

# Abuse and Neglect Petitions

## Examples of Recommendations/Wording

### A. Child Protective Orders / Family Protective Orders

Remember that in Child/Family Protective Orders, we are looking at the safety of the child remaining in the home – this is the last effort before removing a child from their home. We are focusing on the safety and any provisions that need to be in place to protect the child from an abusive person. We are looking at placement, limiting contact, or putting limitations on contact, and requiring participation in services to stabilize and improve the situation.

In light of the above information, CASA recommends:

**1. Child/ Family Protective Order:**

- a. Child/ Family Protective Orders are to remain in place.
- b. Should the Child/Family Protective Orders be dismissed, the following conditions are to be in place...

**2. Custody/Placement:**

- a. Child is to remain in the home with *[name of custodian]*.
- b. Child is to be placed with *[name of custodian]*.

**3. Visitation/contact with parent(s):**

- a. Mother is to have contact with the child on *[dates/times]*/mother is to have no contact with the child pending...
- b. Father is to have contact with the child *[dates/times]*/father is to have no contact with the child pending...
- c. Parties are to have no contact with one another through in-person, electronic, telephonic, third party, or social media contact.

**4. Services for Parent(s):**

- a. *[Mother/father]* to have/ attend *[specific services (mental health evaluation, parenting classes, psychological, ext.)]* and follow all recommendations for treatment.

**5. Services for Child(s):**

- a. *[Child(ren)]* to have/ attend *[specific services (therapy, psychological, ext.)]*.

## B. Foster Care

Remember that in foster care cases, we are looking at the viability of returning a child home to their parent/guardian who lost custody. If progress is not being made toward this goal, then we look to relatives. If there is no progress on either these two fronts, then we look at the appropriateness of terminating parental rights to allow that child to be adopted.

**In light of the above information, CASA recommends:**

**1. Custody:**

- a. *[Child]* should/should not remain in HDSS custody.
- b. *[Child]* to begin a trial home placement with *[mother/father]*.
- c. *[Child]* to be placed with a relative.
- d. The rights of the parents are to be terminated.

**2. Foster Care Service Plan**

- a. The Foster Care Service Plan, with the goal of *[return home/relative placement/adoption]* be *[approved/disapproved]*

**3. Visitation/contact with parents/parties:**

- a. Visits and contact to be suspended at this time. Future contact between the *parents/parties* and the children to be at the discretion of HDSS and the GAL.

**4. Services for Parent(s):**

- a. *[Mother/father]* to have/ attend *[specific services (mental health evaluation, parenting classes, psychological, ext.)]* and follow all recommendations for treatment.

**5. Services for Child(s):**

- a. *[Child(ren)]* to have/ attend *[specific services (therapy, psychological, ext.)]*.

If applicable, you can consider including a recommendation about any agreements made at FPM or FAPT meetings.

**6. Family Partnership Meetings (FPM) Plans/ Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT):**

- a. Parties are to follow the plans as laid out in the *[Date]*, *FPM/FAPT* to include:
  - i. List all goals and plans from *FPM/FAPT*

# Custody and Visitation Cases

## Examples of Recommendations/Wording

Remember to look at ALL of petitions! Were Custody **and** visitation Petitions filed or just one or the other?

\*If one or other was not filed, but CASA feels as though it should, discuss with GAL

**In light of the above information, CASA recommends:**

**1. Custody:**

- a. *[Joint/primary]* legal custody of *[child]* to the *[mother/father]*. *[Joint/primary]* physical custody to be with the *mother/father*.

**2. Visitation/contact with parent(s):**

- a. Father will have visitation with *[child]* *[days, time]*.
- b. Mother will have visitation with *[child]* *[days, time]*. Any other visitation will be by agreement of the parties and GAL.

**3. Services for Parent(s):**

- a. *[Mother/father]* to have/ attend *[specific services (mental health evaluation, parenting classes, psychological, etc.)]* and follow all recommendations for treatment.

**4. Services for Child(s):**

- a. *[Child(ren)]* to have/ attend *[specific services (therapy, psychological, ext.)]*.

# CHINS Cases

## Examples of Recommendations/Wording

Remember that CHINS Services cases are mostly focused on getting services in place to stabilize the situation. These can be services for the child or for the family.

### A. CHINS (Child in Need of *Services*)

In light of the above information, CASA recommends:

**1. Services for Parent(s):**

- a. *[Mother/father]* to have/ attend [*specific services (mental health evaluation, parenting classes, psychological, ext.)*] and follow all recommendations for treatment.

**2. Services for Child(s):**

- a. *[Child(ren)]* to have/ attend [*specific services (therapy, psychological, ext.)*].

**3. HDSS Role/ Foster Care Prevention Services:**

- a. Henrico Department of Social Services is to be placed/remain on notice for Foster Care Prevention services to assess [*residential and therapeutic foster care alternatives*] and to recommend specific placement options for [*child*].

A child can be removed from their home or placed with a relative from a CHINS Petition. If HDSS is involved for Foster Care Prevention Services and there is concern that the child's custodial placement may be at risk, discuss with your supervisor the appropriateness of making a recommendation in this regard.

## **B. CHINS (Child in Need of *Supervision*)**

Remember that CHINS Supervision cases are focused on getting services to remedy issues that brings the actual child in front of the Court due to a status offense. While services for the parents can be ordered, it is the child that is before the court due to something like:

- Truancy
- Runaway
- Curfew violations
- Not following household rules
- Probation or Outreach violations (extension of probation)

**In light of the above information, CASA recommends:**

**1. Services for Parent(s):**

- a. *[Mother/father]* to have/ attend [*specific services (mental health evaluation, parenting classes, psychological, ext.)*] and follow all recommendations for treatment.

**2. Services for Child(s):**

- a. *[Child(ren)]* to have/ attend [*specific services (therapy, psychological, ext.)*].

**3. Templated Language:**

- a. Juvenile is to keep the peace and be of good behavior. Break no laws of the Commonwealth or sister jurisdictions. Attend school all day, every day, with no unexcused absences or tardies. Attend all classes. Obey all school and house rules. Remain drug, alcohol, and tobacco free.