



## **HENRICO CASA PROGRAM INFORMATION**

### **What is a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)?**

Henrico CASA is a program which works with the Henrico County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. The program helps children by recruiting volunteers to watch over and advocate for them in the courtroom and in the community.

A CASA volunteer is a community member who has received extensive training for working with children and the Courts. CASA volunteers are appointed by a Judge. Trained professionals supervise the CASA volunteers.

Advocates are assigned cases to carefully investigate the child's circumstances and submit a written report to the Judge. They work closely with the attorney appointed to represent the child's best interest (guardian ad litem or GAL).

### **What is a CASA volunteer's job?**

The CASA volunteer's job is to investigate the child's circumstances and to visit the child on a regular basis. The CASA volunteer will interview parents, guardians, family members, teachers, counselors, and all workers involved in the case. The CASA volunteer works for the best interest of the child.

### **What can I expect from a volunteer CASA?**

- CASA volunteers, by law, have access to speak with the child(ren). They will speak with the children on a regular basis until the case is closed. Visits may be at home, school, daycare, foster care or online.
- CASA volunteers, by law, also have access to all records related to a child's case. This includes records from school, Court, Social Services, medical and/or mental health providers.
- CASA volunteers will not transport a child or their family members on any occasion.
- Before each hearing, the CASA volunteer provides the judge with a report including recommendations on what is best for the child(ren) to ensure their ongoing safety and well-being.

### **What if I have questions?**

For more information visit [HenricoCASA.org](http://HenricoCASA.org) or call 804-501-1670.

