

Superior Court of the State of California
County of Orange



*Chambers of
Douglas J. Hatchimonji
Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court*

Juvenile Court
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Amended Juvenile Court Administrative Order No. 12/007-904
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

A. Program Guidelines

The CASA program was established to serve the needs of abused and neglected children in the dependency court. The CASA program recruits, trains, supervises and supports community volunteers who investigate the circumstance of the child, facilitate the provision of services, monitor compliance with orders of the court, and advocate in court and in the community in the best interests of the child. CASAs serve at the pleasure of, and report directly to, the Juvenile Court. Their duties, responsibilities, and the limits of their authority are contained in and described by WIC 100-109, and CA Rule of Court 5.655.

B. Juvenile Court Files

Pursuant to California Rule of Court 5.655, CASA volunteers serve at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction over the proceeding in which the volunteer has been appointed and are officers of the court and are bound by all court rules under WIC 103(e). CASA Administrative Personnel and those individual CASA volunteers who have been appointed as advocates for juvenile court wards and dependents are therefore allowed access to all Juvenile Court files and juvenile case indices. CASA personnel and volunteer advocates are authorized to review files and take notes; files are to remain in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Juvenile Division; and, copies of any documents contained in these files are not to be provided to CASA personnel without the express approval of the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, with the exception of documents appointing CASA to a specific case.

C. CASA Family Connections

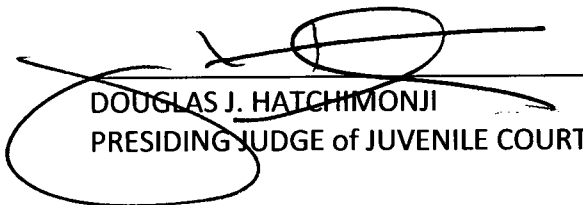
Pursuant to the Family Connections Protocol and Agreement between CASA and the Social Services Agency, CASA provides services to dependents placed in out of home care to search for, identify and engage family or significant others to establish communication and explore possible permanent placement options. CASA Family Connections Volunteers are allowed on-site access to the minor's Social Services files as an aid in identifying family members, relatives, and significant others.

D. Orange County Probation Department

In order to facilitate the purposes and goals of the CASA program, the Orange County Juvenile Court orders the exchange of information concerning court wards, including review of agency records, between CASA personnel and volunteer advocates and the Orange County Probation Department in those cases where a CASA advocate has been appointed by the Juvenile Court either in a dependency or delinquency case as a special advocate for the minor. This order includes access and visitation by CASA personnel and volunteer advocates with the youth, in accordance with Juvenile Hall procedures, while a youth is detained at Juvenile Hall or other custodial institution operated by Probation. This authorization is contingent upon a need for information as it pertains to the conduct of the CASA's official duties only.

This Juvenile Court Administrative Order is to remain in effect until otherwise ordered by the Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court.

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2012:


DOUGLAS J. HATCHIMONJI
PRESIDING JUDGE of JUVENILE COURT