

Juvenile Court Hearings

Shelter Care Hearing/Temporary Custody Hearing

The court determines if there is a legal basis to keep the child in temporary protective custody or if they can safely return home. At this time, a CASA volunteer advocate and a Guardian ad Litem (attorney) are appointed.

Adjudicatory Hearing

This hearing takes place within 90 days after parents are served. The court determines whether abuse or neglect occurred and whether the child should remain in DCFS's temporary custody. If the court does not find abuse or neglect, the case may be closed.

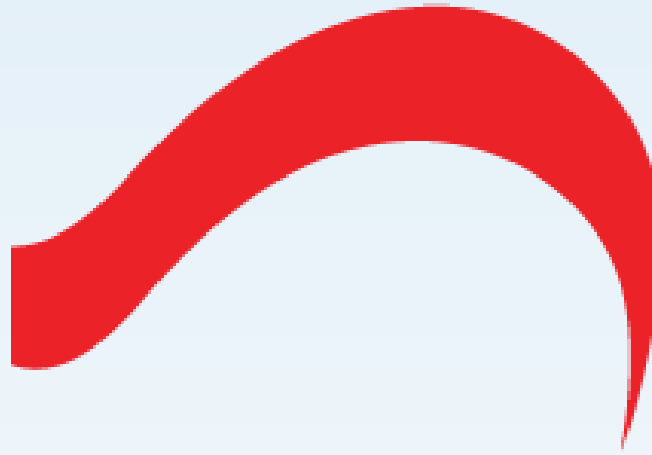
Dispositional Hearing

This hearing takes place approximately 30 days after the Adjudicatory Hearing. The child is declared a ward of the court, DCFS is appointed as guardian, and a permanency goal is established. The court also adopts a service plan to support the child and family.

Permanency Review Hearings

Permanency Review Hearings occur 12 months after protective custody begins and every six months after that. During these hearings, the court reviews progress toward the permanency goal and may continue or modify the goal as needed.

Once a permanency goal is achieved—such as return home, guardianship, independence, or adoption—the judge closes the case.



Questions?

Contact Us:



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Monday – Friday | 9 AM – 4 PM



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CASA OF DUPAGE COUNTY

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Understanding CASA's Role



A message for Parents and Caregivers

We understand this may be a difficult and overwhelming time. CASA of DuPage County is here to focus on your child's needs and best interest.

If you have questions about your child's case, your caseworker or attorney can provide the most accurate updates and guidance.

You are encouraged to share any important information about your child with the CASA volunteer. The CASA's role is to focus on your child's best interests, and your insight is important.

— CASA of DuPage County



What is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)?

A Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is a trained community volunteer appointed by a judge to focus on a child's best interest while a court case is open. Each CASA volunteer is assigned to a child or sibling group and provides consistent, individualized attention throughout the duration of the case.

Why Children Benefit from CASA



Individual Focus

A CASA volunteer focuses on one case at a time, allowing for individualized attention to a child's unique needs.



Focused on the Child's Best Interests

CASA volunteers bring an objective perspective and advocate for what is in the child's best interest.



Consistent Presence

CASA volunteers are typically assigned for the duration of the case, providing a consistent presence even as caregivers, caseworkers, attorneys, or judges may change.

CASA's Role

CASA's role is to advocate for a child's best interest and help ensure the court has a clear understanding of the child's needs and circumstances. A CASA volunteer is not a caseworker and is not part of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and does not provide direct services to the child or family.



Instead, CASA focuses on gathering information, staying informed about the child's situation, and supporting decisions that promote safer, more stable outcomes while the case is open.



CASA Volunteers DO:



Spend time getting to know the child.



Gather information from caregivers, teachers, and service providers.



Attend court hearings and meetings related to the case.



Prepare reports for the judge that focus on the child's best interest.



Remain involved throughout the duration of the case to provide consistency and continuity.

CASA Volunteers DO NOT:



Make court decisions.



Provide legal, medical, or clinical advice.



Investigate allegations.



Supervise family visits.



Transport children or family members.

CASA is an independent organization that works alongside DCFS and the court.