		
0-5	29%	33%
6-11	39%	37%
12-15	19%	18%
16-17	8%	11%
18+	4%	2%

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## Lumpkin County/Enotah Circuit Performance

FY 2014	Count	% County/ Circuit	% State	Rank
Lumpkin County Victims Revictimized in 6 mos.	5/90	5.6%	4.8%	59.5
Enotah Circuit Victims Revictimized in 6 mos.	24/258	13.7%	4.9%	1
Lumpkin County Non-Victims Revictimized in 6 mos.	3/60	5%	4.9%	64
Enotah Circuit Non-Victims Revictimized in 6 mos.	45/328	13.7%	4.9%	1

# What Can You Do?

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- Continue Financial Support
  - County Allocation
  - 5% Victim Allocation
  - In-Kind assistance
- Promote CASA in the community
- Serve on our Board of Directors
- Attend/Support Events

*Help us achieve our vision  
of a safe and permanent  
home for all children!*



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*If we don't stand up for children,  
then we don't stand for much.*

-Marian Wright Edelman

*A man never stands so tall as when he  
stoops to help a child.*

-Abraham Lincoln

*Please Support CASA...make a  
difference to a Child*

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Questions

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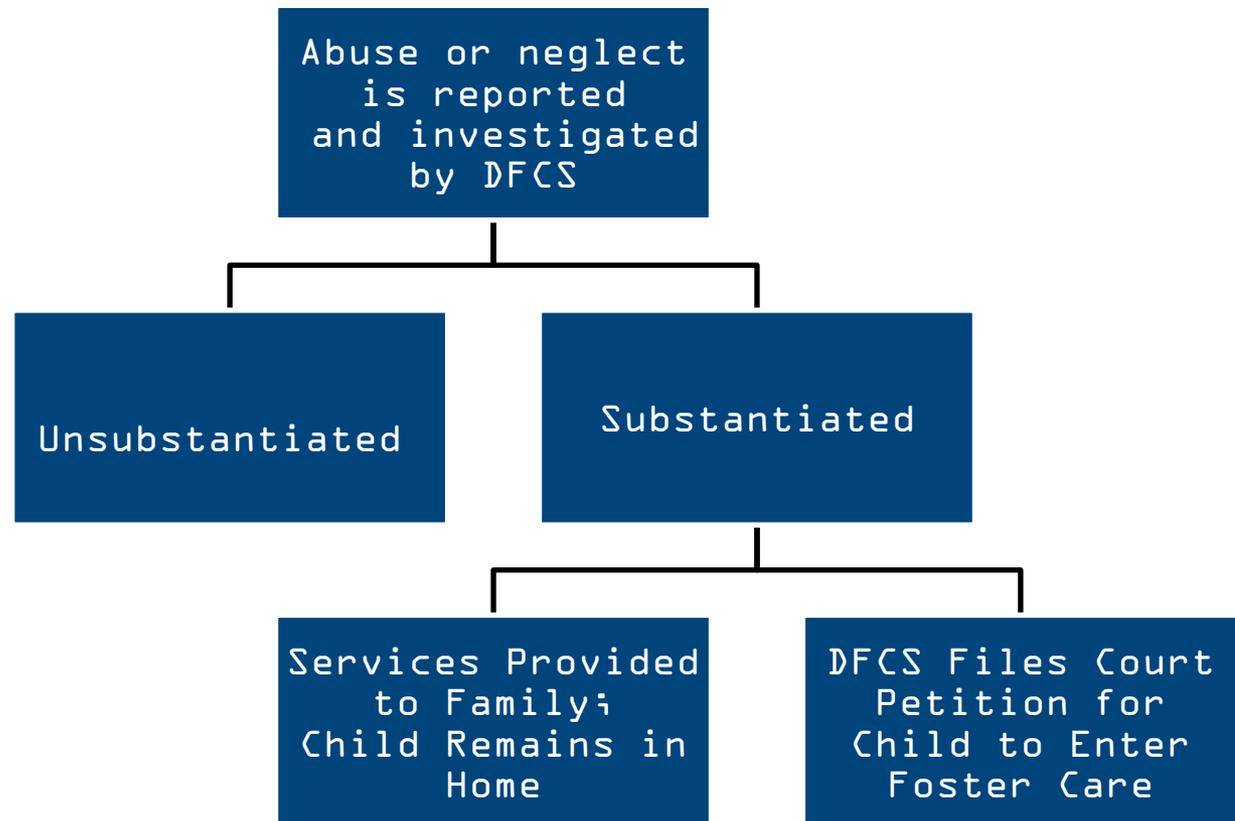


Backup

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## How A Case Enters the System



# CASA Volunteer's Role

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- Conducts an independent assessment;
- Visits the child regularly and keeps him or her informed;
- Seeks cooperative solutions;
- Reviews records related to the child and family;
- Interviews parents, guardians, caretakers, social workers and other service providers;
- Identifies needed resources;
- Submits written reports to the court;
- Attends all court hearings and other proceedings;
- Advocates for timely court hearings;

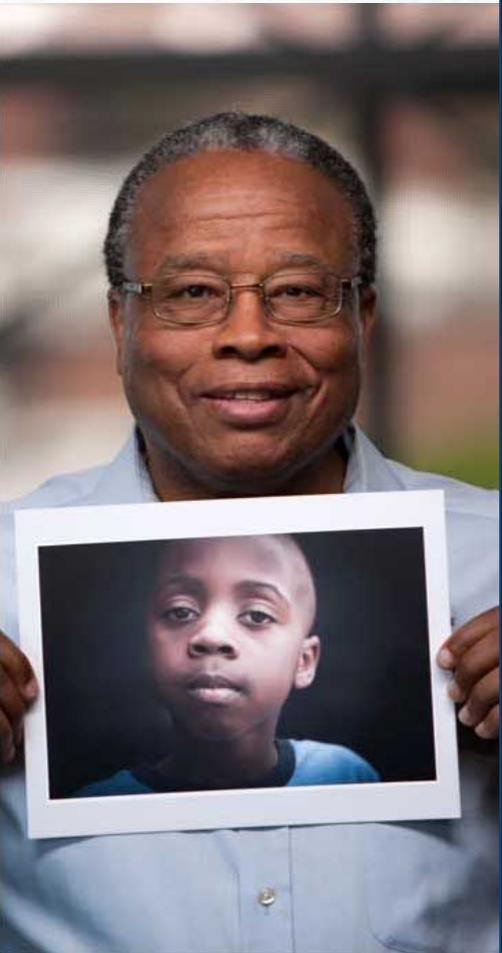


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# CASA Volunteer's Role

(continued)

- Ensures the child's wishes are known to the Court;
- Requests judicial reviews;
- Consults with the child's attorney;
- Monitors compliance with the case plan and all court orders; and
- Maintains focus on the child until permanency is achieved



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# CASA Qualifications

- Sincere care for children
- At least 21 years of age
- Undergo and pass criminal background checks
- Interview with CASA staff person
- Complete 40 hours of initial training
- Commit to CASA program for at least 1 year
- Participate in 12 hours of continuing education each year



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# What Does Permanency Look Like?

- Returned home to parents - 48%
- Living with a relative - 20%
- Adopted - 16%
- Aged out of Care - 7%
- Custody to another agency - 3%
- Custody granted to a guardian - 5%
- Runaway – less than 1%
- Death - less than 1%

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# Georgia Children in Foster Care

- Over 13,000 children in foster care last year
- 50% are living in a foster home or shelter
- 20% are living with a relative
- Other children are living in institutions (10%), pre-adoptive homes (9%) or trial home visits (4%)
- 92 children have run away or whereabouts unknown
- 54% spend less than one year in foster care
- 63% move two or more times in care

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*Never doubt  
that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens  
can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever  
has.*

-Margaret Mead