

CASA of Jefferson & Gilpin Counties Children and Youth in Court Project

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to assist Jefferson County Courts in meeting the statutory permanency requirement (C.R.S. §19-3-702 (3.7)) that the court consult with the child in an age-appropriate manner regarding the child's permanency plan. CASA volunteers may be an option, based upon availability, to assist in transporting children to and from court hearings, even when there is no CASA volunteer appointed to the case.

Requirements for CASA Volunteer

- Volunteer must have completed all requirements to be an active volunteer with CASA Jeffco/Gilpin, and be currently active with the Program.
- CASA volunteer must have copy of current driver's license and automobile insurance on file with the CASA office.

Duties and Expectations of CASA volunteer (may vary depending upon situation)

The CASA will:

- Pick up the child/youth and transport them to and from the courthouse.
- Assist the child/youth while waiting for their hearing (the court will give priority when a child/youth is present and hear that case as quickly as possible).
- Transport the child/youth back to placement/home.

Process and Procedure

- CASA staff will recruit and orient volunteers for this project.
- Referrals can only be made by the child's/youth's GAL.
- Referrals are made to CASA staff person, Debbie Gabriel, (303) 271-6533 or <u>debbiegabriel@casajeffcogilpin.com</u>, preferably two weeks prior to the scheduled hearing.
- The CASA staff will coordinate transportation with CASA volunteers designated to help with this project.
- There is no age minimum. It is up to the GAL to determine appropriateness.